

# Final Report

With the help of Allah, the Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- held its 29<sup>th</sup> session at the Organization's permanent headquarters, from 29 Jumada II to 1 Rajab 1429 A.H. (2 to 4 July 2008). The proceedings of the session were attended by the members of the Council and their accompanying delegations, except for the representatives of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Somalian Republic, the Republic of Guinea, and the Republic of Kazakhstan. (*Annex 1: list of attending members of the Executive Council or their representatives*).

1. The opening session was presided over by His Excellency Dr Boubakar Doukouré, Chairman of ISESCO's Executive Council, in the presence of His Excellency Mr Ahmed Akhchichen, Minister of National Education, Higher Education, Executive Training and Scientific Research of the Kingdom of Morocco, President of ISESCO's 9<sup>th</sup> General Conference, His Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of ISESCO, alongside representatives of regional and international organizations and a host of intellectuals and media figures.
2. The session was opened with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. Then, His Excellency Dr Boubakar Doukouré, Chairman of ISESCO's Executive Council, made an address in which he expressed his deep satisfaction and his confidence in ISESCO, for the sustained success it has been achieving, and which made of it a byword for the Muslim world's most vibrant organization having significant development, considerable progress and a higher fulfilment rate of objectives, thanks to the judicious and dedicated leadership of His Excellency the Director General, and the high competence of his staff in following his instructions and implementing the programmes and activities.

The Chairman of the Executive Council pointed out that the Agenda of the 29<sup>th</sup> session contains highly important items that should be examined and debated to take appropriate decisions thereon. Most notable of these items are the Director General's Report on the Activities implemented during the year 2007, the Draft Medium-Term Plan for the years 2010-2018, and the Draft Broad Lines of the upcoming Three-year Action Plan.

At the close of his address, His Excellency the Chairman of the Executive Council called upon the Member States to carry on providing their financial and moral support to ISESCO so as to allow it fulfil its mission in the best manner.

Thereafter, His Excellency Mr Ahmed Akhchichen, the Moroccan Minister of National Education, Higher Education, Staff Training and Scientific Research, and President of ISESCO's General Conference, made an address wherein he first wished the members of the Executive Council a good stay in their second home, Morocco, and every success in the proceedings of this session, which features presentations on ISESCO's future plans. He expressed the pride the Kingdom of Morocco takes in hosting the headquarters of ISESCO on its land, as well as his confidence in ISESCO's capacity to benefit the Member States with the expertise it has accumulated within its competence to serve the causes of the Member States, help them bring about sustainable development and meet the expectations of their peoples. Mr Akhchichen also hailed the efforts exerted by His Excellency the Director General of ISESCO, saying that "he has laid down firm bases, solid groundwork and modern methods to accomplish the mission of the Organization." He commended also the achievements made by ISESCO in the preservation of the Islamic heritage, providing education for all, and disseminating the culture of peace, science and technology in order to help ISESCO Member States achieve comprehensive development.

3. Afterwards, His Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, the Director General of ISESCO, made an address wherein he first conveyed his thanks and gratitude to the leaders of the Member States for their precious trust and the tremendous support they give to ISESCO. He underlined the prominent status enjoyed by ISESCO and the successful results it achieved -the highest since its inception- as well as its opening to the spirit of our times and integration in its Islamic and international environment.

The Director General pointed out that ISESCO managed this year to bring the number of its strategies up to eleven (11), all of which cover the Organization's various fields of competence and address priority issues of science, education, culture and communication in the Islamic world. Chief among the strategies adopted last year are the Strategy for Developing University Education, the Strategy for Cultural Takaful, the Strategy for Development of Information and Communication Technologies, and the Action Plan for Renewing Cultural Policies. He highlighted that the current Three-year Action Plan has been marked by its renovative programmes and activities and innovative administrative and executive methods. In this respect, he underscored that this continuous, all-inclusive and far-reaching development witnessed by ISESCO was commended by the Islamic Summit Conference in its 11<sup>th</sup> session held in Dakar, and the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States in its 35<sup>th</sup> session held recently in Kampala. He mentioned that the available figures on the activities implemented between the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Executive Council for the benefit of the Member States constitute a significant indicator of the steady progress of ISESCO. Concerning the qualitative aspect of the scheduled and implemented activities within ISESCO's scope of

competence, the Director General pointed that these activities were variant and covered the different needs and the requests of the Member States.

He commended the important role assumed by the Executive Council in drawing attention to the needs and priorities of the Member States, as well as in directing ISESCO's interest towards achieving the objectives of the activities.

At the close of his address, the Director General underlined that the huge success ISESCO has achieved places considerable responsibilities upon it, and opens up infinite horizons for it to attain the educational, scientific and cultural objectives of our Islamic Ummah and humanity at large.

4. At the close of the opening session, the Director General handed ISESCO 2007 Literacy Prize, which went to the "**Solidarité 2000**" association from the Republic of Niger, to the representative member of the Republic of Niger in the Executive Council. He also gave ISESCO 2008 Literacy Research Prize, which was awarded for the Comprehensive Evaluation Study of the Literacy Programme in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to the Jordanian representative member in the Executive Council. In addition, the Director General received from the Education Ministry's Undersecretary for Educational Affairs and Curriculum of the Kingdom of Bahrain the maquette of the Al-Hedaya Al-Khalifiya Secondary School for Boys, the first formal education school of its kind to open in the country in 1919, to exhibit it at ISESCO's headquarters.
5. At the beginning of the first working session, the Chairman of the Executive Council welcomed the new members of the Council, namely: the representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Indonesia, Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Republic of Iraq, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Maldives, Malaysia, and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thereafter, the draft agenda and programme of the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Council were considered and adopted in the attached version (*annexes 2 and 3*).

6. The Director General presented his report on the Organization's activities between the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Executive Council. He started by explaining that the activities carried out in 2007 have been marked by three distinctive characteristics that the Organization never witnessed before in its history: First, the year 2007 being the year of the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of ISESCO; second, its being ISESCO's first full year of operation at its new headquarters; and third, its being the first year of the Organization's three-year Action Plan (2007-2009), marking the start of a new chapter in its history. He emphasized also the significance of the full awareness the Executive Council showed in its previous session about such distinctive characteristics and the deep appreciation it expressed

for the substantial efforts led by the General Directorate, which found its expression in the decisions the Executive Council has issued. Most salient of these is the decision to invite the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to nominate the Director General, during the upcoming General Conference, for a new term of office, which was acclaimed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and approved by all the member States.

In addition, the Director General underlined that the number of activities scheduled for 2007 amounted to 524, of which 110 were carried out in education, 120 in science, 147 in culture and communication, 58 in external relations and cooperation, and 12 in information and documentation. This means that the activities implemented amounted to 422, which accounts for 80.5% of the entirety of the activities scheduled.

As part of these programmes, ISESCO has implemented 155 national or regional workshops and training sessions, which benefited 1942 teachers, trainers, counselors and educational and administrative officials in the Member States. ISESCO held more than 146 activities that cover specialized scientific symposia, seminars, meetings for experts, managers and leaderships in the fields of education, science, culture, communication, external relations, cooperation, planning, information and documentation. In an effort to strengthen its growing role in international forums in the field of dialogue and the alliance of civilizations, ISESCO implemented 18 activities covering specialized regional and international conferences and forums and meetings.

The Director General pointed out that ISESCO implemented 97 technical and financial support activities, and granted 62 scholarships for the students of the Members States and the Muslim communities in the West. He underlined also that ISESCO dispatched 23 teachers of Arabic language and Islamic education to various universities and institutions of Islamic Arab education across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Up to the end of 2007, and in a bid to broaden its base of cooperation and partnership with regional and international organizations, ISESCO concluded 163 agreements and protocols of cooperation with several Islamic, Arab, regional and international organizations and institutions sharing common interests.

Benefiting from its own Printing Unit, ISESCO continued to issue its new publications, which in 2007 totaled 30 publications, and post them in its three working languages and in full-text format on its website for the largest possible benefit.

As part of its keen interest in enhancing cultural creativity in the Member States, and in furtherance of its efforts toward developing cultural development plans and strategies in the Islamic world, the Director General highlighted that ISESCO in 2007 carried out 15 activities, most significant of which was the Fifth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, which adopted the "**Tripoli Commitments on Renewing Cultural Policies in the Islamic World**". Several national sessions were

conducted with the aim of publicizing the Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Also significant, ISESCO's Programme on the Celebration of Islamic Culture Capitals formed an integrated framework to highlight the unity of the Islamic world and the diversity of its components. In this regard, the Organization celebrated the cities of Fez, Tripoli, Dakar, and Tashkent as 2007 capitals of Islamic culture. As part of its continuous interest in Muslim communities and minorities living in the West, ISESCO continued to convene the regular meetings of the Supreme Council for Education and Culture in the West as well as of the Heads of Cultural Centres and Islamic Associations in Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

In furtherance to its policy aiming to encourage development-oriented scientific research, ISESCO launched in 2007 the "**Literacy Research Prize**", and carried on its programmes within the framework of ISESCO Centre for the Promotion of Scientific Research (ICPSR). And in fulfilment of the aspirations of women, children and the youth across the Islamic world, ISESCO implemented 16 activities to better qualify these categories to the labour market.

Moreover, there was a significant increase in 2007 in the interest ISESCO takes in the issue of interfaith and intercivilizational dialogue and the dissemination of the peace culture. This has been manifest in the countless activities conducted by the Organization to give substance to the Rabat Commitments on Fostering Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations, as well as in the International Conference held in cooperation with the Tunisian Republic, the United Nations and the OIC, on "**Terrorism: Dimensions, Threats and Counter-Measures**". ISESCO pursued also the implementation of its support activities under the Unit of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and reinforced its cooperation and partnership relations with the National Commissions.

At the close of his presentation, the Director General referred to his meetings during his official visits to many Member States with the leaders of the Islamic world, with whom he held talks on the ways of promoting the mission of ISESCO and supporting its efforts in the Islamic and international arenas.

7. During the deliberations on the Director General's Report on the Activities of the Organization between the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Council, the observations made by the Members of the Council focused on the following:
  - Calling upon ISESCO to carry on its efforts in the teaching of Arabic as a foreign language, the dissemination of Islamic culture, and the transcription of the Muslim peoples' languages in the Quranic standardized script.
  - Calling for more opening up on the modern information and communication mediums, both in the field of internal running of the Organization's work, and in the implementation of activities related to literacy or the improvement of educational curricula.

- Calling for carrying on the implementation of the training programmes destined to teachers, managers and trainers in ISESCO's different fields of action.
- Allocating further programmes and activities for the categories with special needs, especially women, refugees, children in remote areas, and talent.
- Allocating further support within ISESCO's fields of competence to the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and calling upon ISESCO and the Member States to contribute in various forms and extensively to the festivities of Al-Quds Al-Sharif as a capital of Arabic culture for the year 2009.
- Fostering the General Directorate's trend toward scheduling major activities, and taking interest in the qualitative aspect of the implemented activities.
- Calling upon ISESCO to carry on coordinating the efforts led at the Islamic world to raise the Islamic universities to the level of universities in advanced countries.
- Calling for taking further interest in scientific research as part of ISESCO's activities and in technology, especially the nano-technologies and the biotechnologies.
- Furthering interest in cultural diversity within the Islamic world as well as in spreading its values among rising generations at schools and civil-society organizations.

**8.** The members of the Executive Council expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Director General and his assistants for their outstanding efforts to follow up the implementation of the programmes. The members also commended the constant endeavors led by the Director General to expand the scope of cooperation with international and regional organizations as well as with Islamic and Arab institutions, as part of the implementation of programmes and rationalizing their expenditure, with full deference to the priority needs of the Member States and the Muslim communities and minorities.

Afterwards, the Council adopted the Director General's report of the activities of the Organization during the year 2007, while taking into consideration the observations and proposals of the Council's members, and recommended the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference to adopt this report.

**9.** The Director General submitted the Financial Report and Closing Accounts for the Year 2007 which include the closing accounts of the period between 1 January and 31 December 2007, showing that the overall contributions received from the Member States during the year 2007 totalled US\$ 7,585,720 of which US\$ 5,726,417 were collected within the framework of the contributions scheduled for the year 2007, and

that the collected contributions represent only 42% of the amount scheduled in the annual budget, which is estimated at US\$ 13,700,151.

He also stated that the off-budget resources which were collected as donations totalled US\$ 3,237,202; they consisted of a support of US\$ 2,000,000 received from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, to complete the construction and equipment of ISESCO's permanent headquarters; a support of US\$ 500,000 from the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, to implement educational programmes in Palestine; a support of US\$ 254,861 from the World Islamic Call Society in the Great Jamahiriya for the implementation of the Arabic language teaching programme in the African Sahel; a support of US\$ 258,126 from the Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Foundation, to implement various activities; a support of US\$ 200,000 from His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar; and a support of US\$ 24,213 from the African Development Bank. These additional resources have been obtained thanks to the extensive personal contact made by the Director General of the Organization.

- 10.** The representative of the Audit Company presented the Audit Report on the Accounts of the Organization for Financial Year 2007. He commended the accuracy of the accounting procedures adopted and the soundness of the Organization's accounts, and explained that the operating account is consistent with the amounts kept in the records of the Organization. The report indicated also that there was no violation of the procedures in force at ISESCO and the decisions that regulate the work of the Organization and that the Organization's accounts are kept in accordance with generally recognized accounting procedures and the Financial Regulations of the Organization.
- 11.** The Chairman of the Financial Control Committee presented the report of the Committee for Financial Year 2007. He explained that the Committee examined the Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts for 2007 and the Report of the Audit Company on the Accounts of the Organization for Financial Year 2007, and noted that these reports give a full and clear idea of the income and expenditure of the Organization. The Committee commended the transparent administrative and financial management and operation of the Organization's resources, which reflected very positively on the nature of the activities implemented in 2007. Furthermore, the Committee thanked in its report the Member States that have settled their contributions to the budget of the Organization in 2007, and exhorted those that have not yet paid up their contributions to benefit from the exemptions adopted in this regard by settling their contributions and arrears to the budget of the Organization at the shortest possible time.

12. During the discussions, the Council's members expressed their satisfaction for earmarking a large share of the Organization's budget to the implementation of programmes and activities which accounted for 68% of the Organization's overall budget. Moreover, they commended the Director General's efforts in rationalizing expenditure and in abiding by the recommendations put forward by the Financial Control Committee and the Audit Company. After deliberations, the Council adopted the Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts for Financial Year 2007 (from 1 January to 31 December 2007), the Report of the Audit Company and the Report of the Financial Control Committee for Year 2007. The Council agreed to submit these reports to the 10<sup>th</sup> General Conference and recommended their adoption.
13. Then, the Director General presented his report on the Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization for 2007. In this regard, he gave an account of the Member States' contributions to the Organization's budget for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2007, including the previous years, the situation of arrears and the efforts deployed by the Executive Council and the Director General to urge Member States to settle their contributions to the Organization's budget. The Director General pointed out that the contributions received during the year 2007 reached US\$ 7,585,720, of which a sum of US\$ 5,726,417 is paid under financial year 2007, and a sum of US\$ 1,859,302 representing the contributions paid up for the previous years. The Director General remarked that the financial amounts paid under the year 2007 stand below the annual budget estimate of US\$ 13,700,151 adopted by ISESCO accounting only for 42% of this total budget amount.

As for contributions in arrears, the Director General stated that they reached US\$ 71,202,609 from the establishment of ISESCO up to 31 December 2007, whereas the arrears under the financial year 2007 totalled US\$ 7,768,231. In this regard, attention was drawn to the keen interest taken by the Executive Council in this subject, as well as to the intensive efforts the Director General is deploying to urge a number of Member States to settle their arrears within the framework of the Resolutions of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> sessions of the General Conference on facilitations for the settlement of arrears. In this regard, he said that 20 Member States have to date responded to these resolutions.

The Director General pointed out that during the year 2007 he contacted the Member States, urging them to meet their financial obligations through payment of their contributions in arrears especially that the 9<sup>th</sup> General Conference agreed to extend enforcement of the facilitations for the settlement of arrears for another two years as of 2007.

14. After deliberations, the Council adopted the Report of the Director General on Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization for 2007. Moreover, the Council extended thanks to the Director General for his efforts in intensifying contact with Member States to pay their contributions and arrears, and commissioned him to contact the leaderships of Member States with arrears, in order to consider the matter with them and work towards finding a settlement thereto in such a way as to reinforce the Organization's standing and enable it to achieve its objectives. Throughout his visits to this purpose, the Director General may be accompanied by the Executive Council's Chairman. The Council also agreed to submit the said report to the 10<sup>th</sup> General Conference and recommended its adoption.
15. In his presentation of the Draft Medium-Term Plan for 2010-2018, the Director General pointed out that this project comes as part of the implementation of the recommendations, decisions and resolutions issued in this regard by the Executive Council and the General Conference in their previous sessions, and that it was responsive in its orientation to the needs, concerns and aspirations expressed by the Executive Council and the General Conference. He explained also that the focus in this Medium-Term Action Plan highlighting the strategic direction of ISESCO over the next nine years (2010-2018) is more on establishing a policy framework than on executive matters as in the three-year action plans.

The Director General underlined also that this Medium-Term Plan incorporates a methodical approach, providing substantive contents and practical guidelines for ISESCO and the competent authorities in the Member States to put forward relevant programmes and activities and projects under future three-year action plans. He also explained that the main focus under this Medium-Term Plan is on entrenching the guiding principles and main thrust of the mission assigned to ISESCO in its Charter, without losing sight of the importance of undertaking positive change in mechanisms and means available, in addition to progress evaluation of approaches, keeping pace with new technological and knowledge developments.

At the conclusion of his presentation, the Director General explained that focus under this Draft Medium-Term Plan was placed also on the roles and responsibilities taken by the Organization with the purpose of further enhancing them at the regional and international levels, capitalizing on the reputation ISESCO has earned among the Member States and the cooperating parties as a highly credible and committed organization.

16. During the discussions on the Draft Medium-Term Plan for the years 2010-2018, the observations of the members of the Council centred on what follows:
  - Carrying on the efforts exerted to preserve the tangible and intangible heritage in the Member States, especially in relation to the contribution to

the restoration of the monuments that have been damaged in armed-conflict zones.

- Reinforcing programmes concerning cultural diversity and the dialogue of civilizations, especially for the benefit of the youth, children and civil society institutions.
- Stepping up the efforts undertaken in the education of the coming generations on the values of moderation, middle stance, the principles of peace, the preservation of the Islamic identity, and taking pride in the Islamic civilization and its contribution to the universal civilization.
- Carrying on the efforts led by ISESCO to eradicate alphabetical illiteracy in the Member States, while solidifying action towards combating cultural and electronic illiteracy, securing education for all, and stating literacy as one of the goals of the plan.
- Taking further interest in the culture of the child, catering for the talented children, and incorporating within the educational systems of the Member States programmes to keep pace with the digital age and the electronic and technological progress.
- Carrying on ISESCO's efforts in extending support to the scientific and cultural institutions in the Member States to respond to the challenges of the third millennium, through establishing more of ISESCO Chairs at universities and helping these universities to join the list of the high-ranking universities of the world, and forging partnerships among experts, scholars, and university teachers in the Member States to exchange experiences and expertise.
- Supporting the Islamic media institutions, fostering coordination with the centres of information and communication technologies in the Member States, and reflecting on launching a satellite channel of ISESCO to disseminate the Islamic values and principles and to redress the image of Islam.
- Incorporating into ISESCO's action plan programmes to address the issues of poverty, food and water crisis, high costs of living, waste management, disease prevention, demographic growth, as well as climate change and its impact on the Member States.
- Supporting ISESCO's trend toward increased interest in elevating the status of the Arabic language by sensitizing offspring to its significance and their duty of serving it, developing teaching and learning means, bringing about its spread, and strengthening its eminent position in this age of globalization through optimal use of modern technologies, machine translation systems and computer arabization.

**17.** The Director General made a presentation on the Draft Broad Lines of the upcoming Three-year Plan and Budget for the years 2010-2012. He underlined that the Draft Broad Lines draw on two major references: the first is statutory and relies basically on the recommendations of the Executive Council and the resolutions of the General Conference in line with the letter and spirit of ISESCO Charter; while the second is field-exploratory and is related to the needs of the Member States as specified in the forms addressed to the competent parties in these States. The orientations of the Draft Broad Lines confirm the close link between ISESCO's future programmes over the period 2010-2012 and the priorities and basic needs expressed by the Member States through the recommendations of the Executive Council and the resolutions of the General Conference, as well as the requests made via the competent parties in these States.

The Director General pointed to the main priorities in the areas of education, science, culture and communication, as well as to ISESCO's orientations through the various fields of action and the proposed axes to respond to these priorities by investing the available resources, and benefiting from the modern means and mechanisms, while keeping pace with the latest developments in knowledge and technology, in order to achieve the sought goals for the benefit of the Member States and Muslims outside the Member States .

At the close of his presentation, the Director General called upon the members of the Council to enrich the Draft Broad Lines with observations, proposals and opinions that will be taken into account before submitting the document anew for consideration in the upcoming session of the Executive Council.

**18.** During discussions on the Draft Broad Lines of the Three-Year Action Plan and Budget for the years 2010-2012, the observations of the Council's members focused on what follows:

- Devoting further activities and programmes aimed at developing higher education, upgrading scientific research and generalizing its results to bring about scientific and economic development in the Member States.
- Encouraging the establishment of universities and building of scientific networks for university institutions and researchers to exchange expertise and benefit from scientific research projects.
- Stepping up efforts to develop a unified system of scientific and technological education in the Member States in order to keep pace with technological progress and the labour market requirements.
- Inviting ISESCO to carry on its efforts toward establishing a database of learned women in the Islamic world, and enabling Muslim women to have access to technical and technological knowledge to change the negative

stereotypes about Muslim women and qualify them to contribute to sustainable development.

- Supporting ISESCO's trend in the teaching of Arabic as a foreign language and inviting it to maximize benefit from the technological revolution to disseminate it on the largest scale.
- Calling for adopting a pre-emptive approach in dealing with natural disasters and environmental hazards, consisting in the management of anticipatory measures and the raising of awareness about preventive attitudes and safe behaviours during disasters and dangers.
- Calling upon ISESCO to set up manuscript conservation and restoration centres, in support of its efforts toward protecting Member States' cultural heritage.
- Supporting ISESCO's trend and action toward working out databases of original education institutions, with the aim of publicizing these institutions, developing their structures and curricula, and enabling their contribution to sustainable development.
- Calling for producing documentary programmes to introduce and to spread the Islamic culture on a larger scale, through the use of modern communication mediums such as satellite channels and the internet for optimum circulation of its contents.
- Supporting ISESCO's trend toward highlighting several new qualitative aspects of its future action plan, in relation to exchanging expertise among Member States in catering for talent, streamlining technologies in the education system, and building scientific research capacities.
- Devoting further attention to education and distance-learning systems and helping in developing appropriate plans, strategies and mechanisms, with the view to ensure optimal utilization of educational technologies at the different stages of education in order to entrench the principles of education for life and equal education opportunities.
- Supporting ISESCO's trend toward further interest in major programmes and projects to eradicate alphabetical illiteracy and novel forms of illiteracy such as the digital illiteracy and the functional illiteracy.

**19.** After deliberations, the Executive Council adopted the Draft Broad Lines of the Three-Year Action Plan for the years 2010-2012, while taking into consideration the observations made by the Council's members. Likewise, the Executive Council thanked the Director General and his assistants for the efforts they exerted to prepare the draft broad lines. The Executive Council entrusted the Director General with preparation of the draft Three-Year Action Plan and Budget for the years 2010-

2012, to submit it to the upcoming session of the Executive Council in the light of the general broad lines and the draft Medium-term plan for the years 2010-2018, as well as the needs and priorities of the Member States.

- 20.** The Council decided to address a message of thanks and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for His Majesty's Government kind nomination of His Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri as Director General of ISESCO for a new term in response to the request made by the Executive Council in its previous session.
- 21.** The Director General presented his report on the Programme of ISESCO's Ambassadors for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations, and pointed out that at the request of the Executive Council in its previous session to expand the scope of this programme by proposing other Ambassadors, ISESCO contacted several prominent personalities to assume this noble mission and received to date favourable responses from Prof. Cheick Modibo Diarra, President of the Pathfinder Foundation and from His Excellency Mr Jean-Paul Carteron, Chairman of the Crans Montana Forum. The Director General requested from the members of the Executive Council to agree to the appointment of these two personalities as ISESCO's Ambassadors for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations.
- 22.** After deliberations, the Executive Council expressed its thanks to the Director General for his efforts to strengthen this programme and highlight ISESCO's role in dialogue among cultures and the alliance of civilizations. Similarly, the Council conveyed its thanks to ISESCO's Ambassadors for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations, for the activities they have undertaken within their mission provided for under the programme of Ambassadors, and called upon them to support this programme and carry on their action in that regard. The Council commended the International Forum on Expanding the Role of Women in Cross-Cultural Dialogue (Baku: 10-11 June 2008), and thanked Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of the Republic of Azerbaijan and ISESCO-UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for her convening this conference, for establishing a coordination committee to hold this conference on a regular basis, and for organizing a coordination meeting for ISESCO's Ambassadors for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations alongside this Forum.

Then the Council decided to adopt the appointment of both Prof. Cheick Modibo Diarra, President of the Pathfinder Foundation, and Mr Jean-Paul Carteron, Chairman of the Crans Montana Forum, as ISESCO's Ambassadors for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations.

- 23.** In an in-camera session, the Council examined item 4.2 concerning the draft amendment to the Personnel Regulations and to the Internal Regulations of the Medical Insurance Fund for ISESCO Staff. After deliberations, the Council agreed

to the document in the version attached therewith, and recommended its adoption by the upcoming session of the General Conference.

- 24.** The Council decided to convene the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Council in Tunis, capital of the Tunisian Republic, in July 2009.
- 25.** The Executive Council closed its 29<sup>th</sup> session by unanimously adopting the Final Report.
- 26.** The Executive Council approved also the proposal put forth by ISESCO's Director General with regard to 7% increase in basic pay of General Directorate's staff.
- 27.** The Director General then took the floor expressing gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Executive Council for the ideas and proposals they contributed with energy and a strong sense of responsibility. He also congratulated them on the success they achieved in this session, reiterating ISESCO's unfaltering will to forge ahead with clear vision, unwavering purpose and strong pool of effort devoted to serving the Muslim world's supreme interests in the fields of education, science, culture and communication, enhancing dialogue of religions and cultures and the alliance of civilizations, and building a bright and secure future for the Muslim Ummah to start a new cycle of human civilization and contribute to the enrichment of world civilization.
- 28.** In his closing address, Dr Boubakar Doukouré, the Chairman of the Executive Council, expressed his delight at seeing this 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Council come to fruition. He congratulated the members of the Council for the part they played in this success, and stressed that such positive results prompt ISESCO to make greater achievements under the leadership of Director General Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, whom all consider a skilled pilot and accomplished leader steering ISESCO toward further progress and development.
- 29.** The members of the Executive Council closed their session by addressing a message of profound thanks and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for kindly acceding to the request the Executive Council made to His Majesty regarding the nomination of His Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri for a new term of office at the head of the General Directorate of ISESCO.
- 30.** They forwarded a message of thanks and gratitude also to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco for the sustained support and generous patronage lavished on ISESCO.



**DECISIONS OF  
THE 29TH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
SESSION**

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**Permanent Headquarters, Rabat**

**29 Jumada II – 1 Rajab 1429 A.H. / 2 - 4 July 2008**



**Islamic Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization  
-ISESCO-**

**Executive Council / 29<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Permanent Headquarters - Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco  
29 Jumada II – 1 Rajab 1429 A.H. / 2 - 4 July 2008**

**Decision on Item 1.1 of the Draft Agenda:  
(Draft Agenda)**

**The Executive Council,**

- In accordance with Articles (22-24) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having considered the Draft Agenda of its 29<sup>th</sup> Session contained in Document (CE29/2008/1.1 Provisional),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

**Decides the following:**

- Adopts the Agenda of its current 29<sup>th</sup> Session as contained in Document (CE29/2008/1.1 Adopted) annexed to the Final Report.



**Islamic Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization  
-ISESCO-**

**Executive Council / 29<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Permanent Headquarters - Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco  
29 Jumada II – 1 Rajab 1429 A.H. / 2 - 4 July 2008**

**Decision on Item 1.2 of the Agenda:  
(Draft Programme)**

**The Executive Council,**

- Recalling Decision (CE 28/2007/D.4.1) adopted by the Executive Council at its 28<sup>th</sup> Session (Rabat, 9 July 2007), whereby the Council decided to hold its 29<sup>th</sup> Session in July 2008 at ISESCO's Permanent Headquarters in Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco,
- Considering Decision (CE 29/2008/D.1.1) adopted by the Council regarding the Agenda of its current 29<sup>th</sup> Session,
- Having considered the Draft Programme contained in Document (CE29/2008/1.2 Provisional),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

**Decides the following:**

- Adopts the Programme of its current 29<sup>th</sup> Session as contained in Document (CE29/2008/1.2 Adopted) annexed to the Final Report.



**Islamic Educational, Scientific  
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**Executive Council / 29<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Permanent Headquarters - Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco  
29 Jumada II – 1 Rajab 1429 A.H. / 2 - 4 July 2008**

**Decision on Item 2.1 of the Agenda:**

**(Report of the Director General on ISESCO's Activities for the Year 2007)**

**The Executive Council,**

- In accordance with Article (20), paragraph (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having considered the Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities for the Year 2007, as contained in document (CE 29/2008/2.1),
- Having heard the presentation made by the Director General of ISESCO in this connection,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the views and orientations set forth by the Executive Council members,

**Decides the following:**

- 1-** Adopts the Report of the Director General on ISESCO's Activities for the Year 2007 as contained in document (CE 29/2008/2.1);
- 2-** Hails the steady efforts exerted by the Director General to broaden the areas of cooperation with international and regional organizations as well as Islamic and Arab institutions within the framework of programmes' implementation.
- 3-** Thanks the Director General and his assistants for their outstanding efforts in pursuing the implementation of programmes and rationalizing expenditure

thereon, while taking into account the fulfilment of the pressing needs of the Member States and Muslim communities and minorities.

- 4- Agrees to submit this report to the forthcoming General Conference, with a recommendation to adopt it.



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**Executive Council / 29<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Permanent Headquarters - Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco  
29 Jumada II – 1 Rajab 1429 A.H. / 2 - 4 July 2008**

**Decision on Item 2.2 of the Agenda:**

**(Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts  
for the Year 2007, Report of the Audit Company and Report of the  
Financial Control Committee for the Year 2007)**

**The Executive Council,**

- In accordance with the following:
  - \* Articles (16) and (19) of the Charter,
    - \* Article (20), paragraphs (b,e,f,g) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
    - \* Articles (19-20) and Articles (24-29) of the Financial Regulations,
- Having considered the Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts for the year 2007, Report of the Audit Company and Report of the Financial Control Committee for the year 2007, as contained in Document (CE 29/2008/2.2),
- Having heard the presentations made in this connection by the Director General, the representative of the Audit Company, the representative of the research consultancy and the Chairman of the Financial Control Committee,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

**Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts for the Year 2007, Report of the Audit Company and Report of the Financial Control Committee for the Year 2007, as contained in Document (CE 29/2008/2.2).
2. Commends the efforts of the Director General in collecting financial resources, rationalizing expenditure and improving the Organization's working mechanisms, and invites him to continue his endeavours and carry on his fruitful efforts to obtain further support for the Organization's activities.
3. Thanks all personalities and parties that have made donations to support the Organization.
4. Thanks the Financial Control Committee and the Audit Company for preparing the report.
5. Agrees to submit this report to the forthcoming General Conference, with a recommendation to adopt it.



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**Executive Council / 29<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Permanent Headquarters - Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco  
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**Decision on Item 2.3 of the Agenda:**

**(Report of the Director General on Member States'  
Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing  
the Financial Situation of the Organization for the Year 2007)**

**The Executive Council,**

- In accordance with Article (6) of the Financial Regulations,
- Recalling the decisions and resolutions adopted by previous Executive Council and General Conference Sessions in this connection, in particular the following:
  - \* Resolution (CG 8/2003/R.3.2) adopted by the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference (Tehran, 27-29 December 2003),
  - \* Resolution (CG 9/2006/R.2.11) adopted by the 9<sup>th</sup> General Conference (Rabat, 8 - 10 December 2006),
  - \* Decision (CE 24/2003/D.3.2) adopted by the Executive Council at its 24<sup>th</sup> Session (Tehran, 21-25 December 2003), whereby it adopted the Council's report on the criteria and modalities concerning the exemption of Member States with arrears from payment thereof,
  - \* Decision (CE 27/2006/D.2.11) adopted by the Executive Council at its 27<sup>th</sup> Session (Rabat, 4-5 December 2006),
  - \* Decision (CE 28/2007/D.2.2) adopted by the Executive Council at its 28<sup>th</sup> Session (Rabat, 9 July 2007),
- Having heard the presentation made by the Director General in this respect,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

**Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the Report of the Director General on Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization for the Year 2007, as contained in Document (CE 29/2008/2.3).
2. Expresses thanks and appreciation to the Director General for his efforts to intensify contact with the Member States in order to collect maximum contributions, as well as for his efforts to promote cooperation with international organizations in order to support the Organization's activities and programmes.
3. Calls upon the Member States which have not yet paid up their contributions to the Organization and those in arrears to settle their contributions and arrears in the shortest possible time, in order to honour their commitments and enable the Organization to discharge its duties.
4. Entrusts the Director General with conducting contact with the leaderships of Member States with arrears, in order to consider the matter with them and work towards finding a settlement thereto, in such a way as to reinforce the Organization's standing and enable it to achieve its objectives.
5. Agrees to submit this report to the forthcoming General Conference and recommends its adoption.



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**Executive Council / 29<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Permanent Headquarters - Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco  
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**Decision on Item 3.1 of the Agenda:**

**(Draft Medium Term Plan for the Years 2010-2018)**

**The Executive Council,**

- In accordance with Article (20), parag (c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, which provides that the Council shall examine the draft action plans of ISESCO,
- Having considered the Document (CE 29/2008/3.1),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the views and orientations set forth by the Executive Council members,

**Decides the following:**

- 1-** Adopts the Draft Medium Term Plan for the Years 2010-2018, taking into consideration the observations made by the Executive Council members.
- 2-** Thanks the Director General and his assistants for preparing this draft.
- 3-** Agrees to submit this draft to the forthcoming General Conference with a recommendation to adopt it.



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**Decision on Item 3.2 of the Agenda:**

**(Draft broad lines of the Three-Year Action Plan 2010-2012)**

**The Executive Council,**

In accordance with the provisions of:

- Article (12) III, paragraph (c) of the Charter,
- Article (20), paragraph (c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having considered the Document (CE 29/2008/3.2),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the views and orientations set forth by the Executive Council members,

**Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the Draft broad lines of the Three-Year Action Plan 2010-2012, taking into consideration the observations made by the Executive Council members.
2. Entrusts the Director General with the preparation of the Draft Three-Year Action Plan and Budget for the Year 2010-2012 to be presented to the forthcoming session of the Council, in the light of the general orientations of the broad lines and the draft Medium Term plan for the years 2010-2018 and taking into account the needs and priorities of Member States.
3. Thanks the Director General and his assistants for their efforts in preparing this draft.



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**Decision on Item 4.1 of the Agenda:  
(Programme on ISESCO's Ambassadors for Dialogue  
among Cultures and Civilizations)**

**The Executive Council,**

In accordance with:

- Article (24) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Article (4), paragraph (b), of the Charter,
- Decision of the Executive Council at its 25<sup>th</sup> session (Decision CE 25/2004/D.3.3),
- Decision of the Executive Council at its 26<sup>th</sup> session (Decision CE 26/2005/D.2.5),
- Decision of the Executive Council at its 27<sup>th</sup> session (Decision CE 27/2006/D.2.8),

**Decides the following:**

1. Designates Pr. Cheikh Modibo Diarra, President of the Pathfinder Foundation, and H.E. Mr. Jean-Paul Carteron, President of the Crans-Montana Forum, as ISESCO's Ambassadors for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations.
2. Extends thanks to ISESCO's Ambassadors for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations for the activities they carried out as part of their functions under the programme on ambassadors, and invites them to support this programme and pursue their efforts in this regard.
3. Praises the International Conference on the Role of Women in the Promotion of Dialogue of Cultures (Baku, 10-11 June 2008), and thanks Mrs. Mehriban

Aliyeva, Spouse of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, ISESCO and UNESCO Good Will Ambassador, for convening this conference, setting up a coordination body for its convening on a regular basis, and organizing during the said conference a coordination meeting for ISESCO's Ambassadors for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations.

4. Thanks the Director General for his efforts to promote this programme and highlight ISESCO's role in the field of dialogue among cultures and alliance among civilizations.



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**Decision on Item 4.2 of the Agenda:**

**(Draft Amendment to the Personnel Regulations and to the Internal Regulations  
of the Medical Insurance fund for ISESCO Staff)**

**The Executive Council,**

In accordance with the provisions of:

- \* Article (12) III, paragraph (g) of the Charter,
- \* Article (125) of the Personnel Regulations,
- \* Article (20), paragraph (g) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- \* Having considered Document (CE 29/2008/4.2),
- \* Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the views and orientations set forth by the Executive Council members,

**Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the Draft Amendment to the Personnel Regulations and to the Internal Regulations of the Medical Insurance fund for ISESCO Staff, taking into consideration the observations made by the Executive Council members.
2. Thanks the Director General and his assistants for preparing this draft.
3. Agrees to submit this document to the General Conference with a recommendation to adopt it.



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## **Executive Council / 29<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Permanent Headquarters - Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco  
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**Decision on Item 5.1 of the Agenda:**

**(Date and Venue of the 30<sup>th</sup> Executive Council Session)**

### **The Executive Council,**

- In accordance with the provisions of Article (9) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, whereby the Council sets, during each one of its sessions, the date and venue of the following session,
- Considering the invitation extended by the Tunisian Republic to play host to the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

### **Decides the following:**

- Convenes the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council in Tunis, capital-city of the Tunisian Republic, in July 2009.