

Final Communiqué

Tripoli Commitments on Renewing Cultural Policies in the Islamic World and Adapting them to International Changes

We, the members of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, meeting within the framework of the fifth session of the Conference, held in Tripoli, the capital city of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on the occasion of its celebration as the Capital of Islamic Culture in 2007, from 12 through 14 Zhul Qi'da, corresponding to 21 through 23 November 2007;

Following the orientations of the Ten-Year Action Plan of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to Meet the Challenges Facing the Muslim Ummah in the 21st Century, in addition to the resolutions and recommendations contained in the Action Plan and the Tunis Commitment issued by the World Summit on the Information Society;

Based on the resolutions of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers in its previous sessions;

Drawing on the content of the reference document entitled "**Action Plan to Renew Cultural Policies in the Member States and Adapt them to International Changes**", which was prepared by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- and presented to this Conference which adopted and approved it;

Guided by the contents, orientations, and recommendations contained in the following main reference documents of ISESCO:

- Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World;
- Strategy of Cultural Action in the West;
- Strategy for Benefiting from Muslim Competencies in the West;
- Strategy for Developing Information and Communication Technologies in the Islamic World;
- Strategy for Cultural Takaful to Serve Muslim Causes;
- Strategy for Bringing Muslim Madhahibs Closer Together;
- Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity;

- Rabat Commitments on Fostering Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations through Concrete and Sustained Initiatives;
- The General Framework of the Programme of Action to Refute the Media Smear Campaigns against Islam and the Islamic Civilization;
- Jeddah Commitments on Sustainable Development in the Islamic World;
- Rabat Declaration on Child Issues in the Islamic World.

Also, based on the orientations and recommendations of the following reference documents of UNESCO:

- Convention on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.
- Convention on World Natural and Cultural Heritage.

Being aware of the challenges brought forth by regional and international mutations, and the need to pursue the renewal of the cultural policies of our countries to adapt them to such changes, especially as regards promoting and preserving the Islamic cultural identity, expanding access to cultural rights, promoting cultural development to achieve sustainable development, enhancing and disseminating the culture of peace, dialogue and coexistence, and building the society of knowledge, information and communication;

Based on the above, we affirm our strong resolve to implement the commitments hereunder, by providing the necessary means and creating the adequate environment for compliance therewith; and coordinating with the competent authorities in our governments, as well as with the relevant international and regional organizations;

l) In the Field of Promoting and Protecting the Islamic Cultural Identity

Commitment One: Presenting the True Image of Islam and the Islamic Culture

Through:

- Making use of all the available means to preserve the fundamentals of Islamic culture, and to highlight the integrity of its constants, the flexibility in its sources, its tolerant teachings, which favour ease and refute extremism, violence, narrow-mindedness, and seclusion; in addition to encouraging such artistic and literary works as novels, plays and plastic arts to help highlight these values.

- Fending off all forms of contempt to the Muslim Ummah, and violation of its sovereignty, including dictating policies and acculturation that some powers seek to impose on Muslim countries, under the pretext of reforming school curriculum and education policies.
- Reaffirming the constant principles seeking to build international cultural relations, based on originality, modernity, mutual respect, equality, justice, participation, and respect of peoples' cultures, civilizational and cultural specificities and religious symbols.
- Calling for the rehabilitation of the different constituents of the Islamic culture identity, including names, religious feasts and calendar, in full observance of the Tawhid faith as well as the cultural, social and historical specificities of societies, while stressing the respect of these societies' right to choose and to concretize the components of these constituents, such as by adopting a calendar similar to that of the Great Jamahiriya which commences from the death of Prophet (PBUH) as a turning point separating two major phases of human history.
- Setting up Islamic research and study centres and directing existing ones to monitor groundless accusations published against Islam, and prepare relevant scientifically-founded responses by qualified scholars, in cooperation and coordination with the competent ministries, institutes and universities.
- Encouraging institutions of publication, universities, research centres and cultural bodies inside and outside the Member States to help spread books as well as audio-visual material illustrating the principles of moderation and middle stance advocated by Islam.
- Intensifying symposiums, meetings and lectures with the participation of civil society associations and bodies to explain the values of Islam and the principles proclaimed by the Islamic culture such as brotherly love, justice, peace, the respect for the other and the rejection of all forms of violence and extremism.
- Organizing cultural trips for the benefit of both Muslim youths to a number of Western capital cities, and non-Muslim youths to a number of Arab and Islamic countries, the aim being to introduce them to the true image of Islam and Muslims.
- Enhancing coordination and consultation to activate ISESCO the General Framework of the Programme of Action to Refute the Media Smear Campaigns Against Islam and the Islamic Civilization, while drawing on its contents and orientations in the elaboration of national cultural and media policies.

- Urging Western countries to correct their attitude to Islam and the Islamic culture, by reformulating their policies and school curricula in such a manner as to address Islamophobia and encourage inter-faith dialogue, in order to promote peaceful coexistence, away from hatred, war, confrontation and arms race, and to spread peace, concord and love among mankind.
- Inviting cultural and media missions at the embassies of the Member States in the West to convene meetings and lectures and to participate in radio and television programmes to redress the image of Islam and Muslims.

Commitment Two: Catering for Intangible Islamic Cultural Heritage

Through:

- Urging universities and research centres to publicise the Islamic cultural heritage and its prominent figures, while focusing further attention on introducing, indexing, and authenticating heritage treasures, in addition to intensifying activities geared towards celebrating Islamic cultural and scientific institutions and disseminating information about famous scholars and their major contribution to Islamic culture and humanity at large.
- Elaborating new methods for the purpose of recording oral heritage and related arts, by using state-of-the-art communication technologies, in addition to encouraging universities and research centres and supporting them in the collection, documentation and study of the tangible heritage, conducting intensive studies dealing with the social, cultural and economic aspects of the tangible heritage and examining ways to capitalise on it in elaborating sustainable development plans, as well as in developing cultural industries and combating piracy.
- Placing emphasis on e-books by launching an ambitious programme for the digitization of the Islamic intellectual heritage, in addition to creating a digital record comprised of indexes and databases about the prominent figures of the Islamic civilization from among Muslims and non-Muslims and their outstanding intellectual and academic contribution, through state-of-the-art means and communication technologies made available to the public on CD-ROMs and online databases.
- Holding national and regional festivals for the special purpose of reviving popular arts and producing digital records to be used either as informative kits or to supplement relevant online databases, while

focusing on highlighting the diverse range of such arts and their enriching and creative potential.

- Encouraging the establishment of federations and associations of officials and staff serving in the field of the intangible Islamic cultural heritage, in addition to enhancing their role in the preservation and protection efforts.

Commitment Three: Catering for Tangible Islamic Heritage

Through:

- Creating informative software to enable setting up databases on Islamic archaeological sites and their splendours in order to publicise them at the international level using world languages, while granting prior attention to endangered archaeological sites, enhancing collaborative action to restore and revive them, and redoubling efforts to inscribe them on the world heritage list in coordination with the Islamic Heritage Committee.
- Coordinating with international specialized circles as well as with the Islamic Heritage committee to recover the collections spoiled from Islamic museums, in addition to activating relevant international conventions and treaties, integrating new museum security measures, and early detection of erosion, degradation and deterioration.
- Building detailed databases about Islamic archaeological museums and their archaeological treasures, especially the manuscripts and historical documents, to help implement maintenance programmes and achieve high-standard management of museums, in addition to ensuring outreach by educational and cultural institutions to those museums to maintain a vivid presence of museums into the minds of pupils and students, to enrich their cultural capital, and the boost their pride in their identity.
- Training human resources (especially students of architectural engineering and urban planning schools, universities and colleges) concerned with restoring archaeological sites in modern restoration and maintenance methods, and setting up institutes specialised in the training of qualified executive staff and competences in the management of monuments and archaeological sites, and equipping such centres and institutes with modern techniques and software.
- Adopting special programmes for training and qualifying museum executives; engaging the officials in charge of archaeological treasure-troves and cultural industry actors in the conducting of these

programmes, in addition to enhancing the programme on the exchange of expertise and information among Islamic museums, and convening specialised conferences and symposia to that end.

- Encouraging construction departments, institutions and bodies to build cities, villages and neighbourhoods according to the outstanding Islamic architectural design and to channel them into cultural, tourist projects and programmes devoted to introducing the artistic aspects of the Islamic architecture as evidence to the creativity of the Islamic civilization.
- Coordinating with the relevant authorities to encourage the teaching of Islamic architectural arts as a course subject in specialised universities and institutes, in addition to recording all-inclusive, specialised encyclopaedias and reference material, creating academic chairs at renowned universities and institutes at the regional and international level, and establishing incentive awards jointly with relevant professional centres, institutions and associations for the benefit of artists, experts and skilled craftsmen.
- Publishing documented model guides to the various art forms in Islam, such as Arabic calligraphy, Islamic decoration and ornamentation, illumination of the Holy Quran and manuscripts, jewels, woodwork, pottery, and other works of art, in addition to creating awards to help promote Islamic art and to preserve its splendours.

II) In the Field of Cultural Rights for All

Commitment One: Cultural Sensitisation

Through:

- Preparing simplified cultural material and media programmes to introduce the large public to culture and the cultural heritage forming the identity of peoples, in addition to coordinating with concerned governmental sectors to streamline such programmes in relevant textbooks and teaching material.
- Engaging civil-society associations and bodies in the process of cultural awareness-raising, and setting up joint committees of actors in the cultural field, the aim being to enhance cultural awareness, especially among women and the youth.
- Enhancing the role of media (with all its means and institutions) in the process of cultural sensitisation, while allocating further media funds and production to help promote basic cultural issues in society.

- Establishing more reading centres, enhancing their performance, diversifying programmes to benefit from their services, adapting them to new cultural changes associated with dialogue, coexistence and the respect for cultural diversity, and raising their standard to serve larger sections of population and to effectively reduce scope for cultural and educational literacy, while intensifying training programmes and sessions for officials and staff serving in those centres, and supplying them with modern teaching, training and communication equipment.

Commitment Two: Cultural Rights for Children and the Youth

Through:

- Promoting support programmes destined to centres and institutions catering for the cultural rights of children and the youth, and devising innovative cultural activities in coordination with civil-society institutions and associations to help counter the adverse effects of unemployment and poverty on the youth's cultural life.
- Conducting cultural trips inside and outside the Islamic world for children and the youth (visiting archaeological sites and museums), the aim being to encourage acquaintanceship among them and to enhance the culture of takaful, solidarity, coexistence and dialogue.
- Allocating awards for best literary and artistic works for children and youths, who should be engaged through their representative bodies in designing and implementing cultural programmes geared to them.
- Enforcing the resolutions and recommendations of the Islamic Ministerial Conference on the Child, which condemn all forms of violence and abuse against children, as well as depriving them from their educational, cultural and social rights, isolating them from their culture, obliterating their identity and humiliating them; and intensifying cooperation with specialised regional and international organizations, bodies and institutions to grant cultural rights to male and female children.

Commitment Three: Cultural Rights for Women

Through:

- Carrying on the encouragement of literary and artistic creativity among women; honing their creative skills, especially in cultural industries and cultural tourism services; reinforcing activities oriented to productive women; and carrying on encouraging women to meet together and exchange views about their cultural status and the ways of promoting it.

- Developing support programmes on the spreading of cultural awareness among women in general and the marginalized categories living in rural and remote areas, in particular; making use of cultural takaful to improve their skills and expertise on a continuous, effective basis; staging more fairs, meetings, symposia and sessions with the aim of improving society's awareness of the cultural role of women in the fields of development.
- Encouraging women cultural leaderships to further participate in cultural action; promoting their role in competent institutions and bodies in the circles of cultural decision-making; and granting them their full civil, social, political and economic rights in line with the objectives of the Islamic Sha'ria.

Commitment Four: Cultural Rights for the Marginalized

Through:

- Empowering marginalized categories to confront their hardships, enjoy their full cultural rights and invent advanced methods and ways likely to strengthen their capacity to contribute to cultural production and cultural development.
- Qualifying and training marginalized categories to engage in the different spheres of cultural activity and contribute to its products; qualifying them to practise artistic crafts and to master cost-effective and income-generating activities; and providing more incentives and awards to attract the marginalized to productive cultural sectors.

Commitment Five: Promoting the Role of Civil Society in the Development of the Cultural Sector

Through:

- Fostering and regulating partnership with civil-society associations and bodies in order to achieve common objectives; benefiting from civil society potential, efforts, specialized networking, diverse expertise and close links with regional and international institutions; and making further efforts to support its cultural activities and promote its role in the process of sustainable development.
- Engaging civil-society associations and bodies in the programmes scheduled under the national cultural plans; and providing them with the needed financial, human and communication means to oversee those activities and supervise their implementation.

- Encouraging the participation of civil-society associations, bodies and NGOs in the artistic and cultural festivals at home and abroad within the framework of promoting cultural pluralism, as well as in regional and international conferences concerned with cultural affairs for the purpose of exchanging of expertise and highlighting their views about cultural issues.

III) In the Field of Cultural Development towards Sustainable Development

Commitment One: Raising Awareness about the Environment, Health and Population

Through:

- Adopting a cultural policy that raises awareness of the dangers of deteriorating the environment, health harms and infectious diseases, preventive measures, the disadvantages of population disequilibrium and its negative impact on the social situation and economic development, through the convening of workshops, seminars and symposia, and the training of specialized executives in education on the environment, health and population.
- Coordinating efforts with the competent parties to devise written and audio-visual cultural subject-matters that entrench the Islamic view regarding the preservation of the environment, health safety, population equilibrium, and the highlighting of its cultural and developmental dimensions.
- Supporting projects with cultural dimension and artistic benefit in the fields of the preservation of the environment, health and the development of population situation, and allocating prizes for the best literary and artistic works.

Commitment Two: Development of Human Resources in Cultural Fields

Through:

- Developing a national strategy for cultural qualification of human resources, both in number and variety, through a diagnosis of the local cultural reality to determine its components and priorities in synergy, coordination and complementarity with the competent parties in the fields of culture, education and communication, to make of science a key requirement for people in charge of cultural affairs.

- Coordinating with competent parties to establish specialized institutes for the training of human resources in all cultural specialties, and opening specialties on cultural affairs in faculties, institutes, higher education and vocational education schools.
- Establishing appropriate funding mechanisms for the training and caring of inventors in the fields of traditional knowledge and cultural industries; and urging the private sector to contribute to its support in return for special privileges such as in advertisement, and so forth.

Commitment Three: Developing Cultural Tourism

Through:

- Formulating a comprehensive strategy to develop cultural tourism, through making use of the landmarks of cultural heritage, to develop the sector of tourism and promote social, industrial and economic tourism-related sectors, preparing maps and cultural tourism media contents featuring the major archaeological sites and the splendours of the Islamic architecture, museums and institutions having rare treasures of the Islamic cultural heritage; publishing guides and books in Arabic as well as in the languages of Muslim peoples and international languages on the cultural tourist areas; and making use of all forms of communication channels to that purpose.
- Coordinating with the relevant parties to make use of the cultural heritage in developing cultural tourism and encouraging investment in the Islamic tourist sector; granting financial and tax privileges to its companies and institutions in order to promote and develop it; and urging the establishment of a competitive loan system benefiting craftsmen and the executives concerned with cultural tourism.
- Contributing to the training of tourist guides, and to the raising of awareness among the population living in cultural tourist areas, improving their knowledge about the history, civilization, archaeological sites and prominent personalities who settled in or crossed their areas.
- Ensuring correlation between the development of cultural tourism and the different cultural forms of expression and aspects of cultural tourism, through staging of marketing fairs for the routes of Islamic cultural tourism, at the local, regional and international levels, such as the Pilgrimage Routes and the biography of Muslim travellers, and so on.

- Benefiting from local and international media as well as the websites and satellite channels in highlighting the tourist sites, their cultural dimensions, their civilizational values and their contribution to the progress of human.
- Benefiting from the programme on celebrating the Islamic culture capitals in reviving cultural and tourist life, and publicizing Islamic cities, their heritage, historical and cultural components at the national and regional levels within the framework of Cultural Weeks, open days of museums, archaeological landmarks and repositories of books and manuscripts; and playing host to festivals and artistic and heritage groups.

Commitment Four: Promoting Cultural Industries

Through:

- Enacting incentive and regulating laws to promote cultural industries, protect cultural products against looting, fraud and robbery and to safeguard intellectual property rights of creative craftsmen and artists.
- Establishing partnership between the public and private sectors and setting up a system of financial support in the form of preferential loans designed for promoting the sector of cultural industry and encouraging craftsmen for more investments, further development and better creation.
- Devoting further attention to craftsmen, traditional crafts such as decoration and the production of artifacts, developing their production and marketing methods and devoting more incentive awards to that end.
- Staging exhibitions to promote Islamic cultural industries and making capital of the Project of the Capitals of Islamic Culture to organize major regional and international exhibitions.
- Establishing more arts institutes and training centres devoted to traditional arts and cultural industries, the aim being to increase proficiency and ensure quality and the required competitiveness.

IV) In the Field of Promoting Cultural Diversity and Cultural Takaful and Spreading the Culture of Peace, Dialogue and Coexistence.

Commitment One: the Promotion of Cultural Diversity

Through:

- Establishing a legal framework, at the level of each State, for the enforcement of the contents of the Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity to serve as an instrument for regulating the ways of benefiting from material and moral support, artistic and technical oversight, and procedural and economic facilitations in a bid to generate and disseminate a wide range of cultural expressions of different origins and accordingly ensure access to culture for all.
- Respecting cultural pluralism within the framework of the collective cultural unity, while preserving cultural and social specificities, ensuring the involvement of the different social categories in cultural affairs and promoting creativity and development in this regard.
- Redoubling efforts to qualify technical, administrative and artistic human resources working in the field of culture and its associated fields, and train them in such a way as to enrich the cultural diversity in all sectors pertaining to civilizational progress and sustainable development.
- Implementing programmes and activities on cultural diversity in favor of children, youths and women in all areas of literary and artistic creativity, based on the “Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity”.
- Organizing, within the framework of the celebration of Islamic culture capitals, contests to select the best civilizational project encouraging creative youths and talents to contribute to promote Islamic cultural interaction and highlight the diversity and richness of its forms of expression.

Commitment Two: Encouraging Cultural Takaful

Through:

- Enforcing the contents and fields of action of the Strategy of Cultural Takaful and referring to them when it comes to developing national cultural policies and plans.
- Devoting further attention to the financing mechanisms of cultural action within the framework of Islamic cultural takaful and establishing more funds for cultural development as they play an active role in

financing creative artistic projects and supporting cultural and artistic projects, handicrafts and sustainable development.

- Encouraging the private sector's contribution to cultural expenditure and strengthening the role of Islamic financial institutions such as institutions of *waqf* and *zakat* in financing and developing the cultural sector.

Commitment Three: Spreading the Culture of Dialogue and Coexistence

Through:

- Redoubling the number of activities and programmes likely to consolidate links between cultural diversity and the supremacy of the culture of dialogue, coexistence and mutual respect among cultures; and highlighting this impact on social and cultural security, and economic growth in the Member States.
- Conducting more research and studies on the political, ethical and cultural dimensions of the Islamic values and their role in establishing and safeguarding the principles of respect and dialogue among civilizations and cultures.
- Promoting the culture of dialogue and peaceful coexistence of peoples through the invigoration of the contents and orientations of the Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity, the Islamic Cultural Takaful Strategy and the Strategy for Bringing Muslim Madhahibs Closer Together, while being mindful to involve the Muslim community in the West.
- Activating the role played by cultural centres inside and outside the Islamic world in spreading the culture of dialogue and peaceful coexistence of peoples and countering the media campaigns against and Muslims.
- Coordinating with the competent education and information authorities to promote the culture of dialogue, justice and peace in their relevant plans, policies, programmes and activities.

V) In the Field of Building the Society of Knowledge, Information, and Communication

Commitment One: Bridging the Digital Divide between the Islamic World and its International Surroundings

Through:

- Coordinating efforts with the competent authorities to bridge the digital and knowledge divide between the Islamic world and its international surroundings, enforcing all strategies, programmes and treaties aimed at achieving this objective, particularly the resolutions and recommendations of the Tunis World Summit on the Information Society, and the contents and orientations of ISESCO's Strategy for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies in the Islamic World.
- Perusing revision and development of the political and developmental plans pertaining to information and communication at both national and regional levels, based on the proposed programmes of action contained in the documents issued by the Tunis World Summit as well as in the Strategy for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies in the Islamic World; and activating cultural takaful to facilitate the development of information and communication technology and related expertise.

Commitment Two: Research and Training

Through:

- Intensifying studies and research works, organizing scientific meetings to diagnose and analyze the ethical, cultural and social dimensions of advanced communication technology and proposing effective and practical alternatives in a bid to optimize the use of this technology, to eliminate its shortcomings and to utilize it in the fields of development, dialogue, coexistence, social peace and cultural security.
- Upgrading the technical and artistic potential as well as the knowledge capacities of human resources and statisticians working in the field of information and communication, particularly in planning and law-making.
- Taking advantage of the training sessions and continuous training programmes of the regional training and audiovisual production centres established by ISESCO in the Syrian Arab Republic (Damascus), the Republic of the Sudan (Khartoum) and the Islamic Republic of Iran

(Tehran) in order to prepare the specialized human resources needed for the development of the information and communication sector in the Member States.

VI) Implementing procedures

- Entrusting the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with the follow-up of the implementation of these commitments, in coordination with the competent parties in the Member States, and the relevant international and regional organizations.
- Inviting the Director General to present a report on that subject to the upcoming sessions of the Islamic Conference of Culture Minister.