

Recommendations
Of the Sixth Coordination Meeting of Heads of Delegations of OIC
Member States participating in the 33rd Session of the
General Conference of UNESCO

In fulfilment of the objectives of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO-;

In pursuance to the recommendations of the Fifth Coordination Meeting of Heads of Delegations of OIC Member States participating in the 32nd Session of UNESCO's General Conference, organized by ISESCO in Paris on 2 October 2003, which called for holding the Sixth Coordination Meeting alongside the 33rd Session of UNESCO's General Conference;

With reference to the resolution of the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in the Republic of Yemen (Sanaa, June 2005), which welcomed the formation of the Islamic Group in UNESCO and entrusted ISESCO with coordinating the Group's actions and meetings;

Within the framework of supporting joint Islamic action and coordinating the positions of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference -OIC- on the internationally debated issues in the educational, scientific and cultural fields;

And with the aim of strengthening the distinguished relations between ISESCO and UNESCO, reflected in the positive results of joint activities, whose axes and priorities were defined by the Member States' Education Ministers and the joint committees of both Organizations,

The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- called for holding the Sixth Coordination Meeting of Heads of Delegations of OIC Member States participating in the 33rd Session of the General Conference of UNESCO. The Member States positively responded to the call and the meeting was held in UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 6 October 2005:

- A. The meeting was attended by H.E Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of ISESCO, H.E Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, H.E Mr. Ali-Asghar Fani, Acting Minister of Education in the Islamic Republic of Iran and President of the 8th Session of ISESCO's General Conference, their Excellencies the heads of delegations of OIC Member States, their Excellencies the Ambassadors of OIC Member States to UNESCO, Dr. Rima Salah, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, in addition to a number of representatives of Arab and Islamic organizations.

- B.** The meeting was opened by H.E Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, the Director General of ISESCO. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the heads of the delegations of OIC Member States for having accepted the invitation to attend this important meeting. He also thanked H.E Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, for the efforts he deploys to enhance cooperation relations between the two organizations. Then, he went over the meeting's agenda and the points to be discussed through the papers prepared by ISESCO, in cooperation with UNESCO, on the Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity approved by the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, held in Algiers in December 2004, on the preservation of civilizational heritage in Iraq and Afghanistan, on the role of ISESCO in the promotion of dialogue among civilizations and on ISESCO's projects and programmes geared to the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine.
- C.** H.E Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, lauded the close cooperation relations and the outstanding partnership between ISESCO and UNESCO. These have yielded several projects, activities and programmes that benefited the joint Member States. He asserted the need to enhance cooperation between the organizations active in similar fields, and to combine efforts to establish a society wherein the values of justice, tolerance and dialogue prevail. He also welcomed the formation of the Islamic Group in UNESCO and the resolution of the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers which entrusted ISESCO with coordinating the Group's actions and meetings. His Excellency expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Islamic states for supporting his candidature for a second term as Director-General of UNESCO.
- D.** H.E Mr. Ali-Asghar Fani, Acting Minister of Education in the Islamic Republic of Iran and President of the 8th Session of ISESCO's General Conference, pointed out to the importance of this coordination meeting in enhancing joint Islamic action. He praised the initiative of ISESCO's Director General to hold this meeting, which discusses crucial issues relative to promoting joint Islamic action.
- E.** Then, Dr. Rima Salah, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, presented the joint report of ISESCO, UNICEF and OIC entitled "**Investing in the Children of the Islamic World**". It will be presented to the First Islamic Conference of Ministers in charge of the Child, which will be held in Rabat on 7-9 November 2005 in cooperation between and with the participation of the said three Organizations. The report and some informational material about the said Conference were distributed among the delegations participating in the meeting.
- F.** The Heads of Delegations asserted the importance of holding such coordination meetings alongside the major international conferences, with a view to coordinating positions on the issues debated in these conferences and discussing Islamic world affairs. They welcomed the resolution of the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers entrusting ISESCO with

coordinating the action of the Islamic Group in UNESCO. They also expressed their support for the efforts of ISESCO's Director General in this respect, and insisted on the need to continue action in this direction.

After discussion and exchange of views on issues raised, the meeting issued the following recommendations:

- 1- To approve the documents submitted by ISESCO to the 6th Coordination Meeting of Heads of Delegations of OIC Member States participating in the 33rd Session of UNESCO's General Conference, and to thank the Organization for its efforts in supporting Islamic joint action and coordinating the positions of Member States concerning a number of issues raised.
- 2- To commend the results of cooperation between UNESCO and ISESCO during the last years, and to adopt the working paper presented by ISESCO relative to the axes of cooperation between the two organizations for the years 2006-2007, taking into account the observations of the participants.
- 3- To praise cooperation among ISESCO, UNICEF and the Organization of the Islamic Conference as well as the efforts deployed by these organizations to hold the First Islamic Conference of Ministers in charge of the Child in the best conditions.
- 4- To appreciate the results of joint cooperation between ISESCO and parallel institutions as well as the efforts aiming to effect quality and benefit of long expertise and international experiences with a view to avoiding duplicity of efforts and mobilizing available human and financial resources, and to call for developing this cooperation in the fields of common interest.
- 5- To support the initiative of UNESCO Director General which was declared at the 31st session of the general conference to devise a comprehensive plan to safeguard and rehabilitate the cultural heritage in Al-Quds Acharif, and to appreciate his efforts aimed at implementing Resolution 32C/39 which called for safeguarding the Old City of Al-Quds; and to express concern about the attempt of the Israeli authorities at altering the Islamic character of the Palestinian sanctities in Al-Quds, demolishing the quarters, displacing the population, threatening the human, natural and urban balance, and continuing building the barrier wall which represents an outright violation of the Palestinian People's right to life and a breach of human rights and the decisions of the international legitimacy.
- 6- To call upon Member States to incorporate dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace, tolerance and the principles of human rights into their educational curricula; and to invite ISESCO to lay down a strategy to enhance just and balanced dialogue among civilizations and cultures with a view to taking into account the particularities of human societies and international changes.

- 7- To laud ISESCO's role and efforts in enhancing dialogue among civilizations, which consist in holding a series of symposia and meetings that were attended by eminent scientists and experts inside and outside the Islamic world, and the parallel organizations such as UNESCO, as well as in preparing relevant documents and studies such as **the White Book on Dialogue among Civilizations**.
- 8- To invite the United Nations to involve the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in its efforts aiming to enhance alliance among civilizations since it is the party commissioned by the Islamic Summit Conference to implement the programmes of civilizational dialogue in the Islamic world, and to commend ISESCO's initiative to hold an international symposium on Alliance of Civilizations, which will be hosted by the Tunisian Republic under the high patronage of His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali (Tunis, January 2006).
- 9- To call upon Member States to take the necessary measures and devise the mechanisms pertaining to the Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity, which was approved by the Fourth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, and to entrust ISESCO Director General with reviewing the document, correcting some of its terms and presenting it to the forthcoming session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers which will be held in Tripoli, the Great Jamahiriya in 2007.
- 10- To praise the efforts that ISESCO has been deploying in cooperation and consultation with parallel international organizations to preserve civilizational heritage in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to invite Member States to support ISESCO's efforts as well as relevant international and regional ones.
- 11- To appreciate ISESCO's efforts and projects pertaining to extending aids to educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine and Al-Quds, to call the Organization to provide further aids to counteract violations and attacks aimed at the infrastructure of these institutions, and to renew the solidarity of Member States with the Palestinian people until they recover their full rights and establish their independent state, with Al-Quds as a capital.
- 12- To call upon Member States and specialized international and regional organizations to exert pressures upon the Israeli occupation with a view to ceasing their abusive practices against cultural and educational institutions as well as people in the occupied Arab Golan and to support these institutions to carry out their mission in the best conditions.
- 13- To call upon ISESCO to adopt a number of international and regional organizations' major programmes which fall within the scope of its competence and are geared to the Islamic world, to deploy efforts to entrust ISESCO with their implementation, and to accord further interest to the programmes of women and young girls, and to the creation of

university chairs in the fields of its competence to be named after a number of distinguished scientists and intellectuals of the Islamic Ummah.

- 14-** To underscore the importance of the strategies devised by ISESCO for the Islamic world, such as the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, the Strategy for the Development of Science and Technology in Islamic Countries, the Strategy for the Promotion of Education in Islamic Countries, the Strategy for Bringing Muslim Madhahib closer together and the Strategy for Islamic Cultural Action in the West; and to call upon Member States to cooperate with ISESCO in implementing them with a view to effecting progress and prosperity in the Islamic world in the educational, scientific and cultural fields.
- 15-** To express appreciation of the positive response of UNESCO's Director-General, Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, to hold the coordination meeting concurrently with the 33rd Session of UNESCO General Conference, to thank his assistants for their good cooperation, and to call ISESCO Director General to proceed with these outstanding coordinating efforts.
- 16-** To call parallel international and regional organizations to continue participating in this coordination meeting and to work to implement its recommendations with the available possibilities in cooperation with the Islamic Organization.
- 17-** To laud the formation of the Islamic Group in UNESCO as well as the resolution of the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Sanaa, 28-30 June 2005), which entrusted ISESCO with coordinating the Group's actions and meetings; and to call for opening ISESCO's Office at UNESCO in Paris as soon as possible to discharge the tasks of coordination and contribute to fostering cooperation relations between the two Organizations and facilitating the implementation of joint activities geared to the Member States.
- 18-** To praise the efforts of ISESCO Director General in coordinating action among Member States within the scope of its competence, and take pride in the distinguished status that ISESCO occupies at the international level through establishing cooperation relations with parallel international organizations, helping thus implement hundreds of joint programmes, extend its action, enhance its legitimacy and international outreach and secure important supplementary funds.
- 19-** To invite ISESCO Director General to convene the 7th Coordination Meeting concurrently with the 34th Session of UNESCO General Conference in 2007.