

8th Executive Council Session  
Islamic Azad University  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
9-10 October 2003

# Final Report

The Executive Council of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW) held its Eighth regular session at Islamic Azad University, in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. It was generously hosted by Islamic Azad University from 12 to 13 Shaaban 1424 A.H. corresponding to 9-10 October 2003.

The proceedings of this session were attended by the members of the Executive Council, under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Abdullah Jassbi, President of the Islamic Azad University of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Chairman of the Executive Council of the FUIW (**Annex 1, List of participants in the Eighth Session of the Executive Council**).

## **Opening Session: Thursday, 12 Shaaban 1424 A.H. / 9 October 2003 (Morning)**

1. The opening session was held under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Abdullah Jassbi, President of the Islamic Azad University of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Chairman of the Executive Council of the FUIW, and was attended by H.E. Dr. Pezeshkian, Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Education, Dr. Ahmed Saïd Ould Bah, Chairman of the General Secretariat of the FUIW, in addition to a number of members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Tehran, and a constellation of personalities in the realm of thought, culture and information and senior University officials and professors.
2. Following a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, H.E. Dr. Abdullah Jassbi, President of the Islamic Azad University, delivered an address in which he first welcomed the members of the Executive Council participating in this Session, expressing his happiness to meet with them once again, on the occasion of the Eighth Session of the FUIW Executive Council, convened at Islamic Azad University. He underlined the paramount importance of solidarity among the universities of the Islamic world for the dissemination of sound knowledge, the forging of learned generations, and the consolidation of the national identity, while consecrating the values of dialogue, open-mindedness and tolerance. He also commended the role of the FUIW General Secretariat and the solemn actions it undertakes to give substance to the sought solidarity among the universities of the Islamic world. In this connection, he conveyed thanks to H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Secretary General of the FUIW, for the outstanding efforts he is exerting to promote FUIW action, and discharge its civilizational mission.
3. Dr. Ahmed Saïd Ould Bah, Chairman of the General Secretariat of the Federation, delivered an address, on behalf of H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the

Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Secretary General of the FUIW, in which he expressed the pride the Secretary General took in the fact that Islamic Azad University sponsored such an important meeting of the FUIW. He likewise extended his heartfelt thanks to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for its unflinching support to the Islamic Organization (ISESCO) and to the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World. He indicated that the university is bound to discharge a specific role and mission, which constantly keep growing as the duties devolved on the university develop and become truly pressing. He also made it clear that the duties of the FUIW in this respect should be taken up by all of us, each in their own sphere of competence and within the limits of the mission assigned to them, and that we should make joint efforts within the framework of joint Islamic action at the level of university and higher education, to give substance to the objectives pursued by Member Universities, on the forefront of which is the linkage of university with the process of economic and social development. Gearing the university towards serving society and the environment as well as the upgrading of scientific research to high levels are also prerequisites to keep pace with world developments in this area and to secure a shortcut to comprehensive scientific and technological development. He conveyed his appreciation for the tremendous efforts expended by H.E. Dr. Abdullah Jassbi, President of Islamic Azad University, to arrange for the organization of the Council's session, and thanked him for his warm welcome and generous hospitality.

4. H.E. Dr. Muhammad Saad Al-Salim, Rector of Al-Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, delivered an address on behalf of the Council's members, whereby he thanked the leadership, government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their warm welcome and hospitality. He conveyed his thanks to Islamic Azad University as well for its hosting this session, and to H.E. Dr. Pezeshkian for his attending this opening ceremony. He then reviewed the major educational and scientific issues that the Council hopes the FUIW General Secretariat will focus on in the future and to which it will draw the Universities' members' attention, as part of the FUIW's action plan for the years 2004-2006.
5. H.E. Dr. Pezeshkian, Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Education in the Islamic Republic of Iran, delivered an address whereby he welcomed the participants and thanked the FUIW General Secretariat as well as Islamic Azad University for their inviting him to attend the opening meeting of this session. He then expressed his appreciation for the efforts being exerted by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, FUIW Secretary General, in promoting the action of the Federation, and also for the achievements and programmes having been carried out under the FUIW's action plans in the previous years. He also reviewed the most important activities of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education in the field of teaching medical sciences and upgrading scientific research in this respect, in keeping with Islamic teachings and values. He then extended his thanks to the Council's members and to Islamic Azad University for hosting this session, as it is the second session that has been hosted by the university. He finally emphasized the importance of the items figuring on the Session's draft agenda, along with the necessity of serious and practical decisions relevant thereto.

The participants then attended a reception which was given in their honor.

## **First Working Session: Thursday, 12 Shaaban 1424 A.H. / 9 October 2003**

### **Item 1.1 of the Agenda : Adoption of the Draft Agenda Document n° FUIW/E.C.8/2003/1.1**

6. After examining the Draft Agenda, the Council adopted it as per the annexed version to the Final Report (Document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/1.1 Adopted). The Council passed the following decision in this connection:

### **Decision on Item 1.1 of the Agenda (Adoption of the Draft Agenda) N°: FUIW/E.C.8/2003/D.1.1**

#### **The Executive Council,**

- In compliance with Article (11) II, operative paragraph “a” of the Federation’s Charter;
- Having examined the Draft Agenda of the current Eighth Council Session;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

#### **Decides the following:**

- Adopts the Agenda of its Eighth Session as contained in Document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/1.1 Adopted, annexed to the Final Report.

### **Item 1.2 of the Agenda : Adoption of the Draft Programme Document n° FUIW/E.C.8/2003/1.2**

7. Following consideration of the Draft Programme organizing the Council's proceedings, the Executive Council decided to proceed according to the time frame contained in Document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/1.2 Adopted, annexed to the Final Report. The Council passed the following decision in this connection:

### **Decision on Item 1.2 of the Agenda : (Adoption of the Draft Programme) N°: FUIW/E.C.8/2003/D.1.2**

#### **The Executive Council,**

- Considering Decision FUIW/E.C.8/2003/D.1.1 adopted by the Executive Council in connection with the Agenda of its current Eighth Session;

- Having examined the Draft Programme of the present Session, as contained in the Document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/1.2 (Provisional);
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

- Adopts the Programme of its Eighth Session's proceedings as contained in Document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/1.2 Adopted, annexed to the Final Report.

**Item 2.1 of the Agenda:  
Report of the Secretary General on the General Secretariat's  
Activities between the Seventh and Eighth Council Sessions  
Document n° FUIW/E.C.8/2003/2.1**

8. The Chairman of the General Secretariat presented a report on the activities on FUIW between the Seventh and Eighth Executive Council sessions, citing the major achievements and outstanding contributions made by the FUIW in its fields of competence during implementation of the programmes of 2002 under the Action Plan of FUIW for the years 2001-2003. The General Secretariat appreciated the initiative taken by certain Member Universities, which cooperated with FUIW to carry out its activities, highlighting the importance of the project of creating chairs of the Federation in Member Universities, which was prepared in cooperation with the International College of Islamic Sciences in London. The report of the Secretary General of FUIW highlighted the participation of the Federation in a number of meetings inside and outside FUIW's headquarters, and the importance of the scholarships awarded by the Member Universities to students, and appealed to the Member Universities to continue granting scholarships and to improve their quality.

In addition, the report of the Secretary General on the activities of FUIW addressed other axes of the FUIW Action Plan, such as:

1. Directory of Universities in the Islamic World (activity 2.1)
2. Directory of university scientific research journals (activity 2.2)
3. FUIW periodical journal (activity 3.1)
4. Exchange of professors (activity 6.1)
5. Participation in the fifteenth session of the Board of Trustees of the Islamic University in Niger
6. Participation in the fifteenth session of the Board of Trustees of the Islamic University in Uganda
7. Participation in the General Conference of the Association of African Universities
8. Participation in the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Following the deliberations, the Council passed the following decision:

**Decision on Item 2.1 of the Agenda**

**(Report of the Secretary General on the General Secretariat's  
Activities between the Seventh and Eighth Council Sessions)  
N°: FUIW/E.C.8/2003/D.2.1**

**The Executive Council,**

- In accordance with Article (11) II, paragraph "a", of the Federation's Charter;
- In compliance with Article (21), operative paragraph "a" of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council of the Federation ;
- Having heard the presentation made by the Secretary General of the Federation;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place, and the proposals and the observations put forward by the Executive Council members;

**Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the Report of the Secretary General on the General Secretariat's Activities as contained in Document n° FUIW/E.C.8/2003/2.1, taking into consideration the observations of the Council members.
2. Invites the Secretary General to pursue his efforts aimed at broadening the scope of cooperation and partnership with similar Federations and Arab, Islamic and international specialized organizations, within the framework of programmes' implementation.
3. Thanks the International Federation of Universities for its cooperation in the implementation of joint activities and invites the FUIW to pursue and develop cooperation with that Federation.
4. Commends the efforts exerted by the Secretary General of the Federation and his assistants to implement the Federation's activities scheduled for 2003.
5. Thanks the Secretary General of the Federation for the great efforts he has exerted to develop the Federation's action and raise the number of Member Universities.
6. Agrees to submit this report to the Third Session of the General Conference and recommends its adoption.

**Item 2.2 of the Agenda :  
Financial Report of the Secretary General and Study  
of the Financial Situation of the Federation for the Year 2002  
Document n° FUIW/E.C.8/2003/2.2**

9. The Executive Council examined the document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/2.2, and noted that the majority of Member Universities of FUIW did not settle the contributions to FUIW on a regular basis, which made it difficult to implement the activities pertaining to the Action Plan of FUIW for the Years 2001-2003. The contributions received by the Federation for this year did not exceed (56) universities which still remains beyond the required level. The Council emphasized the importance of the follow-up of the contribution's settlement and the continued reminders of the General Secretariat inducing the Member Universities

to settle their contributions and pay up their arrears, with a view to preserving the smooth running of the Federation and supporting its civilizational mission. After the deliberations, the Council passed the following decision in this connection:

**Decision on Item 2.2 of the Agenda  
Financial Report of the Secretary General and Study  
of the Financial Situation of the Federation for the Year 2001  
N° : FUIW/E.C.8/2003/D.2.2**

**The Executive Council,**

- In accordance with Article (10) II, paragraph “6”, and Article (11) II, paragraph “b”, of the Federation’s Charter;
- In compliance with Article (21), operative paragraph “b”, of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council of the Federation;
- Pursuant to Decision n° FUIW/E.C.6/2001/D.2.2, adopted by the Executive Council at its Sixth Session (International Islamic University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15-16 April 2001);
- Taking into account that the majority of Member Universities of FUIW did not settle their financial contributions to FUIW for the year 2002 and the preceding years;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the Financial Report of the Secretary General as contained in document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/2.2.
2. Thanks the FUIW Member Universities which have settled their contributions for the year 2002 and urges the other Member Universities to honour their financial commitments and pay up their arrears.
3. Commends the efforts exerted by the Secretary General of the FUIW in terms of intensifying contacts with Member Universities to settle their financial contributions, and thanks him for his sound implementation of the successive Executive Council decisions in this connection.
4. Invites the FUIW Secretary General to prepare a report on the contribution of the Federation’s Member Universities under the Action Plan for the Years 1998-2000 and the Action Plan for the Years 2001-2003.
5. Invites the President of the FUIW General Conference to write to the Universities which have not settled their annual contributions for the years 2000-2003 and the preceding years, to honour their financial obligations in order to give stronger impetus to FUIW’s activities.
6. Places this item on the agenda of the forthcoming Executive Council session.
7. Places this item on the agenda of the Third General Conference and recommends that the Conference adopt the Financial Report of the Secretary General.

**Item 3.1 of the Agenda :  
Consideration of the Applications for Membership**

**in the FUIW submitted by Universities and Higher Institutes  
Document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/3.1**

10. Following consideration of the list of universities that applied for membership in the FUIW, totaling twelve (12) universities, and pursuant to the recommendation of the General Secretariat of FUIW to admit universities which comply with membership conditions, the Executive Council approved the application of these universities as per document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/3.1, and passed the following decision in this connection:

**Decision on Item 3.1 of the Agenda :  
Consideration of the Applications for Membership  
in the FUIW submitted by Universities and Higher Institutes  
N° : FUIW/E.C.8/2003/D.3.1**

**The Executive Council,**

- In accordance with Article (10) II, paragraph “5” of the Federation’s Charter;
- In compliance with Article (21), operative paragraph “1”, of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council of the Federation;
- Pursuant to Decision FUIW/E.C.7/2002/D.3.1, adopted by the Executive Council at its Seventh Session (Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, 5-6 March 2002);
- Having considered the document containing the list of universities that applied for membership in the Federation, totaling (12) universities;
- Having heard the presentation made by the Secretary General in this connection;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Accepts the membership of the said universities in the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World as contained in Document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/3.1, annexed to the Final Report.
2. Recommends that the Secretary General of the Federation pursue his efforts to invite other universities in the Islamic world to join the Federation.
3. Places this item on the Draft Agenda of the forthcoming session of the General Conference of the Federation, and recommends that the Conference adopt the document numbered FUIW/E.C.8/2003/3.1 Adopted.

**Item 4.1 of the Agenda:  
Report on the Project of FUIW Chairs in the Member Universities  
Document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/4.1**

**11.** The General Secretariat presented a report on the Project of FUIW Chairs in the Member Universities, stating that it took the necessary steps for completion of the project, in coordination with the London-based International Colleges of Islamic Sciences. It has also sent out letters to the Member Universities to advise them of the project and request them to select the chairs they wish to establish according to their needs and priorities. Fifty universities have already responded to the request; some of which have specified the chairs they would like to set up or proposed new ones, while others have either failed as yet to make a choice or postponed their participation in the project until a later stage. Following coordination and contacts with the universities which have shown a serious desire to contribute to the project, five universities have agreed to sign the agreement on the completion of the project. These universities include the University of Science and Technology in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Damascus University in the Syrian Arab Republic, and Cairo University, Mansura University, and Minia University in the Arab Republic of Egypt. Consultations with them are still under way to set a date for the signature and launching of the project.

The Council passed the following decision in this connection:

**Decision on Item 4.1 of the Agenda :  
Report on the Project of FUIW Chairs in the Member Universities**

**N° : FUIW/E.C.8/2003/D.4.1**

**The Executive Council:**

- In accordance with Article (11) II, paragraph “a” of the Federation’s Charter;
- Pursuant to Decision FUIW/E.C.7/2002/D.2.1, adopted by the Executive Council at its Seventh Session (Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, 5-6 March 2002) ;
- Having considered the document FUIW/E.C. 8/2003/4.1, and the lists annexed to it;
- Having heard the presentation made by the General Secretariat in this connection;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

- 1.** Adopts the report of the Secretary General on the project of creating chairs of the Federation in the Member Universities as contained in document FUIW/E.C. 8/2003/ 4.1, taking into consideration the observations of the Council Members.
- 2.** Thanks the International Colleges of Islamic Sciences in London for its cooperation in the implementation of the project.
- 3.** Thanks the Member Universities which responded to the project and decided to sign the Agreement on creating chairs.
- 4.** Invites the Secretary General of the Federation to pursue his examination of the issue in its various aspects - academic, financial and administrative -, pending the relevant final Resolution of the FUIW General Conference.
- 5.** Places this item on the Draft Agenda of the forthcoming session of the General Conference of the Federation.

## **Second Working Session:**

### **Item 4.2 of the Agenda: Project of the Virtual Islamic University Document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/4.2**

12. The President of Islamic Azad University presented the broad lines of the Project of setting up the Virtual Islamic University through a documentary film featuring the University's technological facilities, along with its working methods, technical frameworks and ways to draw benefit from its programmes, etc.

The Council passed the following decision in this connection:

### **Decision on Item 4.2 of the Agenda : Project of the Virtual Islamic University**

**N° : FUIW/E.C.8/2003/D.4.2**

#### **The Executive Council,**

- In accordance with Article (11) II, paragraph “a” of the Federation’s Charter;
- Having considered the document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/4.2 concerning the project of creating the Virtual Islamic University ;
- Having heard the presentation made by the General Secretariat and the Islamic Azad University in this connection;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the presentations of the Council members along with their observations and proposals;

#### **Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the Project of the Virtual Islamic University.
2. Thanks the Islamic Azad University in Tehran for its cooperation in the elaboration of the project.
3. Invites the Secretary General of the Federation to pursue his efforts in order to implement this project in cooperation with the Islamic Azad University.
4. Took notice of the willingness of the Islamic Azad University and Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University and International Islamic University in Malaysia, to cooperate closely for the implementation of this project, in coordination with the General Secretariat of FUIW
5. Places this item on the Draft Agenda of the forthcoming sessions of the Executive Council and the General Conference.

### **Item 4.3 of the Agenda:**

**Project of an Identity Card for the Students  
of the Universities of the Islamic World  
Document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/4.3**

- 13.** The General Secretariat presented the Project of an Identity Card for the Students of the Universities of the Islamic World, as part of endeavour to reinforce communication and foster links among students of Islamic world universities, and help them gain access to facilities and discounts necessary to benefit from various services needed throughout their academic training, particularly with respect to discounts on transport, housing and medical care, easy access to libraries, laboratories and museums, and the attendance of cultural and artistic events. The Council passed the following decision in this connection:

**Decision on Item 4.3 of the Agenda :  
Project of an Identity Card for the Students  
of the Universities of the Islamic World**

**N° : FUIW/E.C.8/2003/D.4.3**

**The Executive Council,**

- In accordance with Article (11) II, paragraph “a” of the Federation’s Charter;
- In compliance with Article (21), operative paragraph “1”, of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council of the Federation;
- Having considered the document concerning the project of an identity card for the students of the universities of the Islamic World;
- Having heard the presentation made by the General Secretariat in this connection;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

- 1.** Adopts the first draft of the project of an identity card for the students of the universities of the Islamic World as contained in document FUIW/E.C.8/2008/4.3, taking into consideration the observations of the Council members.
- 2.** Invites the Secretary General to prepare the technical studies for issuing the card and the legal studies allowing its holders to benefit from the necessary services as well as the financial studies for its cost and payment means.
- 3.** Places this item on the Draft Agenda of the forthcoming Executive Council sessions.
- 4.** Places this item on the Draft Agenda of the Third Session of the General Conference of the Federation, and recommends its adoption by the Conference.

**Item 5.1 of the Agenda:  
Draft Action Plan and Budget for the Years 2004-2006**

**Document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/5.1**

14. The General Secretariat presented the Draft Action Plan and Budget for the Years 2004-2006, which was drawn up in the light of the major objectives and priorities of FUIW, consisting mainly in strengthening cooperation among Member Universities, and in treating the issues of higher education in the Islamic world; higher education and contemporary issues as well as searching for new horizons of higher education in the Islamic world. The Council passed the following decision in this connection:

**Decision on Item 5.1 of the Agenda :  
Draft Action Plan and Budget for the Years 2004-2006  
N° : FUIW/E.C.8/2003/D.8.1**

**The Executive Council,**

- In compliance with Article (11) II, paragraph “b”, of the Federation’s Charter;
- In accordance with Article (21), operative paragraph “c” of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council of the Federation;
- Having examined the document containing the Draft Action Plan and Budget for the Years 2004-2006;
- Taking into account the fact that the activities included in the Draft Plan have been laid down in light of the needs and priorities of Member Universities and the main goals of the Federation within the estimated resources of the Federation for the years 2004-2006;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the Draft Action Plan and Budget for the Years 2004-2006 as contained in document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/5.1, taking into consideration the observations of the Council members.
2. Thanks the Secretary General and his assistants for the efforts exerted in the preparation of the Draft Action Plan.
3. Places this item on the Agenda of the Third General Conference of the Federation, and recommends its adoption by the Conference.

**Item 6.1 of the Agenda:  
Preparation of the Third General Conference  
Document n° FUIW/E.C.8/2003/6.1**

15. Following examination of the Document FUIW/E.C.8/2003/6.1, the Council passed the following decision in this connection:

**Decision on Item 6.1 of the Agenda:  
Preparation of the Third General Conference  
N° : FUIW/E.C.8/2003/1.1**

**The Executive Council,**

- In compliance with Article (6) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference of the Federation;
- Considering the kind invitation addressed by the Chancellor of the University of Sharjah in the State of United Arab Emirates to host the forthcoming General Conference of the Federation;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Approves the proposal to convene the Third General Conference during the second week of March 2004 in the precincts of the University of Sharjah in the State of United Arab Emirates.
2. Agrees to hold the symposium alongside the General Conference entitled “*Higher Education in the Islamic World: Challenges and Prospects*”.
3. Extends thanks and appreciation to H.E the Chancellor of the University of Sharjah for the confirmation of hosting the forthcoming General Conference of the Federation.
4. Invites the Secretary General to notify Member Universities of the proposed date of the General Conference.

**Item 6.2 of the Agenda:  
Date and Venue of the Ninth Session of the Executive Council  
Document n° FUIW/E.C.8/2003/6.2**

16. - Considering the kind invitation addressed by the Chancellor of the University of Sharjah in the State of United Arab Emirates to host the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council of the Federation, the Council passed the following decision:

**Decision on Item 6.2 of the Agenda :  
Date and Venue of the Ninth Session of the Executive Council  
N° : FUIW/E.C.8/2003/D.6.2**

**The Executive Council,**

- In compliance with Article (10) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council of the Federation;
- In accordance with Decision FUW/E.C. 8/2003/D.6.1 adopted by the Eight Session of the Executive Council concerning convening the Third General Conference;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

- Holds the Ninth Session of the Council during the three days preceding the Third General Conference in the precincts of the University of Sharjah in the State of the United Arab Emirates.