

In recent decades, human and social sciences have acquired greater importance, not only within specialized scientific spheres but also as mechanisms guiding the orientations of nations and states and the bases of interactions between cultures and civilizations. This field is no longer confined within the abstract intellectual theorizing and academic practice, but has taken a pivotal position in the global development process. Issues usually addressed within the confines of scientific institutions have shifted to the strategic circles within which decisions are developed and taken and that define the destinies of peoples and communities. Conscious of this increasingly critical role of social and human sciences in determining the future of individuals and societies, the Directorate General of the Organization decided to dedicate a full directorate to this important dimension with effect from this three-year Action Plan (2016-2018), bringing together what was divided over other directorates and coordinating the relevant programmes and activities that had been programmed and carried out under previous action plans but without being under the same umbrella before.

ISESCO endeavored to introduce new axes to this Directorate, embodied in particular by prospective and strategic studies and research in the fields related to social and human sciences, whether affecting the Islamic world or the international community, and the mutual impacts of these fields on both.

In line with this three-year Action Plan (2016-2018), the strategies and reference documents prepared by the Organization and adopted by the Executive Council and the General Conference as well as by specialized ministerial conferences, guided by UN and international declarations and programmes, cognizant of the challenges experienced by the Islamic world and conscious of the priorities set by Member States in their national plans, ISESCO has identified two sector-based priorities around which action within this Directorate will revolve. These priorities are: **“promoting the role of human values and community institutions in achieving sustainable development in the Islamic world”** and **“developing policies, plans and studies in the social and human fields to serve human development in Member States”**.

Under these two priorities, the Organization will focus on projects, programmes and activities that could help protect the cultural values of the Islamic world, boost their role in human development and promote their integration and interaction with human and universal values, considering as critical the issues of human rights, citizenship, countering extremism and violence, encouraging dialogue and consolidating peace and security. More attention will also be paid to strengthening the role of community institutions in the global development process, particularly civil society organizations,

youth and women leaderships, and child and family protection and development organizations. A number of programs and activities will be geared at providing technical expertise and institutional support to Member States as they draw their national policies to promote social cohesion, solidarity and voluntary initiatives, in order to contribute effectively towards society's development. An equally important component will be the field studies to be conducted, the creation of observatories and specialized networks to take stock of social developments, transformations and trends in the Islamic world, monitor them and engage in projections whilst involving different role-layers and decision-makers in proposing and establishing the ways of dealing with them.

To this end, three projects were selected to implement the vision and objectives mentioned above in the 2016-2018 period, namely:

- 1. Project on strengthening youth educational roles in fostering coexistence and addressing contemporary international issues.**
- 2. Project on social transformations toward building cohesive and prosperous societies.**
- 3. Project on addressing youth, childhood and women issues in the Islamic world.**

## **1. Project on strengthening youth educational roles in fostering coexistence and addressing contemporary international issues**

General framework:

Experts agree that education is the main lever for sustainable development and the pivotal tool for positive impact on learners' behavioral patterns vis-à-vis their natural and human surroundings. Based on this premise, both formal and non-formal education have an important role in equipping youth with the needed knowledge and skills that **qualify them to perform new educational roles**, and ensure their effective contribution in **addressing contemporary social issues**, at the national, regional or international level, such as **environmental protection, promoting preventive health, combating corruption and bribery, strengthening the drive for free economic enterprise, promoting democracy and human rights, respecting cultural and religious diversity, and fostering peace and coexistence.**

The choice of this project came as a confirmation of ISESCO's commitment to follow up the resolutions and recommendations falling within its areas of competence and which are contained in the **Jeddah Declaration on the Development of Youth Issues in Islamic World**, adopted by the Second Islamic Conference of Youth Ministers (Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 17-18 March 2014), and in response to the orientations of the **UN Millennium Declaration**, to consolidate the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples in the hearts and behaviours of young people, and the **recommendations of the 2011 and 2013 World Youth Reports** released by the UN Focal Point on Youth which addressed specifically the impact of migration on youth social roles. In addition, this project has been also chosen as a response to the aspirations of the youth in our Member States, looking forward to taking responsibility and playing a greater role in decision-making, so as to become **real partners in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of national development policies, and in building social peace within their own countries and beyond.**

During the years 2016-2018, focus under this project will be placed on **identifying new roles for young people in their communities, on the regional and international levels, in order to effect a transition from “working for the benefit of young people” to “working in partnership with young people”**. Action in this regard will also seek to raise awareness of the need for young people to be mobilized for the advancement of these roles, to look for solutions to the problems and obstacles that limit the effectiveness of their community participation, and to provide them with the educational upgrading which matches their aspirations and their new roles in community building. This can be achieved through **proposing the suitable mechanisms to activate these roles, preparing specialized studies and a guidebook on activating the new roles for young people through education, paving the way for young leaders to provide their appropriate conceptions and plans** in this regard,

confirming **the participatory approach** in formal and non-formal education and training programmes, artistic creative activities, and education on free enterprise, and promoting the spirit of leadership and innovation.

Objectives:

- To activate the participatory approach in Member States' national educational policies to enable the youth to actively contribute to devising these policies based on a horizontal and integrated methodology that strengthens the educational roles of youth in promoting the sectors of culture, information, communication, economy, environment, health and sports.
- To equip young learners with knowledge, skills and patterns of behaviour that will mobilize them to contribute to addressing contemporary social and international issues.
- To benefit from artistic education programmes and extra-curricular, volunteer, and sport activities to activate the role of youth in addressing issues of development and coexistence.
- To strengthen the integration of subjects of education in citizenship and human rights into the curricula of the various stages of education in Member States, to entrench civic values and strengthen the foundations of coexistence amongst the components of society, to promote human rights culture among youth based on the Islamic doctrinal references and the orientations and contents of relevant Islamic and international agreements, declarations and covenants.
- To train educational staff on modern methods and the use of ICTs in teaching youth programmes on the environment, healthcare and civic education.
- To involve civil society associations and young leaders in youth mobilization campaigns in the areas of environmental protection, health-care, and community cohesion.

Areas of intervention:

- Member States' policies and curricula pertaining to youth roles in community development.
- Partnership, coordination and cooperation with youth action institutions to consolidate coexistence and social peace through education.

Partners:

National Commissions and competent parties in Member States, UNESCO, ALECSO, the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation affiliated to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Council of Europe, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), European Association of History Educators (EUROCLIO), ISESCO Regional Center for Education on the

Culture of Peace in Côte d'Ivoire, Oxford Center for Islamic Studies in Britain, non-governmental organizations, and civil society associations.

Total budget:

**US\$ 570,120.00**

Area of intervention 1: Member States' policies and curricula pertaining to youth roles in community development

As part of promoting the education of youth to enable them to contribute effectively to the achievement of their communities development, emphasis, within this area of intervention, will be on raising awareness of decision-makers and young people in Member States about the need to develop national educational policies in Member States in accordance with a participatory approach that allows young people to actively contribute to devising these policies and developing education and training curricula, based on the horizontal and integrated approach that strengthens youth educational roles in promoting the sectors of culture, information, communication, economy, the environment, health and sports, and aims at building integrated programmes between educational and youth policies, issues of women, disability, health, the environment etc. In this regard, youth and education policy makers and youth leadership in Member States will meet and participate in making conceptual frameworks for the new roles assigned to young people through education in addressing current issues such as global warming, industrial pollution, preventive health, combating corruption and bribery, and awareness-raising about the dangers of illegal immigration and drug abuse. Focus will also be placed on the practical aspects related to the concerns and issues of young learners, use of modern methodologies and ICTs in order to strengthen linkages between educational and research institutions and their local and international community issues, reinforce their role in addressing them, expand the scope of their activities and coverage to accommodate parallel youth structures, for example school and university youth clubs for education in development, and to incorporate into their training educational programmes free volunteer activities during quarterly or annual holidays that will mobilize the energies of young people to face social ills and natural disasters and support social projects geared to the poor and the marginalized. In order to carry out these activities in accordance with an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach, artistic, sport and extra-curricular education programmes, such as painting, music, theatre, cinema, and sports will be used in mobilizing young people and employing their creative energies and various forms of artistic and sport expression in addressing and raising awareness about issues of the environment, groups with special needs, gender, extremism, terrorism and dialogue. ISESCO will provide support and appreciation awards to student clubs and associations with outstanding activities and achievements in the areas of sustainable development.

Expected outcome: consolidating awareness amongst all stakeholders in the youth sector of the need to involve youth in addressing contemporary **social and global issues and train them to perform their roles in achieving development**

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building capacities in the preparation of national participatory youth policies that promote the new roles of youth through education and training.</li>   <li>• Promoting artistic education programmes and extra-curricular, volunteer, and educational youth-oriented programmes to address sustainable development issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holding a regional meeting for officials on the “participatory approach in devising national youth policies in accordance with a horizontal integrated approach to enhance youth educational roles in addressing contemporary issues”.</li> <li>• Organizing 3 regional training sessions for youth leaders in the area of setting up and managing youth structures that reinforce the roles of young people in community development through education.</li> <li>• Supporting the creation of human development centers to combat social ills such as drug abuse, cybercrimes, and depletion of environmental resources, and placing them at the disposal of the youth in order to train qualified staff to address these phenomena.</li> <li>• Preparing 2 specialized studies and a guide on the new youth roles in addressing development issues through education.</li> <li>• Dedicating an appreciation prize for the best creative works of young learners on addressing one of the issues of sustainable development.</li> <li>• Extending support to educational and academic institutions with pioneering programmes in the field of voluntary youth action for development.</li> <li>• Organizing seminars about ways to benefit from artistic and sports education programmes in strengthening the role of young learners and harnessing their creative energies to address sustainable development issues.</li> </ul>

Area of intervention 2: partnership, coordination and cooperation with youth action institutions to consolidate coexistence and social peace through education

Based on the results of programmes implemented to activate the role of education in consolidating shared human values, by integrating them into patterns of behavior and practices that promote community cohesion and facilitate co-existence in a world characterized by cultural and religious diversity, action within this area of intervention will be focused on dedicating more educational activities aimed at training youth on adopting the values of peace, human rights, citizenship, and respect for the other regardless of cultural and religious differences. This will be pursued through the implementation of diverse and integrated activities, such as raising awareness of

curriculum managers in Member States on the need to further integrate the subjects of education on citizenship and human rights in the curricula at various stages of education in Member States so as to entrench the values of citizenship, strengthen the pillars of co-existence between the components of society, and promote human rights culture among young people in accordance with the Islamic doctrinal references and the orientations and contents of conventions, declarations, and relevant Islamic and international covenants. Other activities will include organizing open days in educational institutions, for the benefit of young people and with their participation, on the role of education in redressing the image of the other and providing the necessary expertise and training to strengthen the national capacities of educational staff in this area through training on the optimal use of the “Guidebook for History Textbooks Authors: On a common path”, published by ISESCO in collaboration with its partners, and in the field of human rights, citizenship and social peace through training programmes provided by ISESCO Regional Center for Education on the Culture of Peace in Côte d'Ivoire.

Since the main goals of this project are to strengthen the role of education in presenting the correct image of Islam and addressing Islamophobia pursuant to the Strategy for Islamic Cultural Action for Muslims outside the Islamic World, open days in educational institutions in the West will continue to be organized, within this area of intervention, to educate young learners on the tolerant values of Islam and Muslims' contribution to civilization and world peace.

In the same vein, and in close cooperation with international specialized organizations with common interest, programmes that fall under ISESCO and UNESCO chairs for a culture of peace and dialogue, UNESCO associated schools and ISESCO clubs networks, and the training programmes on the use of the guidebook prepared by the Council of Europe, ISESCO and their partners on the “Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims: Addressing Islamophobia through Education”, and the “Guidebook for History Textbooks Authors: On a common path” will be further promoted.

Activities carried out in this area will also include the continued awarding of ISESCO and the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies (OCIS ) Prize for Educators with outstanding contributions in enhancing the values of coexistence and tolerance among youngsters, and the use of non-formal education programmes geared to or implemented by youth as part of their artistic, cultural and sports clubs, to unleash their creative potential in the promotion of shared values and renunciation of violence and extremism.

Expected outcome: improving youth training and encouraging their creativity in education on peace and coexistence values

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing expertise and building capacities in the field of youth education on human rights and respect for cultural and religious diversity.</li> <li>• Raising awareness within educational institutions of respect for cultural and religious pluralism.</li> <li>• Promoting artistic and non-formal education programmes for youth in entrenching shared human values.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holding 6 training workshops for young trainers at ISESCO Regional Center for Education on the Culture of Peace in Cote d'Ivoire.</li> <li>• Organizing open days within educational institutions in Member States and in Western countries to raise awareness among young learners of the values of peace and co-existence and to provide the true image of the other.</li> <li>• Extending support to student clubs and associations to implement their educational and artistic activities inside and outside educational institutions on raising awareness of respect for cultural and religious diversity, and the need to integrate it into behaviours and practices.</li> <li>• Dedicating an appreciation prize to the best creative works of young learners on raising awareness about values of peace and co-existence.</li> </ul>

## **2. Project on social transformations toward building cohesive and prosperous societies**

General framework:

A huge political, social, economic, cultural and intellectual metamorphosis in our societies is being witnessed in the Third Millennium due to the globalization process and fast technological innovations. This process entails new social and behavioural patterns which require us to closely observe social transformations and analyze attendant threats and turbulences, such as growing social discrimination, and regression with regard to respect for social, economic and cultural rights of the people, and rampant extremism and terrorism.

Within the areas of expertise of the Directorate of Human and Social Sciences, ISESCO will continue to analyze transformation of social patterns in the light of new knowledge and in the very spirit of the Islamic teachings. In this connection, the project will focus on monitoring major social transformations, probe deeply into their causes and provide exact data, the aim being to enable educational, cultural and information policy-makers to develop field plans and programmes to address the implications of these mutations, including social and behavioural deviances. The General Directorate of ISESCO will ensure internal consultation and coordination on this cross-cutting project.

Equal focus will be placed on monitoring and analysing issues related to respect for and promotion of human rights, in line with the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam (CDHRI), and with the aim to fight against all types of social discrimination in the light of Islamic values and foster social, human, economic and cultural development. Special focus will be on promoting civil and political rights as specified by Islamic and international human rights' declarations such as the right to life and liberty, freedom of expression, and equality before the law, in order to firm-up foundations of peace and justice and enable people to live with each other in dignity and freedom. ISESCO will further work to ensure women's full enjoyment of their rights guaranteed by Islam and project women's role in social development. Particular attention will be devoted to analyzing the causes of and developing solutions to increased violence among the youth, improving youth participation in the social development process and consolidating their role in the society.

Preservation of peace is more important in this turmoil era than ever in the past. In this regard, studies and researches under this project will be partly devoted to presenting new, practical proposals in the areas of education, culture, arts and information, with the objective of consolidating understanding as well as preserving and promoting peace and security within societies; fostering the values inherent to dialogue as a means to resolving ethnic, sectarian and other conflicts; countering Islamophobia and laying bare crimes perpetrated against the Palestinian people.

Healthcare, poverty reduction and life quality amelioration issues have always been at the core of ISESCO's agenda for sustainable development. Hence, the project will seek to engage experts and specialists in devising innovative and realistic projects and

programmes to help relevant parties deal with existing problems being faced by poor communities, with the aim to alleviate their sufferings, create economic opportunities for them and provide them with the necessary social and healthcare services.

Objectives:

- To analyze the social, human, economic transformations both for understanding and monitoring social phenomena and for addressing their impacts.
- To protect and promote social, human, economic, environmental and cultural rights in the light of the Islamic law and international human rights declarations.
- To foster peace in societies and enhancing social cohesion and values of solidarity and brotherhood.
- To alleviate poverty and ameliorate the quality of life in the needy communities through reinforcing the capacities of professionals and government institutions in poverty eradication policies, strategies and action plans.
- To ameliorate health standards through improving health services and combating communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Area of intervention:

- Investigating social, human and economic transformations toward building cohesive and prosperous societies.

Partners:

- Ministries of health, social welfare as well as concerned social welfare institutions and social and human research departments in the universities.
- UN and other specialized international, regional and national organizations working in the sphere of social welfare, peace, health, human rights and alleviation of poverty.
- Civil society actors, social and welfare organizations, non-governmental and charity organizations.

Total budget:

**US\$ 1,006,293.00**

Area of intervention 1: investigating social, human and economic transformations toward building cohesive and prosperous societies

In today's society where rapid transformations are taking place, it is necessary to examine and analyze the changing patterns of society to protect the characteristics of the Muslim society and immunize future generations from deviations. Action will, therefore, be directed toward supporting research and studies to provide an analysis of new social transformations; the express aim is to understand related human behavioral patterns,

social and cultural trends which are giving new shapes to our societies. The issues of critical importance to the needs of the society and major challenges being faced by the Muslim communities will be accorded priority in these studies. Harmony in development and promotion of international standards for major social transformations will be promoted through holding useful forums for experts and sociologists to discuss these transformations and offer practical solutions. Similar activities will be designed to assist social and human sciences institutions, universities and research centers in improving their research works on addressing societal issues related to learning, human rights, social cohesion and economic development.

Expected outcome: improved understanding of social patterns and economic transformations to aid officials in making realistic decisions and help education, culture and information staff to accurately devise and put into action field plans and programmes, and redress ensuing behavior deviations and disorders

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support extended to studies and research to increase understanding of social and economic transformation issues.</li> <li>• Consolidated social and human sciences policies, and Islamic economy promoted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting or supporting 12 studies and researches focused on urgent social issues impacting Muslim societies' developmental conditions.</li> <li>• Supporting 12 university research projects on social and human sciences.</li> <li>• Awarding 30 research grants in social and human sciences.</li> <li>• Conducting 3 study programmes to promote social and human science policies and on Islamic economy.</li> <li>• Organizing 9 meetings of experts in human and social sciences.</li> <li>• Awarding ISESCO Prize for best studies and researches in social and human sciences.</li> </ul>

### **3. Project on addressing youth, childhood and women issues in the Islamic world**

General framework:

Building on the outcomes of the specialized Islamic ministerial conferences held by ISESCO, particularly in the fields of childhood and youth, and in the light of the documents, guidelines and resolutions they issued which set out the general policies of Member States, and in view of the Organization's sum of achievements throughout its three-year action plans with regard to youth, childhood and women in Member States, and in implementation of the guidelines of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World as the reference document of cultural action in the Islamic world, and recalling the outcomes of the international forums and conferences it co/organized, ISESCO will, under the three-year Action Plan for 2016-2018, continue its efforts aimed at advancing the conditions of young people, protecting childhood, building the capacities of women in the Islamic world, and caring for the elderly and the disabled. This stems from its profound awareness of the status held by young people, children and women in the fabric of society in the Islamic world, not only as simple demographics, but in consideration of the implications of the fast-paced social mutations witnessed by the Islamic world and many other countries around the world, and the repercussions of these changes on all aspects of life, political, economic, social and cultural.

In this context, and being committed to devoting further attention to these social categories (youth, children and women) and to the protection of their rights, the Directorate will focus its action in three areas: national youth policies, cultural roles and integrated youth programmes, international legislation and laws and national strategies and programmes on the protection, advancement and survival of children, as well as laws and policies on women, their empowerment, capacity-building and contribution to social development.

Objectives:

- To boost the roles of young people in the advancement of their societies, contribute to mobilizing them for an effective participation in comprehensive sustainable development, and enhance their intervention in community development.
- To contribute to the protection of children and their rights, ensure their safety and wellbeing, and address the challenges facing them.
- To improve the capacities of women in the Islamic world, protect their rights and gains, and enable them to actively participate in political, economic, cultural and social fields in the Islamic world.

Areas of intervention:

- National youth policies, cultural roles and cross-cutting programmes.
- Legal and social protection of children against violence.

- National laws, policies and plans aimed at women, improving their conditions and building their capacities.

Partners:

- Ministries in charge of youth, sports, culture, social development, justice and human rights, issues of youth, women and children in Member States.
- Civil society organizations and bodies working with youth, children and women in the Islamic world.
- Islamic, Arab and international federations and organizations pursuing similar interests.

Total budget:

**US\$ 1,213,827.00**

Area of intervention 1: national youth policies, cultural roles and cross-cutting programmes

Guided by the outcome of studies and research carried out by the Directorate under this focus area, ISESCO will work towards supporting national youth policies, in line with a methodology that allows young people to actively contribute to the formulation of these policies, and an integrated approach aimed at building integrated youth and sports programmes and policies in Member States. ISESCO will continue its efforts to promote youth issues and support their federations, boards and bodies and boost their developmental roles through civil society organizations. It will also endeavor to build the capacities of young people and rally them to the Ummah's causes. ISESCO will pay special attention to playing an active part in activating the "strategy for promoting youth and addressing their related issues in the Islamic world" it is in the process of formulating in cooperation with the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF), and in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat. To this end, the Organization will continue its efforts to entrench the values of citizenship and dialogue and the culture of tolerance among young people, and address the manifestations of violence and extremism that are regrettably on the increase among youth. The aim is to consecrate young people's participation in the modernization and democratic edification project as a social entitlement and a cornerstone of citizenship in contemporary societies.

Expected outcome: advancement of youth conditions and building their capacities to participate in public life

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying the needs and aspirations of young people and contribute to the advancement of their causes and preoccupations.</li> <li>• Supporting the efforts of youth organizations and bodies and civil society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting 3 youth innovative projects on environmental, voluntary and sports actions.</li> <li>• Holding 3 regional youth forums on citizenship, human rights, voluntary work and promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace.</li> </ul>

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<p>organizations involved in enabling young people and building their capacities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness of the status of youth and their roles in community development and comprehensive development.</li> <li>• Contributing to activating the strategy for promoting youth and addressing their related issues in the Islamic world.</li> <li>• Immunizing the youth, heightening their sense of belonging, protecting their identity and ensuring their cultural development.</li> <li>• Caring for the elderly and address their needs and preoccupations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-organization of 6 youth scout meetings in Member States.</li> <li>• Organization of a youth forum for the representatives of youth organizations and youth supreme councils in Member States.</li> <li>• Holding 3 regional workshops for the heads of elderly care centers in Member States.</li> <li>• Holding 3 regional meetings of youth and sports experts.</li> <li>• Holding 3 regional training workshops for youth centers managers on the role Member States' young people in the management of those centers.</li> <li>• Holding 6 training sessions for young people in the Member States on the innovation and management of micro-projects.</li> </ul>

Area of intervention 2: legal and social protection of children against violence

Protecting children is a religious and legal obligation. Yet, the abuse and exploitation of children and all other forms of violence to which they are subjected constitute one of the many issues facing the international community today, including the Islamic world. International and regional reports and data confirm that hundreds of millions of children worldwide are subjected to abuse as a result of wars, violence, exploitation, neglect and other forms of ill-treatment and discrimination. These children suffer from permanent disabilities, are profoundly scarred as a result of armed conflicts, internally displaced or evicted from their homes to become refugees, work in hazardous and unsafe conditions, or are exploited and abducted for human trafficking and commercial purposes that often include sexual exploitation. There are also millions of other children, less visible, who are victims of violence at home, in schools, on the streets, in shelters, in detention centers, prisons and other juvenile justice facilities. Children of the families of immigrants and minorities may be at a greater risk.

In this context, and guided by the studies and research carried out by the Directorate of Social and Human Sciences, ISESCO will continue its efforts to provide legal and social protection to children against all forms of violence and to raise awareness of its dangers, by giving body to the statements issued by different sessions of the Islamic Conference of Ministers in Charge of Childhood (Rabat, Khartoum, Tripoli, Baku, and Abu Dhabi) and urging Member States to adhere to their contents and translate their directives into national policies.

Furthermore, ISESCO is determined to take an active part in implementing the guidelines and objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2016-2030 in favor of children of the Islamic world.

Expected outcome: protection of children and their rights and contribution to addressing violence against children in the Islamic world

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring progress in achieving MDGs with regard to children of the Islamic world.</li> <li>Supporting the efforts of Member States to implement the UN SDGs for 2016-2030 with regard to children.</li> <li>Raising awareness of child rights in the Islamic world and endeavor to protect and preserve them.</li> <li>Addressing violence, exploitation and abuse against children in the Islamic world.</li> <li>Supporting the efforts of civil society organizations and bodies working in the field of child protection and care.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holding the 6<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Ministers in charge of Childhood.</li> <li>Holding the 3<sup>rd</sup> ISESCO Forum of Muslim World Children.</li> <li>Holding 3 regional meetings of childhood experts in the Islamic world.</li> <li>Holding a regional forum on the UN SDGs for 2016-2030 and children of the Islamic world.</li> <li>Holding the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the heads of child protection institutions in the Islamic world.</li> <li>Co-holding and co-organizing 6 international and regional conferences and forums on children.</li> <li>Supporting 3 child-oriented artistic creations and literary writings.</li> <li>Holding 3 regional training courses for the benefit of officials of child protection centers in the Member States.</li> <li>Holding 3 regional training workshops for the benefit of the heads of civil society organizations concerned with children.</li> </ul>

Area of intervention 3: national laws, policies and plans on women, improving the conditions of women and building their capacities

To enable women to fully and equitably participate in all spheres of life, and to ensure their enjoyment of their civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights and liberties on equal footing with men, ISESCO will endeavor to activate the implementation of all laws and agreements aimed at improving the conditions of women in Member States, especially in rural areas.

Accordingly, and guided by the outcome of studies and research carried out by the Directorate of Social and Human Sciences, ISESCO will continue to monitor the conditions of women in Member States and identify priorities and needs whilst taking into account cultural diversity and civilizational heritage and seeking to fight all forms of discrimination and violence against women and contribute to creating living and health conditions that are conducive to the guarantee of decent life governed by universal values and Islamic teachings.

In view of the success achieved through the productive woman project pursued under previous action plans, ISESCO will continue to encourage and support income-generating projects by women, especially in traditional industries and know-how, enhance women's roles in entrepreneurship, business, research, and creativity, and empower them to access decision-making spheres.

Expected outcome: integration of women's rights in the national policies of Member States and activation of legislation on women's rights

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing reference documents that define women's rights and gains in terms of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental liberties.</li> <li>• Developing rural women's skills and encouraging them to engage in income-generating activities, especially traditional industry products and the development of traditional knowledge.</li> <li>• Supporting the access of women to the world of finance and business in urban and rural areas.</li> <li>• Promoting the presence of women in public office.</li> <li>• Facilitating the access of women to the political, cultural and social decision-making spheres, and their participation in the management of public affairs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of 3 workshops for the development of traditional knowledge and skills among rural women.</li> <li>• Holding 3 regional symposia on empowering female leadership.</li> <li>• Prepare a study on women's creativity and its role in sustainable development in the Islamic world.</li> <li>• Organization of a regional forum on women's entrepreneurship.</li> <li>• Co-supporting 3 national and international forums aimed at shedding light on the Islamic perspective and correcting the image of Muslim women outside the Islamic world; and organization of 1 forum for the same purpose.</li> <li>• Celebration of 3 outstanding women in the fields of culture, literature and arts in Member States.</li> <li>• Holding an international symposium on "empowerment of women in public policies of the Member States".</li> <li>• Launching ISESCO Ambassador for Women and Child Affairs Programme.</li> </ul>