

Organization of the Islamic Conference

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Islamic Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization
(ISESCO)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Fourth Session

22 – 24 Zul Hijja 1404 H
18 – 20 September 1984

Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco

FINAL REPORT

The Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization held its Fourth Session on the 22nd of Zul Hijja 1404 / 18 September 1984 in Rabat. It first examined the new candidatures which were presented by the following Member States: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Iraq and the Republic of Guinea. They were all approved by the Council who also confirmed the representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the Chair.

The Chairman of the Council Dr. Rashid Ben Abdelaziz AL Mubarak, in an opening statement stressed the importance of the Executive Council in planning for the Organization's activities. He also pointed out the various challenges facing ISESCO as well as the need to examine the situation prevailing in the Islamic world with regard to scientific research and to its severance from the current scientific, economic and social reality.

Afterwards, His Excellency the Director General of the Organization Pr. Abdelhadi Boutaleb presented a report on the administrative and financial situation in the Organization as well as its achievements since the first General Conference of ISESCO which was held in Shaaban 1403 / June 1981 in Casablanca.

Following the Director General's report the Council members paid tribute to the efforts made by the Director General and all the staff in ISESCO. The Council adopted the agenda and began consideration of the candidature of Deputy Director General for Science Dr. K.M. IBNE-RASA. In introducing the candidate, the Director General of the Organization pointed out the various considerations leading of this candidature as well as the high qualifications and great experience of Dr. K.M. IBNE-RASA in the scientific field. He also indicated that it was His Excellency the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan who personally chose the candidate for this position. The Council decided to appoint Dr. K.M. IBNE-RASA as Deputy Director General for Science in the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The Council moved to examine the first item on the agenda pertaining to the preliminary draft for the next three-year-plan of Action. It was noted by some members that the draft does not adequately provide for the scientific sector. Accordingly, it was pointed out that the forthcoming plan should be more balanced in covering the major fields of activities of the Organization. The Council also stressed the need to set priorities in the light of the current situation in the Islamic world while avoiding duplication and repetition in the work carried out by similar agencies and bodies.

After taking due account of the observations of the Council members, the General Directorate will forward the detailed draft to Member States for further comment.

Preliminary Suggestions for a Tentative Draft of the Next Three-Year Plan of Action

It was also indicated that some of the programmes which were provided for in the current work plan and whose implementation was withheld for financial reasons may be taken up again in the next plan of action, in accordance with the priorities which have been set.

After having thoroughly discussed the draft which was presented by the General Directorate, the Council adopted it in the following form:

- 1- To enhance such basic assets of the Organization, as the conference library, the Islamic data bank and the photocomposition unit in addition to a set of sound and videotape cassettes.
- 2- To seek continuous, large-scale dissemination of the Arabic language in non-Arabic speaking countries, and to study the necessary means in terms of the latest communication and teaching techniques, especially with regard to the use of the Arabic script in writing and publishing local languages in non-Arabic speaking Islamic countries.
- 3- To disseminate Islamic culture in Islamic and other countries, with particular emphasis on youth, decision makers and media circles. The aim is to safeguard and to enhance the Islamic identity as well as to provide it with a balanced combination between authenticity and contemporary requirements.
- 4- To examine a preoccupying phenomenon in the Islamic world which is the lack of coordination with regard to the existing universities, and scholars as well as research work of which hundreds of thousands of papers of scientific nature have been published in the Islamic world, and which is expected to contribute to scientific, industrial and technological progress. The aim of the study is to determine the real factors which led to such a phenomenon, as a first step towards developing and suggesting the appropriate solutions.
- 5- To protect Islam and Muslims against prejudice, distortion and falsehood, by means of rational and efficient methods which are currently used. The Organization shall seek help, where possible, from governmental and non-governmental associations and institutions with similar objectives, whether they are in Islamic or non-Islamic countries.
- 6- To support Muslim communities in non Member countries, by different means especially through educational and cultural activities as well as information campaigns, whether those communities are natives of the countries concerned to recent immigrants. In pursuing this objective the Organization shall grant scholarships and provide for various lectures and training courses.
- 7- To extend publishing activities the better to serve the objectives of the Organization.
- 8- To enhance cooperation among educational, scientific and cultural institutions through such means as educational, scientific and cultural

exchange programmes between Member States, as well as to emphasize and consolidate both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of such programmes.

- 9- To develop descriptive and statistical studies on the situation prevailing in the Islamic countries, and to use them in all fields of the Organization's activities, as well as to make the findings of these studies available to Member States for large scale dissemination and utilization.

On the second day of the Fourth Session, the Executive Council examined the agenda item pertaining to cooperation agreements with similar organizations which were adopted in principle by the General Conference at its meeting in Casablanca, in Shaaban 1403 / June 1983.

These agreements are with UNESCO, ALECSO and the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States.

The Director General of ISESCO said that the Organization, in pursuance of the relevant Resolution of the General Conference, had established the necessary contacts with the three Organizations, and that it had received from UNESCO the text of the cooperation agreement, signed by its Director General. The Executive Council was presented with the final text of the agreement for consideration, before it was to be signed by ISESCO's Director General. The Council approved the cooperation agreement with UNESCO then mandated the Director General to sign it. It further called on the General Directorate to prepare a note that states the important observations of which ISESCO should be mindful with regard to Islamic issues in which UNESCO is currently involved.

Upon consideration of the document submitted by the General Directorate on the observer status within ISESCO's bodies, the Council agreed to a proposal by the Director General aimed at preparing a detailed and exhaustive study on the subject, which should take into consideration identical cases within similar organizations without losing sight of the distinctive character of the Islamic Organization. The General Directorate shall submit the said study to the members of the Executive Council at least two-months prior to its next session.

The Director General was requested to submit the Islamic draft Agreement on the recognition of university diplomas, titles, and qualifications in Islamic States to a committee of experts specialized in the recognition of university diplomas, the committee members shall be chosen from among nationals of Islamic countries with long university experience.

The Council also approved the choices of the accounting firm PRICE WATERHOUSE to audit ISESCO's accounts.

The Council then moved to discuss the document presented by the General Directorate on the draft amendments to some articles of ISESCO's Personnel Regulations.

Upon a detailed discussion of the proposed amendments, and after having heard the clarifications and explanations presented by the General Directorate, the Council

approved the amendments. Some modifications were introduced on certain articles which were presented by the Organization for amendments. These are:

Article 35

The last paragraph of the Article should read as follows:

"This table may be readjusted on July 1st of each year, whenever it becomes evident that the cost of living index has risen"

Article 36

The first paragraph now reads as follows:

"The Director General and the Deputy Directors General shall be provided with furnished accommodation and with a staff of three servants for the Director General and two servants for each Deputy Director General".

Article 37

The following sentence was added at the end of the Article:

"ISESCO shall keep in line with the Islamic Conference Organization's allowance scale".

Article 90

The following sentence was added at the end of this Article:

"The decision shall be left to the discretion of the Director General".

Article 107

No modification was introduced on the first part of the Article. The second part should read as follows:

"This fund shall be governed by a set of regulations laid down by the General Directorate. It shall be financed by contributions equivalent to 2.25% from the aggregate base salary of the Organization's full-time employees along the following proportions:

- 75% as the staff member's contribution and
- 1.50% as the Organization's contribution to the fund.

With the understanding that the aim is to extend the services of the fund so that it may cover disabling, accidents and death risks as well, that is as soon as the financial situation of the Organization allows it. The question shall be referred to the General Conference which shall examine it and take action on it".

The Council then moved to discuss the remaining agenda items, namely the construction of the Organization's headquarters and the dates of the next meetings of the General Conference and of the Executive Council.

The Council Chairman indicated that in view of the current financial difficulties of the Organization, it would be more appropriate to postpone consideration of the construction of the Organization's headquarters till a later time.

As for the next meeting of the General Conference, the Director General of the Islamic Organization pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan kindly invited ISESCO to hold its second General Conference in Pakistan. The General Directorate has hoped to hold the second General Conference during the month of May 1985, in view of the fact that the term of office of ISESCO's Director General would be over by then. However, the government of Pakistan indicated that it would prefer that the Conference be held from 1st to 3rd October, in order to provide better conditions for its proceedings.

With regard to the next meeting of the Executive Council, the Director General indicated that he is bound by the Organization's statutory texts so submit to Member States a draft budget and plan of action at least two months before the General Conference convenes. He further indicated that the Executive Council members have to be presented with draft budget and plan of action before the later can be submitted to Member States. Therefore the Executive Council will have to meet before the next General Conference.

Upon discussion of this matter, the Council decided to convene in the Organization's seat-country during the first week of May 1985.

The Executive Council held its closing session on Thursday 24 Zul Hijja 1404 / September 20, 1984, during which Council members discussed the final report as well as the Council's Recommendations, thus concluding the Fourth Session of the Executive Council.

Attending the Executive Council meeting were Council members:

- Dr. Rashid Ben Abdelaziz Al Mubarak (from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Chairman,
- Mr. Saeed Qureshi (Pakistan), Vice-Chairman,
- Tan Sri Dato Othman Malek (Malaysia), Vice-Chairman,
- Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanolgu (Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture), Rapporteur,
- Mr. Abou El Caba Touré (Senegal),
- Dr. Tarek Hassan (Substituting for the representative of Iraq),
- Mr. El Hadji Namory Berete (Guinea),
- Dr. Mahmoud Mwa'id (Palestine),
- Mr. Omar Saad Touré (Mali),

- Mr. Mohamed Bel Bachir (Morocco),
- Dr. Ali El Kettani (the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development),
- Dr. Fuat Sezgin (Institut Fur Geschichte der Arabish-Islamischen Wissenchatten, Universitat Frankfurt).

The following Council members did not attend:

- Dr. Mahmoud Chawi (world Federation of International Arabic Islamic Schools),
- Dr. Ezzedine Ibrahim (University of the United Arab Emirates),
- Mr. Wareth eddin Muhammad (United States).

Recommendations

The Executive Council of ISESCO, meeting at its Fourth Session in Rabat 22-24 Zil Hijja 1404 / 18-20 September 1984, taking note of the praise worthy efforts made by the General Directorate in implementing the programmes under the current workplan, as well as the financial difficulties facing the Organization as a result of unpaid contributions of Member States to the Organization's budget, recommends:

- 1- That the General Directorate refrain from implementing programmes which have not yet been initiated, until such time as the financial situation allows such implementation.
- 2- Having taken note of the programmes achieved by the General Directorate under the current workplan and of the funds allocated to their implementation, the Council recommends that the General Directorate present it with detailed reports on the implementation of the programmes and related costs.
- 3- Having examined the document prepared by the General Directorate with respect to the preliminary draft for the next plan of action and to the various areas covered therein, calls on the General Directorate to give consideration in its future plan of action to the question of the child's cultural and Islamic education and to the promotion of scientific knowledge in Islamic countries.
- 4- Having taken note of the considerable efforts made by His Excellency the Director General of the Organization and all its staff, in order to enhance the Islamic Organization and to attain the objectives for which it was established, despite numerous difficulties.

Commends the results achieved by the General Directorate with regard to implementing the plan of action, and to surmounting the difficulties which were facing it while discharging its duties.