

**Islamic, Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization -ISESCO-**

**18th Session of the Executive Council
of the Islamic Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization
-ISESCO-**

Final Report

**Riyadh, 29 Rajab - 3 Shaaban 1418 A.H
29 November - 3 December 1997 A.D**

The Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization held its 18th Session in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 29 Rajab - 4 Shaaban 1418 A.H, corresponding to 29 November - 4 December 1997 A.D, hosted by the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ben Abdulaziz Al Saud, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It was attended by all the Executive Council Members with the exception of the representatives of the following Member States : Indonesia, Djibouti, Guinea Bissau, the Comoros, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

(Annex n 1 : List of Attending Members of the Executive Council)

Opening Session : Saturday, 29 Rajab 1418 H (29 November 1997)

Morning

- 1- The Opening Session was held under the chairmanship of His Excellency Dr. Khaled Ben Mohammad Al-Ankary, Minister of Higher Education in the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and His Excellency Dr. Hamadi Benjaballah, Representative of the Republic of Tunisia, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council. It was attended by His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Ghassan Al-Halabi, Minister of Education in the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It was also attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Higher Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as by personalities in the fields of letters, education, culture and information.
- 2- The Opening Session started with the recitation of some verses of the Holy Quran. H.E. Dr. Khaled Ben Mohammad Al-Ankary, Minister of Higher Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, then addressed the Session and welcomed the participants in the session, on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ben Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and his trustworthy Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Abdulaziz, highlighting the leading civilizational role played by the Islamic Organization throughout the Islamic world in the educational, scientific and cultural fields. He then recalled the institutional stages of the Organization, commending the high and notable standing it had achieved in record time, when compared to international organizations, and referred to the challenges faced by the Islamic world at the threshold of the 21st century and the aspiration of the Muslim Ummah to progress and prosperity. He emphasized that the developmental trends of the Muslim Ummah should emanate from the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Prophetic Sunnah, and rest on its civilizational foundations and cultural roots. Having reiterated his welcome to the participants, H.E. expressed his best wishes of success to the Council.

**(Annex n 2 : Address of H.E. Dr. Khaled Ben Muhammad Al-Ankary,
Minister of Higher Education in the Government of the
Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques)**

- 3- H.E. Dr. Hammadi Benjaballah, Representative of the Republic of Tunisia, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council, delivered an address in which he expressed his happiness at being in the good land of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He also delivered an

address on behalf of the Chairman of the Executive Council, H.E. Mr. Lamine Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of Guinea, Representative of the Republic of Guinea, in which he first expressed his thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its kind hosting of the Session and the facilities provided to ensure its success. He welcomed the Council members, in particular the new members, and thanked them for the efforts exerted at the previous session to enrich the Draft Plan and Budget for the Years 1995-1997. He noted the marked progress in the preparation of the Organization's reports on its achievements and evaluation of its activities, commending the distinct efforts made by the Director General to collect Member States' contributions and seek external resources by concluding cooperation agreements with Islamic, Arab and international organizations. He reviewed the social and cultural characteristics that distinguished that specific phase in the history of the Islamic world which the Islamic Organization sought to propel towards scientific progress and comprehensive development, fully aware of its civilizational mission.

(Annex n 3 : Address by H.E. Mr. Lamine Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of Guinea and Chairman of the Executive Council)

- 4- H.E. Mr. Muhammad Ghassan Al-Halabi, Minister of Education in the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, President of the 5th General Conference, delivered an address in which he first welcomed the Council Members, wishing full success to the Session. He commended the achievements of the Islamic Organization in its fields of competence, referring to its 1998-2000 Action Plan which truly met the present needs of the Muslim Ummah and its future aspirations and was consistent with its civilizational features and cultural characteristics. He concluded his address by affirming that Syria, under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafez Al-Assad, was determined to consolidate the Islamic Organization and ensure the success of its programmes and projects in the interest of its Member States and of the Muslim Ummah in general.

(Annex n 4 : Address of H.E. Mr. Mohammed Ghassan Al-Halabi, Minister of Education in the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and President of the 5th General Conference)

- 5- In his address, H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of ISESCO first thanked the Sovereign, the Government and the People of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their full cooperation, unreserved response and excellent preparations made to ensure the success of the Session.

He welcomed the Council Members and proceeded to review the Organization's achievements in the educational, scientific and cultural fields in the period between the 17th and 18th Executive Council sessions during which the Organization had witnessed a marked development in its activities and implementation methods. He emphasized the importance of the 18th Session as it would provide Council Members with the opportunity of considering the Draft Plan and Budget for the Years 1998-2000 which he described as a comprehensive and detailed programme for the Organization's work at this critical stage, at the threshold of the 21st Century. He reviewed the main achievements of the past three years, emphasizing the general trends of the Organization in its forthcoming Action Plan. The Director General concluded his address by reaffirming that the Organization was determined to overcome, in its plans and programmes, the challenges that faced the Islamic world in its fields of competence. This could be achieved only through the support of ISESCO's Member States to enable the Organization to carry out its noble mission.

(Annex n 5 : Address of H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman)

Alt wajri, Director General of ISESCO)

- 6- At the end of the Opening Session, members of delegations and guests attended a reception offered in their honour by the Minister of Higher Education in the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

First Working Session : Saturday, 29 Rajab 1418 H (29 November 1997)

Afternoon

Item 1.1 of the Agenda : Adoption of the Agenda

(Doc. C.E.18/97/1.1 Provisional Revised) :

- 7- The Council considered the Draft Agenda submitted in Doc. CE 18/97/1.1 Provisional (Rev.), and following extensive discussions, the Council Members agreed on the necessity to amend the proposed agenda taking into account the following considerations :

- Hold in camera sessions, whenever necessary, to discuss any matters which the Council deems should be discussed by its members only, such as the issue of contributions, staff members 'affairs and the election of the Director General.
- Insert an item concerning the Personnel Regulations to consider its amendment.
- Insert an item concerning the support of Palestinian educational institutions in general, and Al-Quds Al-Sharif in particular.
- Add an item concerning the laying down of the broad lines of a long-term plan.

The Council adopted then the following decision :

Decision on Item 1.1 of the Agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

(Doc. C.E.18/97/1.1 Provisional Revised) :

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Articles 23, 24 and 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having considered the Draft Agenda in document C.E.18/97/1.1 Provisional (Revised),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

Adopts its Agenda as contained in document C.E.18/97/1.1 Adopted, and attaches it to the Final Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Executive Council.

(Annex n 6 : Doc. C.E. 18/97/1.1 Adopted)

Item n 1.2 of the Agenda : Adoption of the Programme

(Doc. C.E. 18/97/1.2 Povisional Adopted)

- 8- The Council considered the proposed Programme submitted in Doc. CE 18/97/1.2 Provisional (Revised), and following the interventions of the Council members, it was agreed to hold the Executive Council sessions daily, on a continuous basis, from 8:30 a.m

to 2:00 p.m., and to look into the possibility of adding extra sessions, where necessary. It then adopted the programme and took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 1.2 of the Agenda
(Adoption of the Programme)**

The Executive Council,

- Referring to Decision C.E.17/96/D.6.1 adopted by the Executive Council at its 17th Session regarding the date and venue of the Eighteenth Council Session,
- Considering Decision C.E.18/97/D.1.1 whereby the Council adopted its Agenda for the present Session as contained in Document C.E.18/97/D.1.1 Adopted,
- Having considered the Draft Programme organizing the present Session's proceedings in document C.E.18/97/1.2 Provisional (Revised),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

Adopts the Programme organizing the present Session's proceedings as contained in document C.E.18/97/1.2 Adopted, and attaches it to the Final Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Executive Council.

(Annex n 7 : Doc. C.E. 18/97/1.2 Adopted)

**Item n 2.1 of the Agenda : Report of the Director General on
the Organization's Activities between the 17th and 18th Sessions
(Doc. C.E. 18/97/2.1 and Addendum)**

- 9-** The Director General made an in-depth presentation of his report, reviewing his visits to a number of Member States as well as his contacts with similar international organizations in order to strengthen mutual cooperation and reinforce the presence of the Organization in the Arab and Islamic arenas, which attracted the membership of three new states in the Islamic Organization, namely the Republic of Suriname, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. The Director General gave a brief account of the programmes and activities undertaken by the Organization during the past year in the light of the needs expressed by Member States in the various educational, scientific and cultural fields, and in accordance with cooperation agreements concluded with international and regional organizations as well as with national institutions. He further indicated that in the interval between the 17th and 18th Council sessions, 489 activities had been scheduled, covering all the Organization's fields of action, of which over 90% had been implemented. Moreover, the Director General specified that the progress achieved in programming and implementation was due to the General Directorate's determination to activate cooperation agreements with Arab, Islamic and international organizations, in compliance with the directives of the General Conference and the Executive Council.
- 10-** In their interventions, the Council Members first expressed their profound gratitude and sincere thanks to the King, Government and People of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their generous hospitality and lofty patronage of the proceedings of the 18th Council Session as well as for the services and facilities granted to ensure the success of the Session. The Council Members then expressed their profound thanks and sincere congratulations to the Director General and his assistants on the steady efforts they exerted to achieve the Organization's objectives. They commended the high implementation rates of activities for the years 1995-1997, praising the successful efforts expended to overcome

all obstacles and difficulties, and hailing the judicious policy followed by the Director General in order to affirm the presence of the Organization in international forums, and strengthen its presence among the similar organizations through the activation of the agreements of joint cooperation concluded with these organizations, and the endeavour to implement the largest number of activities and programmes in cooperation with them to meet the needs of Member States and Muslim minorities and give impetus to the efforts of comprehensive development.

After deliberations, a number of observations and recommendations were put forward, such as:

- Underlining the necessity for certain Member States not to consider the efforts exerted by the Director General to obtain additional resources outside the budget and the accomplishments achieved as a pretext for lagging in honouring their obligations and settling their shares in the Organization's budget.

- Endeavouring to make the National Commissions raise awareness about the Organization's objectives and activities in the Member States through their network of affiliated schools, curricula and the organization of symposia and meetings for this purpose.

- Making further efforts for the promotion of Islamic cultural and civilizational heritage as well as its preservation against destruction.

- Put back in the Plan of Action of ISESCO the programme regarding the documentation of destroyed Palestinian villages.

- Stressing the necessity to prepare a comprehensive strategy as well as an integrated long-term plan with which the Muslim world would enter the 21st century, with focus on education and science because the coming century will be dominated by education and technological progress.

- Strengthening the Organization's programmes directed towards women education and training of the handicapped within Member States and Muslim minorities.

- Emphasizing the importance of highlighting the role of higher and university education as well as scientific research in the achievement of comprehensive development.

- Laying down programmes and projects aimed to reinforce coordination among Member States in the Organization's fields of competence with a view to reinforcing Islamic solidarity and encouraging the exchange of expertise within the Islamic world.

11- In his response to the queries of the Council Members, the Director General expressed thanks and gratitude for the encouraging words and kind feelings expressed by the Council Members, which induced the Organization to exert further efforts with a view to upgrading the Organization's performance and enhancing its output. He underscored that the General Directorate would take into account the Council's observations upon implementation of the following Action Plan, and emphasized the steady increase noted in outlays on programme implementation from year to year, and the continuous cutting down of operating expenses.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 2.1 of the Agenda
(Report of the Director General on the Organization's
Activities between the 17th and 18th Sessions)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 21, paragraph 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having examined the Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities between the 17th and 18th Council Sessions, contained in documents C.E.18/97/2.1 and C.E.18/97/2.1 Addendum,
- Having heard the presentations made by the Director General and his assistants,
- Noting that the present Report of the Director General takes into account the observations put forward by the Council members in connection with the previous reports,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

1. Adopts the Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities between the 17th and 18th Sessions as contained in documents C.E.18/97/2.1 and C.E.18/97/2.1 Addendum;
2. Thanks the Director General and his assistants for the intensive efforts they exerted with a view to upgrading the Organization's performance, monitoring programme expenditure and developing report drafting methods;
3. Recommends to the Sixth Session of the General Conference to adopt this Report, which is submitted to the Conference in documents C.G.6/97/2.2 Part 2 and C.G.6/97/2.2 Part 2 Addendum, both documents constituting the second part of the Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities between the Fifth and Sixth Sessions of the General Conference.

Second Working Session : Sunday, 30 Rajab 1418 H (30 November 1997)

Morning :

**Item 2.2 of the Agenda
(Evaluation of the Organization's Work)
Document CE 18/97/2.2**

- 12-** The Director General introduced the report evaluating the work of the Organization during the Three-Year Action Plan 1995-1997, referring to the efforts made by the General Directorate to enrich the report and improve its presentation, whether in classifying achievements on a thematic basis or in widening the scope of participation in the evaluation process. The report was divided into three parts : the first dealt with internal evaluation, the second with external evaluation and the third was an evaluation of cooperation activities, carried out by a committee set up by the Executive Council. In its conclusion, the report indicated the implementation rate of activities, which amounted to 95% and the funds disbursed for these activities, reaching US\$ 8,728,277.17 excluding the disbursements covered by cooperation agreements.

13- Having congratulated the Director General on the efforts made to improve the evaluation process and on the precision and comprehensiveness of the report, which included clear data and statistics, the Council members requested the General Directorate to proceed forth on those lines.

During the deliberations that ensued, comments and proposals were made, which could be summed up as follows :

- To adopt an evaluation methodology on the basis of a set of evaluation criteria, including the evaluation of objectives and measures and determination of steps, methods and means as well as participants in the evaluation process;
- To attach greater importance to external evaluation, provided it focuses on quality not form;
- To strengthen the evaluation service and widen the scope of its work so that it includes a follow-up of the effects of activities in Member States, in coordination with National commissions in order to determine the impact of implemented activities on the improvement of the performance of beneficiary organs ;
- To set up an ad hoc committee to draw up evaluation criteria, methodology and plan, taking into account the experiences of organizations and Member States in this domain;
- To set up a committee from among Council members to consider the evaluation report prepared by the General Directorate and submit its views to the Council;
- To strengthen National Commissions so that they may play their role in carrying out and evaluating activities;
- To improve the modes of communication with Member States in order to facilitate the carrying out of ISESCO's activities and their evaluation through more frequent communication with Member States in a way to include the chairmen of National Commissions and the Council Members.

14- The Director General took the floor and thanked the Council Members for their valuable comments which would be taken into account by the General Directorate. He pointed out that some difficulties which adversely affected the performance of the Organization, referring in particular to the fact that only ten National Commissions had answered the evaluation questionnaire sent by the General Directorate to all National Commissions of the Member States.

After deliberations, the Council adopted the following decision :

**Decision on Item 2.2 of the Agenda
(Evaluation of the Organization's Work)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the second operative paragraph of Resolution C.G.4/91/R.2.6, adopted by the General Conference at its Fourth Session, and with the second operative paragraph of Decision C.E.12/91/D.2.5, adopted by the Executive Council at its Twelfth Session, both of which invite the Director General to present, on a periodical basis, a detailed report on the evaluation of the Organization's work to the Executive Council session immediately preceding the regular Session of the General Conference,

- Recalling Decision C.E.17/96/D.2.1, in which the Executive Council decided to set up an ad hoc committee made up of three Council members, namely the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco, and the Representative of the Republic of Yemen, to undertake an evaluation of the content of the agreements concluded and the real impact of programmes implemented within their framework, and in which the Council invited the Director General to establish an external evaluation mechanism likely to undertake the evaluation of the implemented work,
- Taking into consideration, in view of the evaluation of the Organization's work contained in document C.E.18/97/2.2, that the Director General has enforced the Council's decisions as required and this document embodies the external evaluation mechanism as well as the Report of the Committee set up by the Council with a view to evaluating cooperation programmes,
- Considering the positive results generated by the external evaluation mechanism,
- Having heard the presentation made by the Director General,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

1. Adopts the Evaluation of the Organization's Work as in document C.E.18/97/2.2;
2. Thanks the members of the Committee in charge of evaluating cooperation programmes;
3. Thanks the Director General and his assistants for the efforts they exerted in this connection and invites the Director General to continue developing the methods of evaluation of the Organization's work in a way to upgrade it to the highest level especially through the adoption of a general methodology of evaluation with its internal and external dimensions, and the laying down of a set of fixed evaluation criteria;
4. Invites the Member States to be more interactive with the evaluation operations conducted by the Organization.

Third Working Session : Sunday, 30 Rajab 1418 H (30 November 1997)

Afternoon :

Item 2.3 of the Agenda

**(Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts
for Financial Year 1996, and Overall Statements of Accounts
and Expenditures up to the end of September 1997)
(Document CE 18/97/2.3 and Document CE 18/97/2.3 Addendum)**

- 15- The Director General made a detailed presentation on his financial report, in which he talked about its different parts and pointed out that income in the period from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1996 reached US\$ 7,091,174.97, of which US\$ 3,684,065.50 was received under the same financial year, which is a small amount in comparison with the budget estimates. He explained that off-the-budget resources did not exceed US\$ 335,584.86, that arrears as at 31 December 1996 totalled US\$ 49,637,888.50, and that actual outlays in 1996 stood at US\$ 5,267,630.89. He said that the report included also the closing and operating accounts of the End-of-Service Allowance Fund and the Medical Insurance Fund for ISESCO's staff.

16- The Council members expressed their thanks to the Director General for the efforts he exerted in the preparation of this report. In the ensuing discussions, the following points were raised by Council members :

- Concern of the Council at the low rate of settlement of Member States ' contributions;
- Importance of collection and settlement of scheduled contributions, and warning against the low rate of settlement;
- Praising the Financial Report of the Director General and the Closing Accounts.

Following deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

Decision on Item 2.3 of the Agenda

(Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts for Financial Year 1996, and Overall Statements of Accounts and Expenditures up to the end of September 1997)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 16 of the Charter, Articles 19 and 29 of the Financial Regulations, and Article 21, paragraph ôd² of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Considering Decision C.E.15/94/D.2.2, which was adopted by the Council at its Fifteenth Session (Damascus, 19-24 November 1994), whereby the Director General was invited in operative paragraph 5 thereof to present the Financial Report to the Executive Council at its regular session held before the end of the year which follows the financial year, in addition to the statements of the Organization's accounts and an overall statement of outlays up to the end of September of the current financial year,
- Considering, also, the fact that the Fifth Session of the General Conference (Damascus, 27-30 November 1994) had adopted the said Decision through its Resolution C.G.5/94/R.2.3,
- Having examined the Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts for Financial Year 1996, and Overall Statements of Accounts and Expenditures up to the end of September 1997 as contained in Document C.E.18/97/2.3 and its Addendum, which constitutes the second part of the Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts for Financial Years 1994-1996, and Overall Statements of Accounts and Expenditures up to the end of September 1997, submitted to the Sixth Session of the General Conference under code C.G.6/97/2.3 Part 2 and Addendum,
- Having heard the presentations made by the Director General and his assistants,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1.** Adopts the Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts for Financial Year 1996, and Overall Statements of Accounts and Expenditures up to the end of September 1997 contained in Document C.E.18/97/2.3 and its Addendum;
- 2.** Thanks the Director General and his assistants for the efforts they exerted in this connection;

3. Recommends to the Sixth Session of the General Conference to adopt this Report submitted in documents C.G.6/97/2.3 Part 2 and C.G.6/97/2.3 Part 2 Addendum, both of which constitute the second part of the Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts for Financial Years 1994-1996, and Overall Statements of Accounts and Expenditures up to the end of September 1997.

**Item 2.4 of the Agenda
(Reports of the Financial Control Committee
and of the Audit Company for Financial Year 1996)
(Document CE 18/97/2.4)**

17- The Chairman of the Financial Control Committee started his address by thanking the Director General and his assistants for having facilitated the work of the Committee. He, then, summarized the Committee's recommendations as follows :

- Revise the current organization of the Financial and Administrative Affairs Directorate;
- Hold a training session for the Library staff in the computerization of the book and document input and output operations;
- Organize two training sessions for the benefit of the Financial Affairs 'staff.

18- The Council members embarked immediately on the examination of the Report. They extended their thanks to the Committee and to the Director General and proposed that the Committee put forward, in its future reports, recommendations likely to contribute to the promotion of work mechanisms.

Following deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 2.4 of the Agenda
(Reports of the Financial Control Committee
and of the Audit Company for Financial Year 1996)**

The Executive Council,

- Considering Article 19 of the Charter, Articles 20 and 24 through 29 of the Financial Regulations, and Article 21, paragraphs ôbª and ôcª of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Recalling Decision C.E.15/94/D.2.2 adopted by the Council at its Fifteenth Session (Damascus, 19-24 November 1994), in which the Director General was invited to call upon the Audit Company to carry out its work and present its report before the end of May of each year, and to convene the Financial Control Committee meeting at the beginning of July of each year in order to prepare its report,
- Having examined the Reports of the Financial Control Committee and of the Audit Company for Financial Year 1996 contained in Document C.E.18/97/2.4, which constitutes the second part of the Reports of the Financial Control Committee and of the Audit Company for Financial Years 1994-1996, submitted to the Sixth Session of the General Conference under code C.G.6/97/2.4 Part 2,
- Having heard the Report of the Chairman of the Financial Control Committee,

- Noting that the General Directorate has implemented the previous recommendations of the Financial Control Committee,
- Having heard, also, the clarifications made by the Director General and his assistants,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

1. Adopts the Reports of the Financial Control Committee and of the Audit Company for Financial Year 1996 contained in Document C.E.18/97/2.4;
2. Thanks the Financial Control Committee for the work it has undertaken;
3. Thanks the Director General for implementing the decisions and recommendations made in this connection;
4. Recommends that the Sixth Session of the General Conference adopt these two reports submitted to the Conference in Document C.G.6/97/2.4 Part 2, which constitutes the second part of the Reports of the Financial Control Committee and of the Audit Company for Financial Years 1994-1996.

**Item 2.5 of the Agenda
(Report of the Director General on the Contributions of
Member States to the Organization's Budget and on redressing
the Organization's Financial Situation for the Year 1997)
(Document CE 18/97/2.5 and Document CE 18/97/2.5 Addendum)**

- 19-** The Director General presented his report on the contributions of Member States to the Organization's budget and on redressing the Organization's financial situation for the year 1997, explaining that the report was made up of two parts, the first stating the income of the period from 1 October 1996 to 30 September 1997, and the second indicating the arrears of Member States from 1982 to 30 September 1997. The report included the amounts received under financial year 1997, representing a rate of 27%, and showed the States which settled their contributions fully or partly. The Director General underlined the sluggish pace of income and the increasing amount of arrears, stating that the contributions received from 1982 up to now stood at a mere US\$ 59,291,109.14, not exceeding 43% of the estimated budgets, while arrears have been accumulating since 1982 to reach US\$ 57,091,372.86. He indicated that the General Directorate always endeavoured to keep a financial surplus to avoid crises, and help cope with expenses at the commencement of the financial year pending the settlement of expected contributions.
- 20-** The Council members started discussion of the Report, and commended the efforts of the Director General in this connection. They made the following observations:
- Underline the necessity not to consider the off-the-budget financial resources, especially those generated by cooperation agreements, as an alternative to the settlement of contributions which admittedly remain the basic, constant resource of the Organization's budget;
 - Study the situation of arrears with a view to reducing the contributions of certain countries or rescheduling their arrears, or exempting them therefrom depending on the economic conditions of each State;
 - Urge Member States to settle their contributions under the current financial year in order to enable the Organization to implement the Plan's programmes;

- Set up a committee to study the situation of arrears and put forward proposals to improve the situation of contributions. The committee shall undertake its work in the light of the decisions taken by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, and the report of the preceding Committee entrusted with the same issue.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

Decision on Item 2.5 of the Agenda

(Report of the Director General on the Contributions of Member States to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Organization's Financial Situation in Financial Year 1997)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 17 of the Charter and Article 6 of the Financial Regulations,
- Recalling the decisions and resolutions adopted at the previous Executive Council and General Conference sessions of the Organization, in particular the following :
 - * Decision C.E.14/93/D.2.3, adopted by the Executive Council at its Fourteenth Session, particularly with regard to operative paragraph 5 thereof, in which the Council requests from the General Conference to take efficient measures in order to redress the Organization's financial situation on the basis of the principle of Islamic solidarity expressed by the Member States upon their signature of the Organization's Charter, relying, if so the Conference desires, on the exhaustive and practical study conducted by the special Committee set up by the Executive Council at its Fourteenth Session, which was distributed to the Council members in view of its usefulness,
 - * Decision C.E.15/94/D.2.4 adopted by the Executive Council at its Fifteenth Session (Damascus, 19-24 November 1994), in which it endorsed in operative paragraph 3 the report of the Committee set up by the Executive Council at its Fifteenth Session to examine the situation of the contributions of Member States to the Organization's budgets,
 - * Resolution C.G.5/94/R.2.5 adopted by the General Conference at its Fifth Session (Damascus, 27-30 November 1994), in which the Conference adopted the said Decision of the Executive Council as well as the proposals of the Committee it had set up, and invited the representatives of the Member States in the General Conference and the members of the Executive Council to contact the competent parties in their countries with a view to emphasizing the paramount importance of the regular settlement of contributions,
- Considering the efforts exerted by the Director General and the Executive Council members,
- Having examined the Report of the Director General on the Contributions of Member States to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Organization's Financial Situation in Financial Year 1997, contained in Document C.E.18/97/2.5 and its Addendum, which constitutes the second part of the Report of the Director General on the Contributions of Member States to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Organization's Financial Situation in Financial Years 1995-1997, submitted to the Sixth Session of the General Conference under code C.G.6/97/2.5 Part 2 and Addendum,

- Noting, after examining this Report, that the pace of settlement of the contributions of Member States to the Organization's budget is still below the required level, which reflects on the implementation of the Organization's different programmes and activities,
- Having heard the clarifications made by the Director General,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

1. Adopts the Report of the Director General on the Contributions of Member States to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Organization's Financial Situation in Financial Year 1997, contained in Document C.E.18/97/2.5 and its Addendum;
2. Expresses concern at the failure of a large number of Member States to settle their contributions scheduled in the Organization's budget;
3. Affirms the previous decisions adopted by the Council in this connection;
4. Invites the members of the Executive Council and the officials in charge of National Commissions to intensify their efforts to ensure full commitment on the part of their countries to settle their contributions;
5. Commends the efforts of the Director General in this concern and invites him to continue them;
6. Recommends to the Sixth Session of the General Conference to adopt this Report, submitted to it in Document C.G.6/97/2.5 Part 2 and Addendum, which constitutes the second part of the Report of the Director General on the Contributions of Member States to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Organization's Financial Situation in Financial Years 1995-1997;
7. Recommends the insertion by the Sixth General Conference of a special line in the budget, to be placed at the disposal of the Director General for disbursing therefrom the amounts he deems suitable in humanitarian circumstances or to meet extraordinary and urgent needs of the Organization.

Fourth Working Session : Monday 1st Shaaban 1418H (1st December 1997)

Morning :

Item 3.1 of the Agenda

(Draft Plan and Budget for the Years 1998-2000)

(Document CE 18/97/3.1 and Document CE 18/97/3.1 Addendum)

- 21-** After joining the Council's proceedings, H.E. Mr. Lamine Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea, Chairman of the Executive Council, chaired this session, at the beginning of which the Director General made a presentation on the Draft Plan and Budget for the Years 1998-2000, focusing on the conditions of the preparation of the Plan and its sources of its design, particularly in the context of the profound changes heralded by the three years separating us from the 21st century. He expounded the sources of inspiration of the Plan, the bases underlying the preparation of the project by the General Directorate, in addition to the methodology adopted and the points distinguishing it from previous plans, stressing that innovation reflected on the bases, form and content in

order to meet the requirements of authenticity, innovative development and overcoming of the challenges of the coming century.

One of these features consisted in taking into account the varying priorities and needs of Member States and Muslim minorities, in addition to covering various fields, focusing on the Muslim individual, opening to world experiences, capitalizing on the expertise of similar international organizations, and adhering to the principle of comprehensiveness of outlook and complementarity of dimensions. The Director General reminded that the preparation of the Draft Plan for the years 1998-2000 had taken two years of continuous work and diligent efforts, pointing out that a group of eminent personalities enjoying outstanding experience in the fields of education, science and culture in the Muslim world were associated in the conception process. He also indicated that the Council had set up at its previous session a tripartite committee from among its members for the purpose of studying, revising, enriching and finalizing the project. Concluding his intervention, he pointed out that the project included eighteen fields, covering eighty-four axes, comprising one hundred and nine programmes that ramify into two hundred and sixty-one activities and major projects in all fields of action of the Organization, with a budget amounting to US\$ 38,585,166.

22- The Chairman of the sub-committee set up by the Executive Council of the Seventeenth Session to review the Plan and the Budget for the Years 1998-2000 presented a report on the Committee's proceedings, expressing the Committee's thanks to the General Directorate for its outstanding efforts in the preparation of the Draft Plan that teemed with initiatives and activities aimed to cope with the developments occurring in the world as it stood at the threshold of the 21st century. He then presented the observations and comments of the Committee concerning the introduction as well as the programmes and activities of the Directorates of Education, Science and Culture, reminding that the Committee had agreed with the General Directorate to revise the project in light of those observations.

23- The Council Members congratulated the Director General and his assistants on the Draft Plan for the years 1997-2000, expressing their thanks for the accuracy, comprehensiveness, cohesion and innovation that characterized the Plan as well as for the Plan's adherence to the observations made by the Executive Council in its previous sessions, its commitment to the guidelines of the General Conference, its capitalization on the experience of international organizations, on the resolutions of Summit Conferences and ad hoc committees, and its building on a number of strategies and international reports, which all made the Draft Plan truly pave the way for entering the new century. They also expressed thanks to the tripartite Committee members for the efforts they exerted in the revision and finalization of the Draft Plan.

24- Some Council Members raised queries about the following points :

- Increase of the appropriation allocated to a number of budget headings in comparison with the previous budget, such as the unforeseen expenses of the General Conference and the Executive Council Sessions, and the expenses of various committees.
- Increase of the budget allocated to salaries and allowances under the support activities.
- Consonance of the activities and programmes of the Draft Plan with the Organization's available human and financial resources so that ISESCO may implement the Action Plan in an optimal way.

- Deficit noted in the Organizations budget owing to the 8% loss in earning.

Fifth Working Session : Monday 1st Shaaban 1418H (1st December 1997)

Afternoon :

Item 3.1 of the Agenda

**(Draft Plan and Budget for the Years 1998-2000) (Cont'd)
(Document CE 18/97/3.1 and Document CE 18/97/3.1 Addendum)**

- 25-** In his response the queries of the Council members, the Director General expressed his happiness to the increasing interest they took in the Organization, its activities and programmes and gave detailed clarifications about these queries.
- 26-** The Council members then put forward the following proposals :
- Take further interest in environmental and health education and strengthen the functions of higher education as well as women education, the decorum of difference, and satellite channels programmes.
 - Increase appropriations for education. Albeit education absorbed 27% of funds, it should be stressed that the 21st century will be the century of excellence, in which limited knowledge holders will have no room, a fact which requires strong focus on education.
 - Enhance interest in the science programmes which are the key to informatics and technology.
 - Take interest in prospective activities, mainly through the implementation of activities aimed to identify the traits of future education.
 - Focus on qualitative development and innovation of education on the level of the Islamic world.
 - Harness technology in the implementation of activities and programmes.
 - Introduce the computer in teaching the basics of Islamic education and the Arabic language.
 - Set up a committee in charge of qualitative control and evaluation of implementation, provided it submit its report to the General Conference.
 - Draw up a practical programme for National Commissions and connect them to international communication networks.
 - Add activities relating to university education and its relation to the labour market and economic development.
 - Amend the programme concerning the activation of the role of universities in social action to become 'social development'.
 - Allocate a programme to distance learning and take advantage of satellites.
 - Allow more flexibility in the implementation of the Plan's activities according to priorities in such a way as to invest more in the most vital fields.
 - Commend the major civilizational projects, and propose that the General Conference set up a committee in order to make available funds for financing these projects.
 - Strengthen the Education and Culture activities in view of their impact on affirming identity without as much restricting Science activities.
 - Prepare a programme on the inception, history, civilization and future of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, disseminate it through the Internet, and integrate this information in the educational curricula of Islamic countries.
 - Allocate a programme or unit to Somalia just like Al-Quds and Sarajevo Units.

- Insert in the Plan a programme for the support of Palestinian educational institutions.
- Rely on Islamic Endowments (Waqf) to reinforce the Organization's budget.
- Earmark the Member States' contributions for expenditure on the Plan, and the contributions emanating from cooperation for expenditure on the major civilizational projects.
- Harness the expertise available in Azerbaijan for the implementation of water and renewable energies-related projects.
- Necessity for ISESCO's programmes to be complementary with those carried out in Member States.
- Set up joint educational and cultural institutions involving neighbouring countries so that ISESCO may rely on them in the implementation of its activities.
- Prepare guidebooks of experts in the various fields, and distribute them to Member States in order to facilitate the exchange of expertise and strengthen solidarity in the implementation of projects in the fields education, science and culture.

27- The Chairman of the Tripartite Committee then took the floor, reminding that the General Directorate had taken into account the observations of the Committee upon finalization of the Draft Plan, and recommending its adoption by the Council.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 3.1 of the Agenda
(Draft Plan and Budget for the Years 1998-2000)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 2, Article 12 (II), paragraph 3, of the Charter, and Article 21, paragraphs ' e 'and' f 'of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- In accordance, also, with Decision C.E.17/96/D.3.1 & 3.2, which was adopted by the Council at its Seventeenth Session, and whereby it decided the following :
 - 1- Invites the Director General to reformulate the orientations and opinions included in the report of the External Committee concerning the revision of the Organization's Medium-Term Plan 1991-2000, after introducing the amendments proposed by the Executive Council; considers the guidelines and opinions made by the Council members as a basis for the preparation of the Draft Three-Year Action Plan and Budget of the Organization for the years 1998-2000, and calls for submitting the Plan, in its final form, to the coming Council Session for adoption.
 - 2- Sets up a tripartite Committee, made up of the representatives of the Republic of Senegal, the Arab Republic of Egypt and Malaysia in the Council for the purpose of studying and drawing up the final version of the Draft Three-Year Action Plan and Budget for the Years 1998-2000, prior to submitting them to the 18th Session of the Executive Council, which would present them to the 6th General Conference Session for approval thereof.
- Having heard the report of the Chairman of the said Committee on the meeting it had held at the Organization's headquarters with a view to adopting the final report of the Draft Plan and Budget for the Years 1998-2000,

- Noting, after examining the Draft Plan and Budget for the Years 1998-2000 contained in Document C.E.18/97/3.1 as well as the major projects contained in Document C.E.18/97/3.1 Addendum, that the two documents have taken into account the observations of the Council members and the guidelines of the Committee set up by the Council, and that they respond to the developments occurring on the international scene,
- Noting, also, that the two documents C.E.18/97/3.1 and C.E.18/97/3.1 Addendum reflect a revision of the current Medium-Term Plan for the Years 1991-2000 and provide the basis for the preparation of the next Medium-Term Plan for the Years 2001-2009,
- Considering that the Organization's budget has not witnessed any increase ever since the Fourth Session of the General Conference held in 1991,
- Having heard the clarifications made by the Director General and his assistants in this connection,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

1. Adopts the plan of action of the Organization as in the Draft Plan and Budget for the Years 1998-2000 contained in Document C.E.18/97/3.1 submitted to the Sixth Session of the General Conference under code C.G.6/97/3.1, and approves the proposed budget, amounting to US\$ 38,585,166, to finance the implementation of the Plan, taking into account the proposals and observations of the Council Members;
2. Adopts the major projects contained in Document C.E.18/97/3.1 Addendum, submitted to the Sixth Session of the General Conference under code C.G.6/97/3.1 Addendum, provided that the Director General search for sources to finance these projects outside the adopted budget;
3. Thanks the Director General and his assistants for the efforts they exerted in preparing these documents;
4. Recommends that the Sixth Session of the General Conference adopt this Draft Plan and Budget for the Years 1998-2000 submitted to the Conference under code C.G.6/97/3.1, and adopt the projects presented to the Conference in Document C.G.6/97/3.1 Addendum;
5. Recommends that the Sixth Session of the General Conference accept that the revision of the current Medium-Term Plan of the Organization for the Years 1991-2000 as reflected in the Draft Plan and Budget for the Years 1998-2000 in documents C.G.6/97/3.1 and C.G.6/97/3.1 Addendum be a basis for the preparation of the Medium-Term Plan of the Organization for the Years 2001-2009.

**Item 3.2 of the Agenda
(Construction of the Organization's Headquarters)
(Document CE 18/97/3.2)**

- 28-** The Director General made a brief presentation on the steps undertaken by the General Directorate to speed up the issue of construction of a permanent headquarters for the Organization, recalling the royal gesture made by His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, consisting in the allocation of a plot of land for this purpose, and the generous promise made by His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan,

President of the State of the United Arab Emirates to finance the construction of the Organization's headquarters. He pointed out to the contacts made by the General Directorate with the Ministry of Higher Education of the Kingdom of Morocco for the purpose of substituting with a more convenient plot of land the plot owned by the Organization, and reviewed also the continuous contacts made with the Directorate of Works of the State of the United Arab Emirates in this regard.

29- During discussions, the Council's Chairman proposed that the Council's Bureau, along with the Director General, make contacts during the Sixth Session of the General Conference with the Minister of Higher Education in the Kingdom of Morocco and the Minister of Education in the State of the United Arab Emirates with a view to speeding up matters. In this connection, the representative of the State of the United Arab Emirates confirmed that the Directorate of Works in the State of the United Arab Emirates was awaiting the delivery to the Organization of the new plot of land in order to start the necessary implementation measures.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 3.2 of the Agenda
(Construction of the Organization's Headquarters)**

The Executive Council,

- Recalling the previous decisions adopted by the Executive Council in connection with the construction of the Organization's headquarters,
- Having examined the Report of the Director General on the construction of the Organization's headquarters, contained in Document C.E.18/97/3.2 presented to the Sixth Session of the General Conference under code C.G.6/97/3.2,
- Having taken cognizance of the contacts made by the Director General with H.E. the Minister of Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research in the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco with regard to the possibility of replacement of the plot of land owned by the Organization with a better plot of land in order to construct the Organization's headquarters, and having taken cognizance, also, of the contacts made by the Director General with the competent parties in the State of the United Arab Emirates in connection with the support to be extended for building a permanent headquarters for the Organization,
- Considering the presentation made by the Director General,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1.** Expresses profound gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, for generously offering ISESCO a plot of land to build its headquarters, as well as for the positive stance taken by the Government of His Majesty regarding the contacts made by the Director General of the Organization on the possibility of providing a convenient substitute plot of land;
- 2.** Expresses profound thanks to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, for having generously accepted to extend assistance to the Organization for constructing its permanent headquarters;
- 3.** Invites the Director General to continue the efforts he has exerted in this connection;

4. Submits this issue to the Sixth Session of the General Conference and recommends to support these efforts.

Sixth Working Session : Tuesday, 2 Shaaban 1418 H (2 December 1997)

Morning :

Item 3.3 of the Agenda

**(Draft Strategy for the Development of Science
and Technology in Islamic Countries)
(Document CE 18/97/3.3)**

30- The Director General presented the Draft Strategy for the Development of Science and Technology in Islamic Countries, which was laid down by the Islamic Organization in cooperation with the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH). He expounded the background of the project, stating that it contained a set of options tantamount to guidelines which might be utilized in the field of planning. He indicated that the first chapter tackled the origin of science in Islam, highlighting the challenges facing the Islamic world owing to the emergence of new technologies threatening its developmental march. The second chapter was devoted to human development in Muslim countries, the third chapter to the current situation of science and technology in them, and the fourth to the building of technology capacities and the obstacles precluding the development of science and technology. The last chapter concluded with the effects of implementation procedures.

He pointed out that the project had been presented to all Member States as well as to an elite of Muslim scholars from certain Member States, stating that if it were adopted by the honourable Council, the Sixth General Conference and the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference, it would round off the strategy of knowledge as a basic reference for the Member States and the Organization in its fields of action.

31- The Members of the Council expressed their congratulations and thanks to the Director General and his assistants who participated in the preparation of this distinct document in terms of its comprehensive outlook and ambitious aspirations to achieve progress in the Islamic world and enable it at best to confront challenges in the fields of science and technology. After deliberations, the following observations and proposals were made :

- To identify on the basis of this document certain feasible elements according to a set of priorities as well as quantitative and qualitative requirements and financial and human resources; and to elaborate applicable programmes and methods for their implementation.
- To draw up a three-year short-term procedural plan and a long-term plan for the implementation of this strategy.
- To strengthen complementarity among Member States with respect to the efforts exerted in the fields of science and technology, provided the Organization coordinate these efforts and act as a centre to collect data and related initiatives, disseminate them and gather resources at national and inter-Islamic level from the public and private sectors.
- To develop national expertise by not resorting to ready-made imported projects (turnkey) and to benefit from emigrant scientists.

- To consolidate the methodology of scientific and technological research and devise means to prepare scientific studies and researches.
- To attach greater importance to scientific culture and give scientists wider access in the different mass media.
- To develop the scientific and technological fields by improving teaching curricula and encouraging students to enter scientific and technological fields of education.
- To draw up a plan for the establishment of an Islamic University for Science and Technology and encourage emigrant scientists to join it; ensuring contacts among scientists and researchers in the Islamic world.

32- The Director General thanked the Council members for their observations and proposals and noted the similarity between these observations and the educational programmes included in the Draft Plan for the Years 1998-2000. He referred to the importance of the role of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World in implementing this strategy and to the need to set up a network to harness scientists in the Islamic world.

The Council took the following decision in this regard :

**Decision on Item 3.3 of the Agenda
(Draft Strategy for the Development of Science
and Technology in Islamic Countries)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the Charter of the Organization, the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, and the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having examined Document C.E. 18/97/3.3 containing the Draft Strategy for the Development of Science and Technology in Islamic Countries, which has been prepared within the framework of cooperation between the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH),
- Considering that this project identifies the objectives, determines the means and lays down the general principles for the achievement of development in the field of science and technology,
- Considering, further, that this document has been prepared with the contribution of a number of prominent scholars and specialists from the Member States,
- Considering the presentation made by the Director General and his assistants,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

1. Adopts the Draft Strategy for the Development of Science and Technology in Islamic Countries as contained in Document C.E.18/97/3.3;
2. Recommends to the Sixth Session of the General Conference to adopt this project which is submitted to the Conference in Document C.E.18/97/3.3, and present it to the coming Islamic Summit Conference for adoption;

3. Thanks the Director General and his assistants for the efforts they exerted in the preparation of this document.

**Item 3.4 of the Agenda
(Draft Medium-Term Plan)**

33- As the Medium-Term Plan for the Years 1991-2000 ended with the preparation of the Three-Year Action Plan 1998-2000, the Council deemed it necessary to prepare a medium-term plan for the years 2001-2009 to incorporate guidelines for the Organization during the first decade of the 21st century in the fields of competence of the Organization. To this end, the Council requested the Director General to set up a committee made up of prominent scholars from the Member States in order to lay down this draft medium-term plan. The Council took the following decision in this regard :

**Decision on Item 3.4 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Draft Medium-Term Plan)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 2, and Article 12(II), paragraph 3 of the Charter,
- Considering the tremendous developments and rapid changes occurring worldwide in the context of globalization; considering further the necessity to ensure for the Muslim world a distinct participation in this domain,
- Considering the deliberations of the Council upon the adoption of its agenda,

Decides the following :

Invites the Director General to set up a committee made up of five prominent scholars from the Member States with a view to laying down a draft medium-term plan for the Organization, which would help explore the forthcoming century and cope with its changes and educational, scientific and cultural challenges, which plan will be submitted to the next Council Session.

**Item 4.1 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina)
(Document CE 18/97/4.1)**

**Item 4.2 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Institutions in Somalia)
(Document CE 18/97/4.2)**

**Item 4.3 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Institutions in Palestine)
(Document CE 18/97/4.3)**

34- The Director General made a presentation on the efforts exerted by the Organization in support of the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia and Palestine. He recalled the visit he had paid to Sarajevo as well as the one paid by ISESCO's delegation to the regions of the National Palestinian Authority, then made a

detailed presentation of the activities and programmes implemented in the three countries, stating by the same token the cost of these activities.

- 35-** The representatives of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia and Palestine took the floor and expressed thanks to the Director General and his assistants for their efforts in support of educational, scientific and cultural institutions in their countries, underlining the necessity to continue and enhance this support through gearing a number of programmes and activities in the Three-Year Plan for the Years 1998-2000. The representative of Bosnia-Herzegovina emphasized the importance of setting up a centre for continuous training of Arabic language and Islamic education teachers in his country, while the representative of Somalia requested the implementation of future activities and programmes in his country in view of the climate of stability presently prevailing in the country.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decisions :

**Decision on Item 4.1 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Organization,
- Recalling the previous Decisions and Resolutions adopted by the Executive Council and General Conference sessions in connection with ISESCO's role in supporting educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina,
- Referring to Decision C.E.17/96/D.5.1, in which the Council paid special tribute to the Director General for the visit he had paid to Sarajevo and for the material and moral assistance thus extended,
- Having examined the Director General's Report on ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, contained in Document C.E.18/97/4.1, submitted to the Sixth Session of the General Conference under code C.G.6/97/4.2,
- Having heard the Representative of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Executive Council,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1.** Thanks the Member States which have extended assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina, and invites the rest of the Member States to provide their financial and academic support to the educational, cultural scientific and religious institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including the patronage of certain educational institutions therein, through bearing their operating expenses and allocating scholarships to Muslim students from Bosnia-Herzegovina who are pursuing their studies within or outside the country;
- 2.** Thanks the Director General for his good implementation of the decisions and resolutions taken by the Executive Council and General Conference sessions in this connection, as well as for his efforts and initiatives in support of these institutions;

3. Invites the Director General to gear some of the programmes of the 1998-2000 Plan in a way to provide the required support to educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
4. Recommends that the General Conference support, at its Sixth Session, the efforts of the Executive Council and the Director General of the Organization with a view to enforcing the decisions relating to the supply of assistance to educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**Decision on Item 4.2 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Organization,
- Recalling the previous Decisions and Resolutions adopted by the Executive Council and General Conference sessions in connection with ISESCO's role in supporting educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Somalia,
- Having examined the Director General's Report on ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia, contained in Document C.E.18/97/4.2, submitted to the Sixth Session of the General Conference under code C.G.6/97/4.4,
- Having heard the Representative of Somalia in the Executive Council,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

1. Expresses deep concern at the predicament of the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Somalia;
2. Launches an appeal to all Somali factions to endeavour to achieve national reconciliation;
3. Invites the Member States to extend technical and material assistance to the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Somalia through the Somali National Commission for Education, Science and Culture in order to promote those institutions and contribute to the reconstruction of schools damaged by war;
4. Invites the Director General to gear some of the programmes of the 1998-2000 Plan in a way to provide the required support to educational, cultural and scientific institutions in Somalia.

**Decision on Item 4.3 of the Agenda :
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Palestine)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the Charter of the Organization,
- Recalling the previous decisions adopted by the Executive Council and the General Conference since 1982 on the support of educational, scientific and cultural institutions of the Palestinian people,

- Having taken cognizance, after examining the report prepared by ISESCO's delegation on the situation of educational, scientific and cultural institutions in the regions of the National Palestinian Authority, which was presented to the OIC Conference of Foreign Ministers in accordance with the directive of the OIC Commission on Economic and Social Affairs,
- Having heard the presentation of the Director General,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

1. Registers its deep appreciation for the Director General for gearing support to educational and cultural institutions of the children of the Palestinian people;
2. Expresses thanks to the delegation set up by the Director General to travel to the regions of the National Palestinian Authority and takes note of the deliberate difficulties created by the occupation authorities;
3. Invites the Director General to :
 - a- gear some of the 1998-2000 Plan's programmes in a way to provide the required support to the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine;
 - b- submit the issue to the consideration of the Executive Council, the General Conference of the Organization and the next Islamic Summit Conference;
 - c- express thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which took the initiative of extending financial support for the maintenance of a number of schools in the regions of the National Palestinian Authority immediately after the takeover of educational institutions by the National Palestinian Authority from the Israeli occupation.

**Item 5.1 of the Agenda
(Date and venue of the Nineteenth Session of the Executive Council)
(Document CE 18/97/5.1)**

36- After deliberations, the Council members agreed to hold the 19th Session at the Seat Country in the second half of November 1998, and took the following decision thereon :

**Decision on Item 5.1 of the Agenda
(Date and venue of the Nineteenth
Session of the Executive Council)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

Convenes its Nineteenth Session in Rabat, in the second half of November 1998.

Seventh Working Session : Tuesday, 2 Shaaban 1418H (2 December 1997)

Afternoon :

Item 5.2 (a) of the Agenda

(Recommendation for electing the Director General for a new term)
(Document CE 18/97/5.2)

37- The Executive Council, meeting in an in camera session, considered the election of the Director General of the Organization for a new term, and took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 5.2 (a) of the Agenda
on Recommending the election of
the Director General for a new term**

The Executive Council,

- Considering its desire to recommend to the General Conference the re-election of Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri as Director General for a new term, taking into account the consensus unanimously reached on the matter among the Council members,
- Considering the outstanding competence proven by Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri at the head of the General Directorate of the Islamic Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization,
- Considering further the tremendous progress and comprehensive development realized by the Organization in its programmes and activities under his wise administration,
- Bearing in mind the success achieved in widening the scope of cooperation with a large number of international and regional organizations,
- Considering the high standing secured by the Organization, under his administration, in its fields of competence on international level, in general, and Islamic level in particular,

Decides the following :

Recommends that the 6th General Conference elect Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri as Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for a new term in view of his outstanding performance in the administration of the Organization on all levels.

**Item 6.1 of the Agenda
(Draft Amendments to the Personnel Regulations)
(Document CE 18/97/6.1)**

38- The Council proceeded with its works in an in camera session and considered the Draft Amendments to the Personnel Regulations. After deliberations, the Council adopted the amendments as per the attached document (Annex 8 : Adopted Personnel Regulations) and took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 6.1 of the Agenda
(Draft Amendments to the Personnel Regulations)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 127 of the Personnel Regulations, and Article 21, paragraph ôk² of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having examined the Draft Amendments to the Personnel Regulations contained in Document C.E. 18/97/6.1,

- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

1. Adopts the amendments to the Personnel Regulations presented in Document C.E. 18/97/6.1, submits them to the General Conference and recommends their adoption;
2. Sets up a committee made up of the representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Gabon, the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam and the Director General with a view to introducing linguistic and stylistic amendments to the amended texts.

Eighth Working Session : Tuesday, 2 Shaaban 1418H (2 December 1997)

Afternoon :

Item 5.2 (b) of the Agenda

(Preparation of the 6th Session of the General Conference)

Documents : CG 6/97/1.1. : Membership of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina,
and Amendment of Article (6) of the Charter and
Observer Status Regulations
Article (2) of the

Agenda of the General

CG 6/97/1.3 Provisional (Revised 4) Draft
Conference

Programme of the

CG 6/97/1.3 Provisional (Revised 4) Draft
General Conference

39- The Director General presented the draft amendments to Article (6) of the Charter and Article (2) of the Observer Status Regulations with a view to affirming the status of Bosnia-Herzegovina as full member of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, indicating that the Organization had received several favourable responses from Member States supporting this motion.

40- The Director General presented the draft agenda of the 6th General Conference. During the deliberations, the representative of Palestine moved a notion consisting in adding a new item on support of educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine.

41- The Director General presented, then, the draft programme of the 6th General Conference. During deliberations, it was proposed to amend the programme in order to have a single working session per day.

Then, the Executive Council took the following decision :

Decision on Item 5.2 of the Agenda

(Preparation for the Sixth Session of the General Conference)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 21 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having examined the documents of the Sixth Session of the General Conference, in particular :

- * Document C.G.6/97/1.1, regarding the membership of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the amendment of Article 6 of the Charter and Article 2 of the Observer Status Regulations.
- * Document C.G.6/97/1.3 Provisional (Rev.), regarding the adoption of the Agenda.
- * Document C.G.6/97/1.4 Provisional (Rev.), regarding the adoption of the Programme of the Conference.

- Considering the clarifications made by the Director General,

Decides the following :

Recommends that the Sixth Session of the General Conference :

1. Approve the amendment proposed to Article 6 of the Charter and Article 2 of the Observer Status Regulations in order to accept the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as full member of ISESCO as per Document C.G.6/97/1.1;
2. Adopt the Agenda of the Sixth Session of the General Conference as contained in Document C.G.6/97/1.3 Provisional (Rev.), along with the amendments proposed by the Executive Council (Annex 9);
3. Adopt the Programme of the Conference as contained in Document C.G.6/97/1.4 Provisional (Rev.), along with the amendments proposed by the Executive Council (Annex 10).

42- On the occasion of the National Day of the State of the United Arab Emirates, the Executive Council addressed the following message to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates :

***His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan
President of the State of the United Arab Emirates
Abu Dhabi***

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatu Allah wa Barakatuh,

The Members of the Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), meeting in their 18th Session, held in Riyadh, capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 29 Rajab to 3 Shaaban 1418 A.H. (29 November - 3 December 1997) have the honour of conveying to Your Highness their warmest congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the National Day of the State of the United Arab Emirates, and avail themselves of this happy opportunity to express to you their profound appreciation for the support you extend to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. They highly commend your noble stands in the promotion of the cause of Islam and Muslims, the defense of the supreme interests of the Islamic Ummah, the consolidation of Islamic solidarity and the strengthening of joint Islamic action.

May God Almighty always bless your endeavours, guide your steps and crown your action and initiatives with success. May God protect you in the interest of your people and country, to lead them to greater progress and prosperity and keep you to remain a staunch supporter of the Islamic Ummah, contributing to its goodness and bounty.

On behalf of them.

Ninth Working Session : Wednesday, 3 Shaaban 1418H (3 December 1997)

Evening :

- 43-** The Closing Session started with the presentation made by the head of the four-member Committee set up by the Council to settle the issue of arrears and contributions to the budget of the Islamic Organization under financial year 1997. He put forward the recommendations and proposals suggested by the Committee. After deliberations, the Council affirmed the decision it had taken in this connection (Decision on Item 2.5 of the Agenda), and insistingly called upon all the Member States to honour their annual obligations and directed to approach the Member States which have contributions in arrears, in order to reach practical solutions for honouring their annual obligations according to a convenient rescheduling or programming. The Council reminded of the possibility for these countries to benefit from the decision taken by the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference to cut down these arrears by 50%.
- 44-** The representative of Bosnia-Herzegovina then delivered a statement in which he thanked the Organization for the support it had extended to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as for the activities it had carried out therein. He also expressed thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Member States for their unstinted assistance to his country.
- 45-** The Draft Final Report was submitted to the Council, and adopted unanimously.
- 46-** The Director General took the floor, praising Almighty God for the success which crowned the Council's efforts, indicating that the Council Session had been distinct in terms of the issues discussed as well as the excellent organization and accurate preparation, in addition to the boundless generosity and lofty royal hosting, which was appreciated by each and everyone. He pointed out that the Session had given new impetus to the Islamic Organization and injected new blood in it, which would enable it to prepare the scientific and cultural climate for ushering our Ummah into the 21st century with stronger capacities and more abundant resources in order to secure our natural and legitimate rights to comprehensive progress and prosperity. He concluded his address by extending thanks, appreciation and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud as well as to the Ministry of Higher Education for the generous hospitality, kind assistance and support, and lavish hospitality.

**(Annex 11 : Address by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman
Altawaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization at the Closing of the 18th Session of the Executive Council)**

- 46-** At the end of the Session, the Executive Council addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, in appreciation for his generous hosting of the Council Session's proceedings and his unstinted support to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The

Council members also expressed in the message their pride on the tremendous accomplishments made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all fields under his prosperous reign.