



Second Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment

Final Report

**ISESCO Headquarters, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco:
20-22 Rabia II, 1433 AH / 13-15 March 2012**

Final Report of the Second Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment

1. The Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment held its second meeting at the headquarters of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 20-22 Rabia II, 1433 AH / 13-15 March 2012.
2. The meeting's opening ceremony was presided over by His Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, General President of Meteorology and Environment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President of the Fourth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, with the presence of His Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of ISESCO; His Excellency Mr Muhammad Kamran Akhtar, Director for Science and Technology of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), representing Secretary General of the OIC; their excellencies the members of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment; and representatives of Arab, regional and international organizations active in environment and sustainable development.
3. The opening session started with verses from the Holy Quran, then His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, made an address wherein he conveyed the greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz, and their wishes for success to the meeting. He also commended the continuous support the Kingdom of Morocco, under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, gives to ISESCO, the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment. Prince Turki also extended thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of ISESCO, for promoting the action of the Executive Bureau, providing working tools to implement its decisions, and following up the resolutions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers. His Highness also stressed the importance of promoting joint Islamic action on environmental protection in the OIC Member States, and coordinating with the Arab League Executive Bureau for the Environment, in order to achieve the objectives pursued by both bureaus.

His Highness concluded by expressing his confidence that the fifth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers will articulate a united stance and vision as to the participation of the OIC Member States in Rio+20 Summit next June. He then wished the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment full success, and went on to express thanks and appreciation to all those who contributed to making this event a success, especially the representatives of Arab, regional and international organizations.

4. Speaking to the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, at its second meeting, ISESCO Director General Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri first welcomed His Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, President of the Fourth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, and Their Excellencies the members of the Bureau. He thanked them both for contributing to the success of the Bureau's action and for their countries' support to ISESCO and its programmes. Concerning the senior environmental experts' meeting, which took place at ISESCO, two days ahead of the second meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, Dr Altwaijri greeted with appreciation the participating environmental experts, representing the states members of the Executive Bureau, and representatives of regional and international bodies and organizations, and thanked them for examining the documents submitted to the Bureau's meeting. Dr Altwaijri also considered as a top priority item on the agenda of the Bureau's second meeting the **Draft Islamic Declaration on Sustainable Development**, which is to be presented by the OIC Member States to Rio+20 Summit, explaining in the meantime that the document is intended to promote Islam's enlightened vision of environment protection and sustainable development. He also stressed the importance of the two other documents placed on the agenda of the Bureau's second meeting: namely, **Green Economy: Its Role and Relevance in the Islamic World**, and **Executive Work Plan for Implementation of the Strategy for Disaster Reduction and Management in the Islamic World**.

As well as underlying Islamic cooperation on environmental issues as being part and parcel of joint Islamic action, Dr Altwaijri called for promoting combined efforts to reach the noble goals of Islamic solidarity, wishing the meeting will come to fruit.

5. For his part, His Excellency Mr Muhammad Kamran Akhtar, representing the OIC Secretary General, first extended the OIC Secretary General's greetings and sincerest wishes for success to the meeting. He also commended His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, General President of Meteorology and Environment of Saudi Arabia, President of the Fourth Islamic

Conference of Environment Ministers and Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment; and Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of ISESCO, and thanked them for their efforts in promoting environment protection and sustainable development issues in the Muslim countries. Mr Akhtar also pointed out to the actions by the OIC General Secretariat to achieve sustainable development in the Member States, and called on the Bureau to continue efforts in this regard and prepare for holding the fifth session of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, ahead of the Muslim world's participation in the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

6. The Executive Bureau commenced its first working session with the election of the Bureau's Vice Chairman and Rapporteur as follows:
 - Vice-Chairman: State of Qatar.
 - Rapporteur: Republic of Chad

The Executive Bureau also adopted its second meeting's draft agenda and draft programme (as in the attached versions).

7. The meeting examined and discussed the draft recommendations and decisions reached by the meeting of senior environment officials, who are members of the Executive Bureau, and the representatives of participant international and regional organizations and bodies. After deliberations, the meeting adopted the **Progress Report on ISESCO's Activities in Sustainable Development over the Period 2002-2012**, taking into consideration the Executive Bureau's observations. In its decisions, the meeting called on the competent authorities in the Member States to intensify and coordinate efforts to fulfil regional and international commitments for sustainable development; stressed the need to devise policies and strategies to provide the Member States with human resources with requisite knowledge and skills in sustainable development areas; and invited the Member States' competent authorities, along with civil society institutions focusing on environmental issues, to provide the Bureau's Secretariat with periodic progress reports detailing their achievements in implementing the Islamic Action Programme for Sustainable Development, for the Executive Bureau to assess the progress made towards sustainable development in the Member States. In addition, the meeting welcomed the technical measures that have been taken to implement the project on the Islamic Academy for the Environment and Sustainable Development, and invited the Director General to follow up the project in coordination with the official authorities in the Kingdom of Morocco. Also, the meeting valued the efforts by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in promoting necessary infrastructures and mechanisms for sustainable development, and reiterated thanks for financially supporting the convening of the

sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment. It further invited the Director General of ISESCO to submit the report to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

8. The document titled **Green Economy: Its Role and Relevance in the Islamic Countries** was adopted, taking into consideration the observations of the Executive Bureau. Emphasis was placed, in the Bureau's decision, on the need to integrate green economy in the Member States' development policies, enact appropriate legislation, and upgrade institutions and individuals to ensure a smooth transition to green economy. Equally stressed was the need to raise public awareness, within the Member States, about green economy as key to sustainable development. The meeting also recommended enhancing education curricula and training pathways, in order to provide requisite human skills for transition to green economy, and called for allocating requisite funds to develop technology and scientific research in the Member States, so as to build capacities to develop and wield appropriate technologies toward green economy and sustainable development.
9. The meeting also adopted the **Draft Executive Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Disaster Reduction and Management in the Islamic Countries**, taking account of the Bureau's observations. In its decision, the Bureau urged the Member States to accord top priority to disaster risk reduction in their national policies, as well as activate and build reference and coordination institutions to ensure implementation thereof. It also invited the Member States to develop strategies and take actions to promote the culture of safety and resilience to disasters through integrating disaster risk management measures in education curricula, and benefit from the experience of relevant national and regional entities, most notably the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). The Bureau also called on ISESCO to draw a roadmap, in cooperation with the World Bank (WB) and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), and under the supervision of the Chair of the Executive Bureau, for renewing the coordination mechanisms for the collection of funds needed for the implementation of the Executive Work Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Disaster Reduction and Management in the Islamic Countries. In the same vein, the Bureau called for developing a strategy for funding projects on the reduction of disaster risks and impacts, and invited international, regional and Islamic funding institutions to contribute to funding the activities to be carried out under that strategy.

10. The Executive Bureau adopted the **Draft Islamic Declaration on Sustainable Development**, ahead of the Muslim world's participation in Rio+20, taking into consideration the observations made by the Executive Bureau. It requested distributing the Draft Declaration to the competent parties in the Member States for observations, and agreed to submit it to the Fifth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, with a recommendation for approval. It also recommended the conference to commission the President of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment to submit the final version of the Declaration to the Rio+20 Summit.
11. The Executive Bureau also adopted the attached Draft Addenda of the Fifth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, and agreed to hold the Conference in the Republic of Kazakhstan in May 2012.
12. At the conclusion of its proceedings, the Executive Bureau addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco for his continued support for joint Islamic action on environment and sustainable development.