



Islamic Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization

ISESCO

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Executive 38 Council

38th Session

 12 Muharram 1439A.H. / 3 October 2017

 ISESCO Headquarters, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco

Final Report

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The Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) held its 38th session at ISESCO headquarters, in Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, on 12 Muharram 1439 A.H. / 3 October 2017. Taking part in this session were the members of the Council and their accompanying delegations, except for the representatives of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Republic of Suriname and the Union of the Comoros.

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 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 38th session of the Executive Council and extended his sincere thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco who has always held ISESCO under caring attention; as well as to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for the support it provides to the Organization. He also hailed ISESCO's successful record in 2016, lauding its resolve to forge ahead with further accomplishments in the forthcoming phase, as foreboded by the reports and documents submitted to this session, thus confirming the continuity of ISESCO's rising positive trend. In this regard, Dr Doukouré paid tribute to H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, stressing that much of the credit for ISESCO's success, at this juncture when other organizations are losing ground and failing their missions, goes to the firm leadership of its Director General, His Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri. This, he added, has earned the Organization continued radiance and reinforced the ongoing efforts of the Executive Council. In addition, Dr Doukouré stated that the present session coincides with a particular context where the Islamic world is engulfed by a multitude of problems and fierce attacks on the sovereignty of its Member States that are undermining their integrity and cohesion, particularly with the return of the conflict of cultures and the clash of civilizations. In the same

vein, he pointed out that this stark situation only strengthens ISESCO's belief in the values of intercultural dialogue, rapprochement between civilizations and coexistence among followers of religions and impels the Organization as well as the states of the Muslim world to make every effort in the realms of education, science and culture in order to boost their capacities considering that Muslims are civilization makers and peace builders.

3. The floor was then held by H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, to welcome the members of the Executive Council, wishing them every success in their deliberations. He also commended the special care given by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco to ISESCO, beseeching Allah to assist the Moroccan Sovereign together with Member States' leaders for the good of the Muslim Ummah.

The Director General pointed to the prestigious status ISESCO has gained among parallel organizations as it has, thanks to Allah and to the efforts of its organs and the increasing confidence that Member States have placed in its General Directorate, become an outstanding and influential organization dedicated to joint Islamic action, and one of the highly credible regional and international organizations. In this regard, Dr Altwaijri explained that ISESCO made 352 educational, scientific and cultural achievements in 2016, with a completion rate of 87%, in addition to 170 achievements as part of the General Policy.

Furthermore, the Director General stressed that the figures and data contained in the reports submitted to the Executive Council reflect the quantitative and qualitative development achieved by the Organization during 2016, which is in total harmony with the objectives of UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report on "Education for People and Planet" and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). In the same vein, he expressed his strong belief that ISESCO has always been working progressively and on the right track, enjoying the growing confidence of all Member States and the international community in general and being supported by the accession of new states, namely the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Uzbekistan. This, Dr Altwaijri explained, confirms that the inception of ISESCO, 35 years ago, was an answer to the legitimate aspiration of the Muslim Ummah to a comprehensive civilizational revival founded on education, science and culture and that ISESCO's successful undertaking is the objective answer to such civilizational challenges faced by Muslim peoples as terrorism, an allegation falsely leveled against Islam, destructive wars, economic and development difficulties, the disruption of the world order and the double standard policy in

dealing with international issues and problems. He concluded his address by imploring Allah almighty to provide the Islamic world with right guidance to achieve good and peace for itself and for humanity at large.

4. Afterwards, H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, handed the **2017 ISESCO Prize for Literacy and Non-formal Education** (dedicated to civil society organizations and NGOs) which was awarded to the Qabas Min Nour Charity Association from the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Cultural Counselor at Egypt's Embassy in Rabat.
5. Thereafter, the members of the Executive Council posed for a souvenir photo at the Hall of Islamic Solidarity.
6. At the beginning of the first working session, the Chairman of the Executive Council welcomed the new Council members, namely the representatives of the State of the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Republic of Togo, the Republic of Tunisia, the Republic of the Gambia, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Yemen. Then, ISESCO Director General congratulated Mr Murad Al-Soudani, representative of the State of Palestine to the Executive Council, on winning in 2017 an international prize for poetry in Italy.

Thereafter, the Chairman of the Executive Council presented the Draft Agenda and Draft Programme of the 38th session of the Executive Council, which were adopted.

7. The Director General presented the reports and documents placed on the agenda of the Council's 38th session, providing an account of ISESCO's major achievements in 2016, which is the first year of the Action Plan for 2016-2018. He also presented the financial statements and data regarding the Closing Accounts for the year 2016. The Chairman of the Financial Control Committee presented the Committee report for 2016 and the report of the audit company. Then, the Director General presented all data regarding the Member States' contributions to the Organization's budget and the redressing of the Organization's financial situation for the year 2016, as well as the Draft Medium Term Strategic Plan for 2019-2027 and the Draft Broad Lines of the Three-Year Action Plan for 2019-2021. In addition, ISESCO Director General presented the Project for the Establishment of ISESCO Centre for Space Sciences and Remote Sensing.

8. After the introductory notes and presentations made by the Director General, and after due consideration and discussion of the relevant reports and documents placed on the agenda of the 38th session, the Council members made the annexed decisions after putting forward observations and suggestions regarding the following items:

9. The Report of the Director General on ISESCO's Activities for 2016 (Document EC 38/2017/2.1)

- 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 tolerance, concord and dialogue through intensifying relevant activities;
- Thanking ISESCO for establishing a number of specialized centres in the Member States, setting up ISESCO Chairs in the educational, scientific and cultural areas and dispatching teachers and experts to the Member States, and inviting the General Directorate to support these centres and expand the Chairs' scope of competence and to dispatch more teachers and experts to the institutions concerned in the Member States;
- Proposing that the Executive Council award a medal of distinction to H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, in recognition of his outstanding efforts and in appreciation of his achievements at the head of ISESCO General Directorate;
- Calling for including in ISESCO's website a link dedicated to publicizing the outstanding practices and successful initiatives in the Organization's fields of action;
- Presenting the necessary information and data regarding the measures taken by ISESCO to overcome the financial difficulties concerning the collection of the financial resources allocated to the implementation of programmes and activities;
- Calling for a broader access of Member States, particularly in Africa and Asia, to ISESCO's leading programme for the transcription of Muslim peoples' languages in the Standardized Quranic Script, particularly through the Organization's specialized educational centres.

10. Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts, Report of the Audit Company and Report of the Financial Control Committee for the Year 2016 (Document EC 38/2017/2.2)

- Taking note of the challenges facing educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Sierra Leone as a result of the natural catastrophes that affected this country, and working towards supporting these institutions in cooperation with partners;
- Commending the rationalization policy pursued by the Organization to implement a large number of activities despite the fact that the Organization received less than half of actual contributions;
- Allocating a fund for supporting the implementation of programmes in partnership with the private sector and the donors.

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 2016 (Document EC 38/2017/2.3)

- Mandating and inviting the Director General to adopt the appropriate strategies and measures to deal with the arrears of the Member States which were unable to pay up their financial contributions and to submit a report thereon to the Executive Council and the General Conference.

12. Draft Medium Term Strategic Plan for 2019-2027 (Document EC 38/2017/3.1)

- Halting the decision of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to allow in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to drive as it reflects the special attention given to the role of women in the society and their contribution to its edification and development;
- Calling for activating the decision regarding the convening of an international conference on Al-Quds Asharif, supporting its educational, scientific and cultural institutions and protecting its historical landmarks and civilizational monuments against obliteration and judaization;
- Focusing on issues of water, ethics and relevant advanced technologies;
- Distributing the document to the Member States to benefit from their views and observations;
- Providing the competent parties in the Member States with a concise presentation on the Plan's contents and trends to facilitate its discussion with their officials and experts;

- Working towards building on the successful experiences and good practices in the Member States in the Organization's fields of action, and stepping up the efforts of Member States to accommodate their needs and priorities, particularly with regard to advancing the educational sector and encouraging the teaching of international languages;
- Reaffirming the cardinal importance of education in zones of conflict and war;
- Giving further attention to the programmes and projects geared to Palestine and Al-Quds Asharif.

13. Draft Broad Lines of the Three-Year Action Plan for 2019-2021 (Document EC 38/2017/3.2)

- Commending the gearing of a number of the Plan's programmes and projects to children, youth and women;
- Reaffirming the need to extend further support to scientific research projects and expand the scope of exchange and networking mechanisms in this area;
- Calling for developing mechanisms for the protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the Islamic world and strengthening the role of this vital sector in sustainable development;
- Reinvigorating the role of ISESCO clubs and associated schools in the educational process;
- Extending support to Quranic education programmes in formal education institutions;
- Calling for focusing on issues of food security and development of relevant agricultural and environmental technologies.

14. Project for the Establishment of ISESCO Centre for Space Sciences and Remote Sensing (Document EC 38/2017/4.1)

- Underscoring the importance of space sciences and remote sensing and the need to include these areas in the future trends of the Organization's plans and programmes;
- Calling for further examining the various technical, administrative and financial aspects of the project and submitting it to the forthcoming sessions of the Council.

15. At the close of its meeting, the Council decided to hold its 39th session in October 2018, at ISESCO headquarters in Rabat. Then, H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, gave an address wherein he thanked the Chairman and members of the Council for their contributions to

this session and reaffirmed his concern to ensure follow-up to the Council's decisions and recommendations in order to develop the Organization's future action. For his part, H.E. Dr Boubakar Doukouré, Chairman of the Executive Council, hailed the success made by the Organization at various levels and thanked the Council members and ISESCO Director General for their efforts in boosting the Organization's performance and accomplishing its mission in the best conditions.

- 16.** The Council addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco for the support extended by the Moroccan government to ISESCO to promote joint Islamic action.