



FIFTH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
"Enculturation of Quality in Academia, Research and Innovation Towards Prosperity of Ummah"

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia : 10th-11th Zul qi'da, 1413 H / 19th – 20th October, 2010 A.D.

Kuala Lumpur Declaration

"Enculturation of Quality in Academia, Research and Innovation towards Prosperity of Ummah"

We, the participants in the Fifth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, held under the theme of "*Enculturation of Quality in Academia, Research and Innovation Towards Prosperity of Ummah*", in the city of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 10th-11th Zuqi'da, 1431 A.H, corresponding to 19th-20th October, 2010;

In line with the resolutions issued by the previous sessions of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research;

Referring to the **Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation in Islamic Countries**, adopted by the Tenth Islamic Summit held in Putrajaya (Malaysia), in October 2003, and its revised version and implementation mechanisms approved by the Fourth Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, in October 2008;

In light of the **Strategy for Development of Biotechnology in the Islamic World**, adopted by the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, in 2003, and the **Strategy for Developing University Education in the Islamic World**, adopted by the 3rd Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, held in Kuwait, in 2006;

Guided by the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in December 2005 and the OIC Vision 1441 for Science and Technology adopted by the Tenth Islamic Summit held in Putrajaya (Malaysia) in October 2003;

Bearing in mind the challenges facing the member States in the fields of higher education, science, technology, scientific research and innovation, and **acknowledging** the importance of these fields for the achievement of development, progress and prosperity, in line with the lofty Islamic values and as part of the preservation of the Ummah's glorious heritage;

Being aware of the close bonds which unite the peoples of the Islamic world through the shared spiritual, moral and cultural values, which foster the unity of ranks and best serve the Islamic interests; and **seeking to** promote these bonds and encourage multiplicity, cultural diversity and civilizational interaction in such a way as to foster the civilizational identity in the Islamic world and promote world peace and human shared values;

Taking note of the efforts being exerted by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in the fields of higher education, scientific research and technology, and which are underpinned by the quality of the documents, programmes, strategies and reports submitted to the current session of the Conference.

Lauding the constructive and serious deliberations which have taken place throughout the Conference's sessions, and **taking note of** the presentations made by the member States and international organizations;

AGREE TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION WHEREIN WE:

- 1. Recognize** the importance of scientific research and higher education for the development of knowledge and promotion of technology, as well as national innovation systems to achieve socio-economic growth and cope with the various challenges facing the member States such as poverty, hunger, malnutrition, epidemics, environmental degradation, dwindling natural resources, acute shortage of energy and water resources;
- 2. Call on** the member States to upgrade their performance in terms of quality enculturation, continue to make the best of the vast knowledge areas and utilize all resources and capabilities to promote the culture of quality in academia, research and innovation as a platform to address nascent challenges, positively interact with globalization and bring the Ummah to move forward in correlation with the world's progress in science and technology;

3. **Urge** the member States to take urgent actions to develop enabling policies and legal framework that would ensure quick success to technology and build capabilities in emerging and cross-cutting technologies; devote attention to the promotion of national innovation systems, the culture of intellectual property rights and technology incubation; have mastery of technology, strategic studies and forecasting institutions; and involve private sector and industries in technology innovation processes;
4. **Call on** the universities and research institutes, which play a pivotal role in securing new knowledge and innovation in science and technology, to promote training in science fields that will help to meet social and economic needs in member States, and **invite** them to equip a new generation of competent scientists who will enable their countries to keep pace with the latest developments as part of their research agenda and future strategies;
5. **Call** for stepping up efforts to transform the economies of the member States into knowledge-based economies by developing urgent, sound action plans and policies to strengthen knowledge infrastructure, including through sensitization on scientific knowledge and technological innovation bridging interface between media and scientific community to projects the achievements of new scientific findings;
6. **Call for** adopting an interdisciplinary approach to science, to bridge the division between hard-core natural sciences and the humanities, in full deference to equity and sustainability principles, and promote awareness of science-based knowledge and spread of new technologies to ensure sustainability movement forward to preserve the ecosystem;
7. **Urge** universities in the Islamic world to upgrade their performance to achieve excellence in higher education and reorient their procedures and mechanism to best meet the international standards and criteria by paying attention to the “**Key Performance Indicators**” so as to reposition them in better ranks among the community of world class universities;
8. **Recognize** nanotechnology’s huge economic potential and capability to solve critical challenges confronting member States; and **call for** identifying policies measures and mechanisms to accelerate acquisition of nanotechnology, including committing high percentages of their R&D investments to the development of nanotechnology; and **further urge** the

member States to accord attention to the building and training of human capital and capacity that can drive and create a momentum as well as a critical mass for nanotechnologist, and nano-scientists workforce, and make institutional arrangements at national level for prompt delivery of nanotechnology related products including university institutions, R&D institutes, financial institutions and technology parks at universities;

9. **Call for** expedited launching of relevant country reports and **emphasize** the need to draw on these reports when it comes to developing policy measures and embedding them both in the implementation of national and international planning and in the assessment of future demands;
10. **Call for** developing mechanisms for joint action among the member States concerning the empowerment of women in the various scientific and technological fields, in order to foster their presence in higher education and scientific research; highlight their important roles in the development of society, and the fight against poverty and other social scourges, achieve an effective partnership among all society segments in the various productive and decision-making fields, while proposing legal and administrative measures that would help women to succeed in their lives; and define the mechanisms that would facilitate exchange of leading experiences in the empowerment of women among the member States;
11. **Commend** the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW) for its achievements and initiatives to develop the concept of partnership and cooperation with member Universities and similar organizations, and for its active role in the implementation of activities and programmes, through the convening of conferences, symposia and workshops as part of its action plans; the establishment of University scientific chairs that seek to promote high education and scientific research; the revival and renewal of Islamic cultural heritage; and the fostering of the culture of quality, innovation and knowledge sharing; and **commend** the FUIW's initiatives to activate cooperation among member Universities through expertise sharing and the conclusion of cooperation and partnership agreements;
12. **Laud** the efforts led by ISESCO Centre for Promotion of Scientific Research (ICPSR) to encourage scientific research, develop scientific and technical studies in member States, and provide assistance to scientific research institutions and excellence centres in Islamic world;

and **call** member States and donor parties to cooperate with ICPRS to help it step up its efforts and carry on assuming its mission;

- 13. Appreciate** ISESCO's keenness to encourage scientific competencies in the Islamic world and to allocate Science Prizes in important areas of science and technology and stress upon further opportunities and encouragement of scientists, researchers and engineers in member States, especially youth, to create conducive environment to establish their scientific careers on firm basis in their own countries so as to mitigate south-north brain drain;
- 14. laud** the role of the Islamic Citation Centre in providing access to current and retrospective scientometrics and bibliographic database as well as citation indexing and analysis covering scientific journals from the member States, including journals in their national languages and suggests research journals publishing institutes to coordinate with ISC to accord better recognition to their research performances at international level;
- 15. Call for** activating the principles of solidarity and mutual assistance to reinforce cooperation and networking among scientific and technology institutions and among scientists in the Islamic world and to establish regional centres and networks of excellence to play a central role in advancing the knowledge, understanding and application of science;
- 16. Express** our deep appreciation to His Excellency the Hon. Tan Sri Dato' Muhyiddin Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia for having kindly officiated the Conference's Opening Session and for his guiding speech he delivered on this occasion;
- 17. Commend** the support extended by the people and Government of Malaysia, especially the Ministry of Higher Education for their efforts in organizing the Conference and for their generosity and hospitality; **laud** the organization of an exhibition in cooperation with local education institutions, government bodies, selected organizations as well as associated parties involved with higher education and scientific research covering various aspects such as academia, research and development, innovation, commercialization and production, in order to widen the market and the opportunity to promote and display products of high technology; and **call for** the convening of regular scientific exhibits during other high level Islamic events to project the cause of scientific development;

- 18. Thank** His Excellency Mr Mohamed Khaled Bin Nordin, Minister of Higher Education of Malaysia, President of the 5th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, for his wise moderation of the conference's sessions which has enabled us to achieve such a positive outcome and adopt such appropriate resolutions;
- 19. Express** our appreciation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its Secretary General, His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoglu, for contributing to the organization of the Conference and for its efforts towards supporting Islamic joint action in the field of science and technology, in coordination and cooperation with its specialized, affiliated and subsidiary bodies; and
- 20. Also express** our profound gratitude to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and to its Director General, Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, for its great efforts in preparing the present conference and for its multiple initiatives towards advancing of science technology and innovation and strengthening higher education and scientific research in the member States.

Done in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 20th October 2010