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SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Rabat, 22-24 Safar, 1407

(27-29 October, 1986)

FINAL REPORT

The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) held a special session of the General Conference in Rabat from 22 to 24 Safar, 1407H (27-29 October, 1986).

Opening the Conference, the Chairman of the General Conference his Excellency the Minister of Education of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Malik Nasim Ahmed Aheer, delivered a speech in which he stressed the important role played by ISESCO for the promotion of education, culture and science throughout the Islamic World. He stressed the fact that the experience ISESCO went through in the past years had enabled it to identify the deficiencies of the Statute of the Organization. He added that the special session, by amending the Organization's Statute, aims at improving the legal and organizational status of ISESCO, consolidating its position, and furthering its efficiency. He also called upon member states to provide increased support to ISESCO to help it make headway in the pursuit of its noble goals.

Subsequently, the Director General of ISESCO, his Excellency Prof. Abdelhadi BOUTALEB, delivered a speech in which he commended the efforts made by member states to provide ISESCO with adequate working condition. He stated that ISESCO had made great progress in the implementation of the programmes of its current three-year plan of action, a plan which has enabled the Organization to extend its sphere of activity geographically to include most member states.

The Director General then moved on to the analysis of the legal aspect, particularly the motives which had led the Second General Conference held in Islamabad in Zul Hijja, 1405H (September 1985), to adopt the resolution on convening a special session of the General Conference for the amendments did

not affect the objectives of ISESCO, and pointed out that, in its seventh session held in Rabat in September 1986, the Executive Council had adopted the draft amendments after it had adjusted some of them.

The Director General then reviewed the financial situation in ISESCO and pointed out that despite recent improvement, there was a sizeable decrease in receipts in the last financial year. He concluded his analysis of the financial situation by urging that ISESCO be given the means to fulfil all its obligations.

The Director General also asked that ISESCO be enabled to play its coordinating role between institutions operating within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and specializing in education, science and culture. He stressed that ISESCO was the only institution in the Organization of the Islamic Conference to have a ministerial council, constituted by the Ministers of education of member states. He stated that such coordination would help establish constructive complementarity between the various educational, scientific and cultural institutions for the benefit of the Islamic Ummah and in the service of its development.

The Director General concluded his speech by analyzing the status of the Islamic world among the states and peoples of the contemporary world, and the leading role it is called upon to play to fulfil its obligations and prepare for launching into the twenty-first century on the cultural, political and civilizational levels.

The Conference then moved on to examine the items on the draft agenda, and decided to concentrate on the main subject of the special session's agenda, namely the amendment of the Statute of ISESCO. The general feeling was that heads of delegations would not make statements and would only take the floor during the actual debates.

Subsequently the President of the Executive Council, H.E. Dr. Rashed Ben Abdelaziz Al Mubarak, head of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, read out the articles of the Statute proposed for amendment one by one, drawing on the opinions and adjustments proposed by the Executive Council in its Seventh Session.

The Conference then proceeded to examine the articles of the Statute of ISESCO one by one, after the Director General had given an account of the legal aspect of the amendments and specified that the General Directorate had submitted the text of the amendments to member states within the prescribed time, i.e. six months in advance, so that the Conference would either adopt, alter or delete them, in accordance with the voting procedure stipulated in article 20 of the Statute.

Concerning the draft preamble of the Statute of ISESCO, it was decided to set up a drafting committee with a view to modifying the proposed amendment. This committee comprised representatives from Jordan, Senegal and Malaysia, respectively representing the Arabic, French and English speaking delegations. The committee did examine it, and the Conference adopted the reformulated text (see annex).

Concerning Article 1, the heads of the delegations examined thoroughly the draft amendment. Upon the conclusion of the debates the Conference adopted the proposed amendment by a majority of 31 votes out of 33.

Concerning Article 2, the Conference adopted the amendment by a majority of 26 votes out of 33.

Concerning Article 3, the Conference approved the proposed corrections.

Concerning Article 4, there was no fundamental amendment to be introduced on the ground that it pertained to the goals, which are basic options adopted by the member states. It was also agreed that the English version should be brought in line with the Arabic and French version.

Given that the suggestions made by some of the heads of delegations only involved amendments bearing on form, such as the ordering of paragraphs and the wording, the drafting committee was entrusted with this task. The committee therefore restructured this article.

Concerning Article 5, it was adopted as approved by the Executive Council at its seventh session, by a majority of 27 votes out of 33.

Concerning Article 6, no amendment was introduced except for minor changes affecting the form. The Conference approved the proposed amendment.

Concerning Article 7, the amendment was adopted by a majority of 28 voted out of 32.

Concerning Articles 8 and 9, the Conference approved the proposed corrections pertaining to form.

Concerning Article 10, its amendment was adopted by a majority of 24 votes out of 33.

Concerning Article 11, the Conference decided to refer it to the drafting committee to work out a logical ordering of the paragraphs, to reformulate some of them, and to amend the mode of election of the Director General of the Islamic Organization –ISESCO- giving the General Conference of ISESCO full powers in the election procedure. The drafting committee completed this task

and submitted the whole article to the Conference, which adopted it by a majority of 29 votes out of 33.

As regards Article 12, there were two trends; those in favour of the first trend were of the view that all member states should be represented in the Executive Council; whereas those favoring the second trend preferred that the executive Council be composed of less member states.

After lengthy discussion, the second option prevailed. Thus, the Conference adopted the fourth proposal after introducing an amendment to it whereby membership in the Council was limited to member states only. The proposal was adopted by a majority of 19 votes out of 28.

As for Article 13, the Conference approved the proposed amendment which makes it possible for the General Conference to renew the mandate of the Director General without any restriction as to the member of times. A majority of 22 voting member states out of 29 voted for the proposed amendment.

As for the amendments proposed to the remaining articles, that is Articles 14 through 22, they merely affected the form and wording. They were put to vote and adopted by the General Conference as follows:

Article 14: 26 votes out of 28

Article 15: 26 votes out of 28

Article 16: 26 votes out of 28

Article 17: 27 votes out of 28

Article 18: 24 votes out of 28

Article 19: 27 votes out of 28

Article 20: 25 votes out of 28

Article 21: 27 votes out of 28

Article 22: 26 votes out of 28

Once the Conference had adopted all the articles proposed for amendment, the representative of the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference took the floor to comment on the outcome of the Conference's proceedings and express his viewpoint. He spoke of his apprehension that the amendments adopted by the Conference, especially on Article 1, 11, 12 and 13, would lead to weakening of the close ties between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and ISESCO. However, the ties between

the mother Organization and the Organization of ISESCO cannot be severed in view of the fact that there is good faith on the part of those responsible for the two Organizations, in addition to the fact that they share similar objectives and goals.

The Conference then discussed the preamble to ISESCO's Statute. Some delegations made relevant comments on wording; these comments were aimed at either improving the text or ensuring conformity among the three texts, the Arabic, English and French one.

The Conference Chairman then invited the delegations concerned to submit their proposals in writing to the Secretariat, through the chief delegate of Senegal, Chairman of the drafting committee and Vice-Chairman of the Conference.

The Conference then elected the eighteen members of the Executive Council in accordance with Article (12) as amended:

1- As regards the African group: six countries were nominated for the six seats available for this group at the Council. As there was no objection, the Conference elected the six nominees. Accordingly, the following states became members of the Executive Council: Republic of Senegal, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Mali, Republic of the Gambia, Republic of Chad, and the Federal Republic of the Comoro.

2- As regards the Asian group: four countries were nominated for the four seats available at the Executive Council for this group. As there was no objection, the Conference elected the four nominees. Accordingly, the following states became members of the Executive Council: the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Malaysia, Republic of Bangladesh, and Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam.

3- As for the Arab group: fourteen states were nominated for eight seats available at the Executive Council for this group. Therefore, the Conference resorted to voting by secret ballot. The number of valid votes amounted to 31. Upon counting the vote, the following states were elected to the Executive Council: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Kingdom of Morocco, Palestine, State of Kuwait, Republic of Iraq, Arab Republic of Egypt, and the State of Qatar. Thus, the Council's full membership stands as follows:

- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam

- Republic of Bangladesh
- Republic of Chad
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Republic of Senegal
- Republic of Iraq
- Republic of the Gambia
- Republic of Guinea
- Palestine
- State of Qatar
- Federal Republic of the Comoro
- State of Kuwait
- Republic of Mali
- Malaysia
- Arab Republic of Egypt
- Kingdom of Morocco

The Conference Chairman then took the floor and expressed his deep satisfaction with the results obtained by the Organization over this short period since its inception. He also urged member States to honour their financial commitments so as to make it possible for the Organization to achieve its objectives in the best possible conditions. The chief delegate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan also took the floor and expressed his appreciation and that of all delegations for the praiseworthy efforts made by the Organization. He then invited the General Conference to hold its next meeting in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in November 1988, on the date to be agreed upon by the host country and the General Directorate of ISESCO. The Conference accepted the invitation.

The Conference sent a message of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty king Hassan II, King of Morocco, for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the Conference.

Upon completion of the amendment of the Statute, His Excellency the Minister of Religious Affairs of Indonesia signed the amended Statute on behalf of his country. Thus, the Republic of Indonesia became the thirty-sixth member State of the Islamic Organization -ISESCO-.