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Islamic Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization

ISESCO

Executive 37 Council 37th Session

Permanent Headquarters
Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco

2 Muharram 1438H / 4 October 2016

Final Report

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The Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) held its 37th session in Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, on 2 Muharram 1438 A.H. / 4 October 2016. Taking part in this session were the members of the Council and their accompanying delegations, except for the representatives of the State of the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Tajikistan, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Republic of Djibouti, the Republic of Suriname, the Union of Comoros and the Kyrgyz Republic.

1. The opening session was presided over by H.E. Dr Boubakar Doukouré, Chairman of ISESCO Executive Council, with the presence of H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General; and H.E. Ms Jamila El Moussali, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Executive Training of the Kingdom of Morocco. Also in attendance were a number of ambassadors, the heads and representatives of regional and international organizations, senior official personalities, intellectuals and media professionals.
2. After recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, H.E. Dr Boubakar Doukouré, Chairman of ISESCO Executive Council, made an address in which he declared open the 37th session of the Executive Council and conveyed his best wishes for the new Hegira Year. He also extended his sincere thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco for the sustained support provided by the Moroccan government to ISESCO in particular, and to joint Islamic action in general. In addition, he expressed his pride in the notable achievements made by ISESCO under the leadership of its Director General, H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, wishing him further success to pursue his efforts in moving the Organization towards further progress and keeping abreast of international developments in such a way as to advance the interests of the Muslim Ummah. In this context, he invoked His Majesty's message of congratulations to Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, following his re-election as Director General of the Organization by the 12th session of ISESCO General Conference held in Baku in November 2015, wherein His Majesty said: "Your unanimous re-election for two terms reflects the high

esteem in which you are held by all Member States of ISESCO. Your great human qualities, extensive experience and high academic and political abilities have earned the Organization, under your able leadership, such a strong position on the Islamic and international scenes.” The Chairman of the Executive Council concluded his address by expressing his appreciation of ISESCO’s remarkable record of achievement, considering the implemented activities accounted for in the Director General’s activity report for 2015, which are characterized by a sense of diversity in topics and issues, innovation in implementation methods and an expanded scope of cooperation with the partners.

3. The floor was then held by ISESCO Director, H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, to welcome H.E. Ms Jamila El Moussali, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Executive Training of the Kingdom of Morocco as well as the Chairman and members of the Executive Council, wishing every success to their deliberations. He also extended his thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and to their Majesties and Highnesses leaders of the Member States as well as their governments for their continued support to ISESCO to discharge its civilizational mission.

The Director General pointed out that ISESCO has, over the past years and decades, gone through different stages of balanced development towards materializing the Islamic civilizational project which is open to modern times and fully engaged in the global human dynamics. Today, he went on, ISESCO has 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 with common interests to spark a comprehensive educational, scientific and cultural revival based on modern foundations, without deviating from the correct path which draws its legitimacy and relevance from the spiritual, cultural and civilizational specificities and from the firmly anchored Islamic constants. He also underscored the need to strengthen and develop ISESCO, particularly in the present conditions, to address the Member States’ growing needs, amid enormous challenges threatening the Muslim world as a civilization and compromising the supreme interests of Member States.

In addition, the Director General stated that ISESCO made numerous achievements in 2015, which consolidate its successful track record and its active role at the regional and international levels. In this regard, he explained that ISESCO 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.

Furthermore, the Director General stressed that ISESCO's civilizational mission is expressed in practical terms in its three-year action and medium-term plans and sector-specific strategies. In this connection, he said that the draft Medium Term Action Plan for 2019-2027 submitted to the honorable Council has been developed with the aim of anchoring the foundations of its action and fine-tuning its prospective vision and future planning. He concluded his address by wishing a successful outcome to this Council session.

4. In a session marking the launch of the "TAFAHUM" project as a leading initiative of ISESCO to be undertaken in collaboration with a number of the Maghreb universities and the University Agency of La Francophonie (AUF), the Council listened to a presentation on this project by H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, in which he underscored its importance in promoting academic cooperation and cultural understanding among Member States' universities by creating an advanced system for exchange among universities and flexible mobility of students. He also pointed out that the launch of the project's pilot phase this year through exchange of students between Moroccan and Tunisian universities will give an idea about the possible extension of the project's programmes in the short and medium terms. Afterwards, H.E. Ms Jamila El Moussali, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Executive Training of the Kingdom of Morocco, gave an address on this occasion in which she hailed the important civilizational role played by ISESCO since its inception, and praised the "TAFAHUM" project. At the end of the session, the presidents of the universities involved in the "TAFAHUM" project were presented with the agreements they signed as part of this project.
5. H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, expressed his thanks to H.E. Dr Ibrahim Al-Juweir, at the end of his mission as representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to ISESCO Executive Council, for his active role during his mandate as member of the Executive Council. He also welcomed the new representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as the new Council members. Then, H.E. Dr Ibrahim Al-Juweir took the floor to convey his thanks and appreciation to H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, the members of the Executive Council and the official authorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, hailing the advanced stage ISESCO has reached in developing its action plans and implementing its programmes.

6. Thereafter, the members of the Executive Council posed for a souvenir photo at the Hall of Islamic Solidarity.
7. At the beginning of the first working session, the Chairman of the Executive Council welcomed the new Council members, namely the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Guinea, the State of Kuwait, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Niger, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Yemen.

Thereafter, he presented the Draft Agenda and Programme of the 37th session of the Executive Council, which were adopted.

8. The Director General presented the reports and documents placed on the agenda of the Council's 37th session, providing an account of ISESCO's major achievements in 2015, which is the last year of the Action Plan for 2013-2015. He also presented the Financial Report and Closing Accounts for the year 2015. The Chairman of the Financial Control Committee presented the Committee report for 2015. Then, the Director General presented all data regarding the Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Organization's Financial Situation for the Year 2015, as well as the programme of ISESCO Ambassadors for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations, and the Draft Broad Lines of the Medium Term Plan for 2019-2027. After due discussion, these items were adopted as per the annexed discussions. Thereafter, the Council renewed the mandate of ISESCO Deputy Director General and set the date and venue for the Executive Council's 38th session.
9. After the introductory notes and presentations made by the Director General, and following due consideration and discussion of the relevant reports and documents placed on the agenda of the Council's 37th session, the Council members made the annexed decisions after putting forward observations and suggestions regarding the following items:

10. The Report of the Director General on ISESCO's Activities for 2015 (Document EC 37/2016/2.1)

- Commending the Report and the achievements of ISESCO General Directorate with regard to the implementation of various activities in the educational, scientific, cultural and communication areas, and hailing

the efforts exerted by the Director General and his assistants in implementing these activities;

- Inviting ISESCO to pursue its efforts and strengthen its role in promoting tolerance, a culture of peace and education on dialogue through intensifying relevant activities, particularly those geared to women and the youth in the Member States;
- Thanking ISESCO for its initiative to establish a number of specialized centres in the Member States and set up ISESCO Chairs in the cultural field in particular, and inviting the General Directorate to support these centres and expand the Chairs' scope of competence;
- Inviting ISESCO to provide additional statistics and data regarding implemented activities;
- Underscoring the need to further enhance contact with the Member States' National Commissions and organize regular coordination meetings for the National Commissions;
- Inviting the General Directorate to give further attention to the situation of tangible and intangible heritage in the zones of occupation, conflicts and wars in the Member States, and working towards establishing the appropriate practical mechanisms to ensure the necessary protection for this heritage;
- Proposing to conduct a full education census in the Member States to collect the relevant field information and technical data which would help the competent parties in the Member States in devising policies and developing the necessary plans in this connection.

11. 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 2015 (Document EC 37/2016/2.3)

- Mandating the Director General to take the appropriate measures to deal with the arrears of the Member States which were unable to pay up their financial contributions because of armed conflicts, tensions and difficult economic conditions, and submit a report thereon to the Executive Council and the General Conference.

12. At the close of the Council meeting, H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, gave an address wherein he expressed satisfaction with the outcomes of this Council session and thanked the Chairman and members of the Council for their suggestions which would contribute to