

Coordination Meeting of Education
Ministers of ISESCO's
Member States

(Held alongside the 28th Session of
UNESCO General Conference)

Paris: 2 Jumada II 1416 A.H. / 27 October 1995

**Minutes and recommendations of the Coordination Meeting
of Education Ministers of the Member States of the Islamic
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
-ISESCO-**

**(Held alongside the 28th Session of UNESCO General
Conference)**

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I. Introduction:

Upon the initiative and invitation of His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO-, the Ministers of Education of ISESCO Member States and the heads of their delegations to the 28th session of the General Conference of UNESCO (see annex 1) held a coordination meeting at 15:30, on Friday 2 Jumada II 1416 A.H. / 27 October 1995 at Hall 10 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

The meeting took place with the purpose of enhancing joint cooperation between ISESCO and UNESCO through supporting the programmes shared by the draft tow-year action plan of UNESCO for 1996-1997 and the three-year action plan of ISESCO for 1995-1997.

The meeting proceeded as follows:

II. Opening ceremony:

The opening ceremony of the meeting started at **15:30** on Friday 2 Jumada II **1416** A.H. / **27** October **1995**.

1. The opening ceremony was chaired by His Excellency Mr Mohammed Ghassan al-Halabi, Minister of Education of the Syrian Arab Republic, President of the Fifth General Conference of ISESCO.

The ceremony was marked by the presence of His Excellency Mr Federico Mayor, UNESCO Director-General, Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, ISESCO Director General, and Mr Lamine Kamara, Chairman of ISESCO Executive Council.

The ceremony was also attended by their Excellencies the ministers of education in the Member States of ISESCO and the heads of delegation of their countries to the 28th session of UNESCO and their representatives.

2. After recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, the programme of action of the meeting was approved (see annex 2). Then His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Ghassan al-Halabi, Minister of Education in the Syrian Arab Republic, President of the fifth session of the General Conference of ISESCO, in his opening address (see annex 3), commended the initiative of His Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of ISESCO, to convene this meeting, and thanked His Excellency Mr Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO, for attending the meeting and providing the

means necessary to hold it. Mr al-Halabi also extended thanks to His Excellency Mr Lamine Kamara for attending the meeting as well as to their Excellencies the ministers of education in the Member States of ISESCO for accepting the invitation ISESCO Director General extended to them to attend this meeting. In his opening address, Syrian Minister of Education Mr al-Halabi explained that the meeting is a sure sign of the support the Member States provide to the Islamic Organization and its Director General. He said that it is also a manifestation of the efforts the Member States exert to enhance joint cooperation between ISESCO and UNESCO through the support they pledge to the programmes shared between UNESCO and ISESCO as shown in the working paper prepared to this end by ISESCO.

3. For his part Mr. Federico Mayor, UNESCO Director-General, made an address (see annex 4) in which he expressed his satisfaction at the fact that the meeting was held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, and he welcomed the ministers of the states members of ISESCO and UNESCO. He also commended the presence of the President of the fifth session of ISESCO General Conference and the Chairman of the Organization's Executive Council.

UNESCO Director-General also pointed out that this meeting is a timely occasion to affirm the close relations UNESCO has knit with the Islamic world and its countries as well as with similar organizations across the Islamic world, such as ISESCO; a thing which he said is expressive of the major contribution of Islam and the Islamic world to the human civilization.

4. In his address (see annex 5), Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of ISESCO, welcomed the ministers of the Islamic states members of ISESCO and their heads of delegation attending the 28th session of UNESCO General Conference, and he expressed his delight at the holding of this meeting at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

ISESCO Director General pointed out to the importance of the profound world changes occurring in the political, economic, and social fields. He explained in this regard that the so-called "new world order" constitutes a challenge which the two organizations of UNESCO and ISESCO has to rise up to.

The Director General of ISESCO also emphasized that Islam has made substantial contribution to shaping human civilization and that as such democracy, human rights and other concepts are not alien to the Islamic religion. He also commended the support ISESCO has

received from its sister organization UNESCO in the implementation of a number of joint programmes.

Concerning these joint programmes, Dr Altwaijri pointed out that ISESCO has prepared a working paper which he said would gain support from both UNESCO and the Member States.

At the close of the opening ceremony, the Chairman declared open the discussion of the working paper regarding the joint programmes shared by ISESCO Three-Year Action Plan (1995-1997) and UNESCO Draft (1996-1997) Action Plan.

Addressing the working session were a host of ministers and heads of delegation. They expressed their appreciation of and support for the initiative of the Director General of ISESCO to convene this meeting. They have also pledged to instruct their delegations within programme committees to support the joint programmes contained in the working paper which was prepared by ISESCO.

The participants have all expressed their unstinting support to ISESCO and its Director General Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri.