



Address by

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At the opening of the
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***All praise be to Allah, peace and blessings be upon Prophet
Muhammad,
his kit and kin***

**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 warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh,

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 38th session of its Executive Council, wishing its members every success in their deliberations and hoping that they will deliver a good outcome that, Allah willing, will consolidate their sustained efforts as well as the great action that ISESCO undertakes within the realm of its competence.

I would also like to thank the Council's Chairman for his words of praise for the efforts we are making at the General Directorate to meet the expectations of the Member States, assuring him and Their Excellencies the Council Members of our resolve to carry on such endeavors towards improving the Organization's action and expanding its areas.

I also seize this opportunity to commend, with deep pride and appreciation, the support extended to ISESCO by the competent parties in the Kingdom of Morocco upon the directives of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may Allah preserve him, to enable it to fully discharge its mission, beseeching Allah to preserve and assist His Majesty and his fellow leaders of Member States in serving the best interests of the Muslim Ummah.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

The present session of the Executive Council coincides with the pre-final implementation phase of the current Three Year Action Plan for 2016-2018, which will usher into the 13th General Conference due to be held, Allah willing, by the end of next year. It is also a period marked by ISESCO's preparation of the draft broad lines of the Three Year Action Plan for 2019-2021, which will be submitted to this honorable council for examination prior to its submission for adoption in its final version to the 39th Executive Council and later on for approval to the next General Conference.

This session is also being held at a time when ISESCO has gained a leading position among its peers, with outstanding achievements that firmly consolidate its standing and crucial role as a bastion of Islamic solidarity within its areas of competence.

Over 2016 through the first half of 2017, the Organization has gone through phases of balanced progress, thus coming close to achieving all the objectives set out in its Action Plan for 2016-2018 under which it has implemented a variety of programmes and activities. Thanks to Allah and to the efforts of its community and the Member States' increasing confidence in

its General Directorate, ISESCO has gained a prestigious status among Islamic solidarity bodies as well as among the regional and international organizations enjoying high credibility, excellent reputation and active involvement in international affairs.

In this connection, ISESCO made 352 achievements in education, science and culture in 2016, thus totaling 87% of the scheduled activities, in addition to 170 achievements under the General Policy heading.

At the level of the Directorate of Education, 63 activities were implemented, marking a completion rate of 90% against 97% for the Directorate of Science and Technology, which implemented 60 activities out of its overall schedule.

As for the Directorate of Culture, it implemented 78% of its planned schedule with a total of 70 activities. Moreover, the Directorate of Human and Social Sciences implanted 21 activities, with a completion rate of 84%, while the Directorate of External Relations and Cooperation managed to score 86% of its schedule, with 73 activities implemented.

The Secretariat of the Executive Council, the General Conference and Specialized Ministerial Conferences, within the framework of its National Commissions Division, and the Information and Communication Centre implemented 23 activities each, representing a completion rate of 96% and 92% respectively, against 71% for the Planning, Information, Documentation and Publishing Centre and 89% for the Center for Promotion of Scientific Research (ICPSR).

These figures reflect clearly 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 progress is in total harmony with the objectives of UNESCO's global report on "**Education for People and Planet**", and runs in tandem with the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

It is worthy of mention that all these achievements were made amid a difficult regional and international context, which has affected joint Islamic action in general. But, praise be to Allah, ISESCO managed to forge ahead with its civilizational mission of development, based on well-planned action, rational governance and priority given to the programmes of the Action Plan.

The Report of the Director General on ISESCO's Activities for the Year 2016, which is placed on the Executive Council's agenda, provides an overview of this continuous success corroborated with a detailed account of all these achievements.

Since its inception 35 five ago, ISESCO has maintained a rising trend of development, thus asserting itself as an outstanding instrument of joint Islamic action. This has earned it a growing confidence of Member States, in particular and of the international community, in general, as well as a privileged place among similar regional and international organizations as the advocate of Islam's humanistic perspective on the issues falling under its realm of competence.

Having marked its 35th anniversary at this critical juncture in the history of the Islamic world, ISESCO represents the Islamic civilizational project that is responsive to its environment and fully engaged in the global trend to build a new world order based on justice and peace, along with a quality education centered on human development, innovation-driven science, a progress-favoring culture, and a communication that promotes stronger relations between nations and peoples and presents a true image of the ever-evolving Islamic civilization.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Having said that, it is our duty on this occasion to affirm that this exponential, integrated and balanced progress attained by ISESCO throughout all stages of its history, and the accession of new countries such the Turkish Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan this year, proves in many respects that the establishment of this Organization at the beginning of the 15th Century A.H was a vital necessity. Moreover, it was an answer to the legitimate aspiration of the Muslim Ummah for a comprehensive civilizational revival based on education, science and culture and governed by modern advanced norms, with no deviation from the sound approach whose legitimacy and credibility originates in the spiritual, cultural and civilizational specificities and the deep-rooted Islamic fundamentals and long-standing human values and principles. We, at ISESCO, are therefore actively engaged in building the future of the Islamic world within the realm our civilizational mission to serve our Ummah and the entire humanity.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We do believe that our successful action is a natural answer to some of the civilizational challenges faced by the Muslim peoples, given that human development, which lays at the core of the Organization's mandate, is part of nation-building which gives us the strength and perseverance to defend the rights, gains and best interests of our glorious Ummah.

Nowadays, the world is going through a critical period fraught with dangers on top of which is terrorism, an accusation falsely and unfairly leveled against Islam, while this noble religion is completely innocent of all forms of terrorism and criminals engaged in it. Such dangers also include the devastating wars, strife and socio-economic hardships being suffered by many countries around the world, including some ISESCO Member States, in addition to the dysfunctions of the world order, and the use of double standards in treating international issues and problems. The Islamic world is therefore required to redouble efforts in this vital field to address and overcome all such challenges.

To conclude, I pray that Almighty Allah may crown our endeavors with success and provide for the Muslim world a right course in its affairs for the good and peace of humanity at large.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh