



Address by

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At the opening of the:

37th Session of ISESCO Executive Council

ISESCO Headquarters, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco: 4 October 2015

*All praise be to Allah, peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad,
his family and his companions*

**Excellency the Minister Delegate to the Minister of Higher Education,
Scientific Research and Executive Training,**

Excellency the Chairman of the Executive Council of ISESCO,

Excellencies members of the Executive Council,

**Excellencies ambassadors and representatives of international
organizations,**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamu alaikum warahmatullah wabarkatuh,

It is my pleasure to warmly welcome you at the headquarters of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and to address you at the opening of the 37th session of its Executive Council, wishing every success to your deliberations and hoping that they will deliver a good outcome that, Allah willing, will consolidate our Organization's action and contribute to the implementation of its Action Plan for 2016-2018 in the best conditions possible.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over 2015 through the first half of 2016, ISESCO has managed to make a major set of achievements in its areas of competence, and to become, with the grace of Allah and thanks to the efforts of its community, an outstanding organization of joint Islamic action, thus gaining a prestigious status among the regional and international organizations enjoying high credibility, excellent reputation and active involvement in international affairs.

Since its ISESCO creation in 1982, ISESCO has maintained a rising trend of development, and has constantly proved that it was a wise choice of the OIC Member States when they agreed to found it a third of a century ago. Today, it has become an outstanding instrument of Islamic action which enjoys the confidence of the entire Islamic world, along with a remarkable status among regional and international organizations sharing its mission. ISESCO deeply embodies Islam's humanistic perspective on the issues falling under its realm of competence. It accordingly represents the Islamic civilizational project that is responsive to its environment, and fully engaged in the global human dynamics to build a new world order, based on a quality education centered on human development, as well on innovation-driven science, a progress-favoring culture, and a communication that promotes stronger relations between nations and peoples and presents a true image of today's Islamic civilization.

These different stages of ISESCO's balanced development confirm that the founding of this Organization, in the early 15th century, of the Hegira was not only a vital need of the Muslim Ummah, but also the materialization of a dream it had cherished for so long to spark a comprehensive educational, scientific and cultural revival based on modern foundations, without deviating from the straight path which draws its legitimacy and relevance from the spiritual, cultural and civilizational specificities and from the firmly anchored Islamic constants.

In this respect, ISESCO made numerous achievements in 2015, which consolidate its successful track record and its active role at the regional and international levels. It scheduled 366 activities, out of which 327 were implemented, thus marking an increasing rate of implementation of 89%, in addition to 185 achievements as part of the Director General's activities.

At the Directorate of Education, 75 activities out of a total of 84 were implemented, corresponding to a completion rate of 89%. The implementation rate recorded at the Directorate of Science and Technology was 85%, with the

implementation of 52 activities out of the 61 scheduled. The Directorate of Culture and Communication implemented 76 of the 86 scheduled activities, with a completion rate of 88%. Finally, 69 activities were carried out of the 75 scheduled by the Directorate of External Relations and Cooperation, thus marking a completion rate of 92%.

Meanwhile, the Secretariat of the Executive Council and General Conference implemented 26 out of 27 activities, with a completion rate of 96%. In parallel, the overall implementation rate was 88% for the Centre of Planning, Information, Documentation and Publishing and 86% for ISESCO Centre for Promotion of Scientific Research.

These very telling figures reflect the quantitative and qualitative development achieved by the Organization during the past year, which confirms a growing trend of performance, marked by high fluidity and focused on quality.

This situation is perfectly in line with the goals of UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report on **(Education for People and Planet)**. Such are the same global goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

Amid this context of sustained achievements, it is vitally necessary to strengthen and develop ISESCO to keep it abreast of the needs of Member States in every field, and at par with the rapid changes taking place in education, science, culture and communication, thus enabling it to meet the challenges facing and bearing on our Islamic world.

In this connection, the serious context of the Islamic world today requires us to redouble our efforts to rise to the challenges threatening our existence as a civilization and compromising the supreme interests of Member States. This is a priority that should be placed on top of our concerns in order to develop and modernize our operating tools and mechanisms and to renew our plans and

programmes so that we can assume our weighty responsibility to meet the aspirations of our peoples to more progress and prosperity in all spheres of life.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

As history teaches us and as confirmed by deep reflection on the civilizational progress of the developed countries, the development of Man and nations and the anchoring of the foundations of prosperity and well-being basically hinge on a comprehensive development of the education system that spans all its aspects and components. It is the solid groundwork for progress in every field, as well as the most effective and influential tool to integrate the knowledge society and secure a way out of the current situation marked by precariousness on many levels.

Such is the civilizational mission carried out by ISESCO within the framework of its three-year action plans and medium-term plans, and based on the sector-specific strategies it implements in cooperation with the Member States. Against this backdrop, the draft Medium Term Action Plan for 2019-2027 will be submitted to this honorable Council. This is the fourth medium-term plan developed by ISESCO, with the aim of anchoring the foundation of its action and fine-tuning its prospective vision and future planning.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

This session coincides with the departure of the dean of the council members, Dr Ibrahim Al-Juweir, member of the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who made great and outstanding services for the Organization throughout his twenty-four years at the Executive Council, during which he was an exemplary man both as a representative of his country and as a colleague of

ours. He was replaced by Dr Mohammad Al-Ohali, Undersecretary for Educational Affairs of the Ministry of Higher Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

On your behalf, I would like to extend to him our appreciation and gratitude for his efforts and initiatives in support of ISESCO and its civilizational mission, wishing him every success in his current functions and duties. In the same vein, I welcome Dr Mohammad Al-Ohali, Undersecretary for Educational Affairs of the Ministry of Higher Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, wishing him overwhelming success in his new duties as member of the Executive Council.

I thank you once again, imploring Almighty Allah to inspire us wisdom in words and deeds to serve our Ummah and humanity at large.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh.