

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Seventh Session

(Rabat 26-28 Zul-Hijja 1406H/1-3 September 1986)

Final Report

The Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) held its seventh session in Rabat from 26 to 28 Zul-Hijja 1406 H (1-3 September 1986).

Dr. Rachid Ben Abdelaziz Al MOUBARAK, President of the sixth session of the Executive Council, and representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, opened the session with a speech in which he stressed the need to pursue efforts in order to enable ISESCO to make headway in the fulfillment of the objectives which prompted its establishment. He also called on Council members to take the necessary measures so that their countries provide further material and moral support to ISESCO.

In his address, the Director General paid tribute to the commendable efforts made by Council members during the early years of ISESCO's establishment and welcomed new Council members. He subsequently described some of ISESCO's achievements during the inter-session period, stating that these achievements would have been greatly hampered had it not been for the collaboration and solicitude of member States. He also expressed satisfaction at the cooperation with similar organizations and institutions. Finally, he described the financial situation of ISESCO which, in spite of its precarious character, did not hinder the normal operation of the Organization, thanks to the realistic and rational policy applied in the management of the administrative and financial affairs of ISESCO.

1. The Council adopted the agenda of the session after including the following item: Culture and identity problems of Muslims living outside of the Islamic world.

The adopted agenda includes the following items:

1. Election of the Bureau
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Director General
4. Financial Report and the Closing Accounts
5. Financial situation of ISESCO

6. Organization Chart of the General Directorate
 7. Amendment of the End-of-Service Allowance Regulations
 8. File of the Special Session of the General Conference
 9. Culture and identity problems of Muslims living outside of the Islamic World.
2. The Council then elected the bureau in accordance with Article 12 of ISESCO's Statute. The following members were elected:
- President: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
Dr. Rachid Ben Abdelaziz Al MOUBARAK
 - Vice-president: Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
Mr. Saeed Ahmed QURESHI
 - Vice-president: Republic of Guinea,
Mr. Lamine KAMARA
 - Rapporteur: Republic of Senegal,
Prof. Abou El Caba TOURE
3. The Council then proceeded to the consideration of the Report of the Director General. Questions were raised particularly with respect to: Failure to use scholarships granted to ISESCO by some countries and institutions; Equivalence of diplomas; Failure to implement some extra-budgetary programmes such as G/7 which is geared towards "supporting of Palestinian Educational, Scientific and Cultural institutions"; the University of Cordoba; the excessive specialization of some programmes (Programme S/6 on modernization of science laboratories); the necessary coordination between ISESCO's data bank and the data bank of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, Ankara.
- The Director General provided the necessary explanations. The Executive Council then adopted the report of the Director General which focused on the question of the equivalence of diplomas. It was concluded that the solution to the problem involved different stages and that it was primarily linked to the utilization of the scholarships put at ISESCO's disposal.
4. The next agenda item on consideration of the financial report and the closing accounts gave rise to a juridical debate on the legality and appropriateness of discussing the financial report in the absence of the report of the Financial Control Committee, which did not meet. The Council decided to postpone consideration of this question till its next session, with the understanding that the Financial Control Committee should be convened again to present its Report on this matter.

5. As regards the Organization's financial situation, the Director General made an exhaustive statement on the delays noted in the statement of the contributions of most member States. The contributions received for the year 1985-1986 did not exceed the very limited rate of 7.63% of the budget. This rate is much lower than the rate of the contributions received in 1982-1983, 1983-1984 and 1984-1985, and which stood respectively at 33.56%, 35.01% and 47.63%.

The Director General further pointed out that there was a gap of 18% in the current budget corresponding to the share of OIC member States that have not yet joined ISESCO. He added, however, that contributions of some member States should reach ISESCO soon. The Director General further said that this situation did not prevent ISESCO from proceeding with the implementation of priority programmes in the Plan of Action. Being aware of this situation, the Council expressed its satisfaction with respect to the results obtained by ISESCO despite the limited resources available. Moreover, the Council is aware of its responsibility in urging member States to pay their contributions in order to help ISESCO overcome the acute financial crisis with which it is currently confronted.

6. As for the Organization Chart, the Director General stressed that it was temporary and flexible, and that it suited the current stage reached in the Organization's development. The Council asked to be provided at its next session with a detailed version of this chart, along with a job description including the task and responsibilities involved in the various positions as well as a list of ISESCO's personnel so that member States may be kept informed as to the evolution of the recruitment policy regarding the various personnel categories.

While expressing its satisfaction with the austerity policy reflected in the proposed chart, the Council invited the Director General to ensure that this policy be compatible with the rights of staff members within the General Directorate, as well as the principles of equity and justice so that a social crisis would not be added to the financial one.

In connection with this budget item, the Council requested the Director General to take a greater interest in publications related to ISESCO in order to make the Organization better known, and to enhance its standing within member States as well as in Muslim communities throughout the world.

7. As regards the amended text of the Regulations of the End-of-Service Allowance Fund, the Council adopted it after introducing the following modification in the Arabic and French texts: Article 8, para. "a": "The Fund Committee shall decide on how to invest the Fund's assets".

8. The Council then proceeded to the examination of the file of the Special Session of the General Conference. The role of the Council in this examination was discussed in the light of the amendment procedure provided for in Article

20 of ISESCO's Statute and the deadlines stipulated therein. It was decided that the Council's views on each article be contained in a separate document to be submitted to the Special Session of the General Conference along with the draft amendments of the General Directorate.

The Council subsequently proceeded to the examination of the text and expressed the following viewpoints:

- **Article I:** The replacement of "under the supervision of" by "within the framework of", which involves the nature of the relationship between ISESCO and the OIC, was approved by the majority of the Council.
- **Article II:** The Council suggested that the words "principal" and "الرئيسي" be deleted respectively from the French and Arabic texts.
- Instead of : " وللمنظمة الإسلامية-إيسيسكو- أن تنشئ" , the Arabic text should read: " ولها أن تنشئ". These suggestions were approved unanimously.
- **Article III:** The proposed amendment was unanimously approved.
- **Article IV:** unchanged.
- **Article V:** The proposed amendment was unanimously approved. Moreover, the following modification was introduced into the English text: "To work towards complementing and supplementing the work of...".
- **Article VI:** The proposed amendment was unanimously approved. The incorrect phrase "No state which is not a member..." in the English text was replaced with: "A state which is not ... cannot become a member ...".
- **Article VII:** The proposed amendment was approved, with the indication that observers at ISESCO's General Conference shall have the right to take part in debates.
- **Article VIII:** Approved unanimously
- **Article IX:** Approved unanimously with the following modifications:
 - The title "Bodies of the Organization" should be inserted in its appropriate place, i.e, above Article 9.
 - In the Arabic text: the sentence " تتكون أجهزة المنظمة الإسلامية – إيسيسكو- مما يلي " is changed into " أجهزة المنظمة الإسلامية-إيسيسكو- هي كما يلي:"
 - In the English text the term "organs" is to be kept instead of the proposed term "bodies".
- **Article X:** The Council unanimously approved the proposal to include in the Arabic and English texts the following sentence: "Voting in the General

Conference shall be on a one-state-one-vote basis, and decisions shall be adopted by a simple majority unless otherwise stated in a General Conference resolution or in the provisions of Article 20 of the present Statute. By majority is meant the majority of the attending and voting members". This sentence already exists in the French text.

However, the Council suggested, through the majority of its members, to delete the proposed phase: "in accordance with the provisions of the Observer Status Regulations of the Islamic Organization –ISESCO-".

As for the English text, it was proposed to keep the phrase "compose of" instead of "made up".

- **Article XI**: The proposed amendment was approved by the majority of the Council after discussion of the terms "Appoint the Director General" (Original text), and "Elect ..." (Proposed amendment). (The same expression appears in article 13).
- **Article XII**: After consideration of the different assumptions submitted by the General Directorate concerning the composition of the Executive council, the following proposal was voted by the majority of the Council:

"The Executive Council shall be composed of 24 members, 18 of whom shall be elected by the General Conference from among candidates nominated by member states. In addition to member states' representatives, there shall be three presidents and directors of institutions and organizations operating within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and three personalities elected in their personal capacity. The Council shall be partly renewed every three years in the following proportions: half the representatives of member states, who shall be elected from among the candidates of countries which actually pay their share in ISESCO's budget. Two thirds of the three representatives of institutions and organizations, and of the three personalities shall be replaced every three years through drawing lots. As a transitional measure, and in order to reach the required number of representatives, the General Conference shall add to the current 9 Council members representing member states another 9 representatives. Moreover, the phase "arts and literature" is to be changed into "education, science and culture".

- **Article XIII**: Three items were discussed:

- The non-restriction of the renewal of the Director General's mandate to one more time only. The Council approved this item by a majority vote.
 - The Council unanimously maintained the 2nd paragraph of the original text on the procedure to be followed with respect to the appointment of the Director General, while specifying that the Council shall nominate a maximum of three candidates.
 - The Council unanimously approved the proposed paragraph on the vacancy of the Director General's office. Upon such a vacancy however, the General Conference shall convene within a maximum period of 12 months instead of 6 months. Member states shall submit their candidacies to the office of Director General at least six months before the scheduled date of the General Conference.
- **Articles XIV-XV-XVI and XVII**: The Council unanimously approved the draft amendments proposed by the General Directorate.
 - **Article XVIII**: The Council unanimously made the following proposal: the annual budget shall be submitted to the Executive Council for consideration and approval within the framework of the three-year budget voted by the General Conference".
 - **Article XIX**: the Council unanimously approved the proposed amendment.
 - **Article XX**: The Executive Council suggested to begin the first paragraph with the following sentence: "The Executive Council shall discuss proposed amendments to the Statute introduced by member states, the Executive Council and the Director General.
 - **Articles XXI and XXII**: The Council unanimously approved the amendments proposed by the General Directorate.

9. Culture and identity problems of Muslims living outside the Islamic World.

The Council then listened to Professor Kemal Kerpat's description of the situation of Muslim Communities living outside the Islamic World, and which impels Muslims to take the necessary measures to remedy the situation.

The Council reached the following decision:

The Council recommends that ISESCO apprise itself of the studies made by Islamic organizations, such as the Islamic World League and the World Youth Congress, which are based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as the Tripoli-based Islamic Call Society, to select relevant programmes which are compatible with the nature of its activities, and to study the means for their implementation in cooperation with some of the above-mentioned institutions.

At the close of its proceedings, the Council wishes to congratulate the Director General and all his colleagues on the commendable and relentless efforts they have been making in order to implement the Plan of Action in spite of the limited means available, and to promote the work of ISESCO in order to make of it an organization which is worthy of the Islamic World, its past and its aspirations.

The Council approved the text of a message of thanks addressed by the Chairman to His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco, for the unflagging support he has been providing to ISESCO.

The Council also decided to hold its next session in Rabat on Tuesday 24th November, 1987.

Rabat, 28 Zul-Hijja 1406H/3 September 1986