



Islamic Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization

ISESCO



EC 36/2015/F.R.



**Ministry of Culture and Tourism
of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

Executive 36 Council 36th Session

Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

11-12 Safar 1437H / 23-24 November 2015

Final Report

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The Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) held its 36th session in Baku, capital-city of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on 11-12 Safar 1437 A.H. / 23-24 November 2015. Taking part in this session were the members of the Council and their accompanying delegations, except for the representatives of the Republic of Yemen, the Republic of Suriname, the Republic of Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Morocco.

1. The opening session was presided over by H.E. Dr Boubakar Doukouré, Chairman of ISESCO Executive Council, in the presence of H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), H.E. Dr Abulfaz Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and a host of intellectuals and media professionals.
2. After recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, H.E. Dr Abulfaz Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan, gave an address wherein he welcomed the members of the Executive Council, while expressing his deep gratitude for choosing Baku as a venue for the 36th session of the Executive Council and the 12th session of the General Conference.

He also commended the Organization's record of performance in its fields of action, expressing pride in the membership of Azerbaijan in ISESCO since its independence. In the same vein, he lauded the leading role of H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, in the achievements made by the Republic of Azerbaijan in education, science, culture and communication, through organizing a number of specialized Islamic ministerial conferences in Baku over the previous years, choosing Baku as the 2009 Islamic Culture Capital, and appointing the First Lady of the Republic of Azerbaijan as ISESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations.

In addition, Dr Garayev extended his deep thanks to ISESCO and the Member States for their support to the Republic of Azerbaijan in its just cause to recover its Nagorno-Karabakh region, inviting ISESCO Member States to actively participate in youth and international forums and activities to be hosted by Azerbaijan in 2016 and 2017.

3. Then, Dr Boubakar Doukouré, Chairman of ISESCO Executive Council, gave an address in which he expressed deep gratitude to the President, government and people of the Republic of Azerbaijan, while commending the importance of this session which, he said, is a turning point in ISESCO's onward march over thirty-three years of achievement.

Besides, he hailed the high rate of implementation of ISESCO's programmes and activities under the 2013-2015 action plan, which is indicative of the Organization's commitment to stepping up efforts of Member States and strengthening their capacities within the fields of its competence. In addition, he expressed his pride in ISESCO's remarkable achievements under the leadership of H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, both in implementing programmes and in devising plans and reference documents, the ultimate goal being to achieve the lofty goals for the educational, scientific, cultural and communication development of the Muslim world. At the close of his address, Dr Doukouré wished every success to the Council's session.

4. The floor was then given to ISESCO Director General, H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, who welcomed the Council's Chairman and members, and expressed his thanks and gratitude to the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting this session as well as the 12th session of the General Conference.

He also pointed out that this session takes on special importance as it is the concluding session of the 2013-2015 Action Plan, paving the way for the forthcoming Action Plan and Budget for the Years (2016-2018) whose draft will be submitted to the 12th General Conference for approval. In addition, he expressed ISESCO's constant readiness to perform the enormous tasks and responsibilities, building, after the help of Allah, on the Member States' growing confidence in and unwavering support to the General Directorate.

Furthermore, the Director General stated that the Organization, under the ending action plan, managed to boost its performance and to provide valuable services to Member States and Muslim communities outside the Islamic world according to a strategic vision based on addressing Member States' needs, increasing exposure to new advancements in its fields of competence and boosting cooperation with similar organizations. Moreover, Dr Altwaijri stressed that ISESCO will open up broadened horizons for development, modernization, renewal and improvement, taking into account the successive changes across the world, especially in the Islamic world of which various parts suffer unstable conditions and armed conflicts. In the same vein, he emphasized the Organization's important roles within its fields of competence in spreading the culture of peace and tolerance, consolidating the values of dialogue, countering sectarian tendencies, redressing stereotypes about Islam and rejecting currents of violence and extremism and crimes of terrorism.

At the close of his address, Dr Altwaijri expressed his thanks to the Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the facilitations to hold this session of the Executive Council and the 12th session of the General Conference.

5. Afterwards, the members of the Executive Council posed for a souvenir photo. Also, a reception was given in honour of participants.
6. At the beginning of the first working session, the Chairman of the Executive Council welcomed the new members of the Council, namely the representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the State of Palestine, the State of Qatar, the Republic of

Kyrgyzstan, the State of Kuwait, Libya, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He also invited the Council to recite Al Fatiha in remembrance of the late representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone who passed away during this year. In the same vein, he extended his sincere condolences on behalf of the Executive Council to the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Chad and the Republic of Cameroon and their representatives at the Council for the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in their respective countries.

Thereafter, the Chairman of the Executive Council presented the Draft Agenda and Draft Programme of the 36th session of the Executive Council, which were adopted.

7. For his part, the Director General presented the reports and documents placed on the agenda of the Council's 36th session, providing an account of ISESCO's major achievements in 2014, which is the second year of the Action Plan for 2013-2015. He also presented the Report of the Director General for the Years 2010-2012, the Progress Report for the Years 2013-2015 on the Evaluation of the Organization's Action, the Financial Report and Closing Accounts, Report of the Audit Company and Report of the Financial Control Committee for the Year 2014 presented by the Chairman of the Financial Control Committee, the Report of the Director General on the Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Organization's Financial Situation for the Year 2014. He then presented the draft Three-Year Action Plan and Budget for 2016-2018, the draft amendment to ISESCO Organizational Chart, the draft amendment to ISESCO Charter and Internal Regulations, the draft modification to ISESCO Logo, the Situation of ISESCO Regional Offices, and the data regarding preparations for the General Conference's 12th session, the re-election of the Director General, and the date and venue for the Executive Council's 37th session.
8. After the introductory notes and presentations made by the Director General, and following due consideration of the relevant reports and documents placed on the agenda of the Council's 36th session and their discussion at the public and in-camera sessions, the Council members, at the closing session, made the annexed decisions after putting forward several observations which can be summed up as follows:
9. **The Report of the Director General on ISESCO's Activities for 2014 (Document EC 36/2015/2.1)**
 - Commending the efforts exerted by the Director General and his assistants in implementing various activities in the Organization's fields of competence and the allocation of the two-thirds of ISESCO's annual budget for the implementation of these activities, in a bid to step up the Member States' educational, scientific, cultural and communication policies, plans and programmes.
 - Commending the high rate of implementation of scheduled activities which exceeded 80%, while calling for including in the coming reports data on non-implemented activities and monitoring the impact of non-implementation on the achievement of the objectives set forth.

- Working towards ensuring that all Member States benefit, on a yearly basis, from ISESCO's programmes and activities in the fields of its competence, and enhancing ISESCO's presence in the Member States suffering from illiteracy to help them fight this scourge.
- Ensuring prior coordination with the competent authorities of Member States regarding scheduled activities in order to enable them to mobilize the appropriate resources and ensure adequate preparations for the optimal implementation of these activities.
- Inviting ISESCO to pursue its efforts and strengthen its role in spreading the values of tolerance, a culture of peace and education on dialogue through intensifying its activities geared to the youth in the Member States, particularly those who are dropping out from schools or are unemployed as this category can easily be recruited by extremist and terrorist groups.

10. The Report of the Director General for the Years 2010-2012 and Progress Report for the Years 2013-2015 on the Evaluation of the Organization's Action (Document EC 36/2015/2.2)

- Inviting ISESCO to develop more strategies on the various issues and challenges facing the Muslim world such as illiteracy, environment degradation and capacity building in education, science, technology, culture and communication.
- Facilitating exchange and dissemination of information and data through databases connected to universities and scientific research centers in the Member States and through digitization of ISESCO's documents and publications in the three languages.
- Inviting ISESCO to pursue its role in supporting education, science, culture and communication in the Member States, with focus on finding the appropriate solutions to the challenges facing the Member States in these fields.
- Including in ISESCO's forthcoming evaluation reports accurate data on the performance indicators regarding implemented programmes as well as comprehensive data on the strengths and weaknesses drawn from the implementation of programmes, their impact and the extent of benefit by the Member States so that they are assessed in a methodological way.

11. Draft Three-Year Action Plan and Budget for 2016- 2018 (Document EC 36/2015/3.1)

- Commending the 2016-2018 Action Plan and Budget for its profound strategic vision, high quality in terms of methodology and content, sound drafting and integrated trend in the projects which cover the issues and fields falling under the Organization's ambit in such a way as to address the Member States' needs and priorities and advance the new United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2030); and extending thanks to ISESCO Director General and his assistants for their valuable efforts in preparing this reference document with a view to further developing the Organization's working mechanisms.

- Stressing the need to strengthen coordination and cooperation between ISESCO and the Member States and further invigorate the role of the National Commissions in order to translate the Plan projects into practical programmes with profound impact and substantial benefit to all Member States.
- Commending the practical, procedural dimension of the new plan which has accurately identified objectives for the scheduled projects and programmes, put forward quality and quantity indicators for measurement and assessment and given precedence to the practical training dimension of capacity building in the proposed projects over the theoretical aspects.
- Moving forward with the methodological development and improvement of ISESCO's action plan in the future so that it can be elaborated as a matrix to be presented into a digital format.
- Emphasizing the cardinal importance of addressing the issues of the youth and invigorating their roles in fostering sustainable development and coexistence.
- Placing focus on issues of the Islamic identity through continued attention to the teaching of the Arabic language and its spread in its Islamic surroundings as well as promotion of programmes for the preservation of Islamic heritage, particularly in areas of occupation, attacks and conflicts such as Al-Quds Al-Sharif and other cities in the Muslim world.
- Devoting further attention to vulnerable categories in areas of conflict and war, particularly refugee children who are in dire need of psychological and educational care.
- Putting emphasis on the attention given by the Plan to issues pertaining to education on human rights, the culture of difference and values of tolerance through carrying out a set programmes to provide teachers with academic and professional training so that they can perform their mission in educating new generations on values of middle stance and tolerance and in rejection of violence within and outside schools.
- Emphasizing ISESCO's constructive choice in its action plan to align educational, scientific, cultural and communication issues with sustainable development plans and goals in the Member States and to promote the values of quality and governance as well as initiatives for youth involvement into development and decision-making.
- Providing the appropriate opportunities and mechanisms to draw on the Member States' initiatives, leading experiences and specialized centres in the Organization's fields of competence, and activating cooperation and partnership with international, regional and national organizations with common interest.
- Conducting specialized research and studies on extremism and terrorism, the causes of their spread among the youth and teenagers in the Muslim world and their counter-measures.
- Laying stress on the value, social, health and environmental aspects in literacy and adult education programmes, especially those geared to girls and women.

**12. Preparation for the General Conference's 12th Session
(Document EC 36/2015/5.1)**

- Adding a new item to the Draft Agenda and Draft Programme of the General Conference on holding the Donors' Conference to Support the Education Sector in the Federal Republic of Somalia.

13. At the closing session, the Executive Council adopted the Final Report of its 36th session and the decisions on the items placed on its agenda. Then, closing addresses were delivered by H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General; H.E. Dr Abulfaz Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan; and H.E. Dr Boubakar Doukouré, Chairman of the Executive Council.

14. After closing the 12th session of the General Conference, the Executive Council held a procedural session during which the Council's Bureau was elected as follows:

- **Chair:** Dr Boubakar Doukouré (Burkina Faso)
- **Vice-chairs:**
 - Arab Republic of Egypt
 - Malaysia
 - Republic of Senegal
- **Rapporteur:** Republic of Tunisia