



Address by

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Chairman of the Executive Council of
the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization (ISESCO)

**At the opening of the
38th session of ISESCO Executive Council**

ISESCO headquarters, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco: 3-4 October 2017
**All praise be to Allah, peace and blessings be upon Prophet
Muhammad,
his kit and kin**

**Excellency the Director General of the Islamic
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
(ISESCO),**

Excellencies fellow members of the Executive Council,

**Excellencies the ambassadors of Member States and
representatives of international organizations,**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum warahmatu Allah Wabarakatuh,

In the name of Allah, and with His grace, I declare open the 38th session of ISESCO Executive Council. It is my pleasure, at the outset, to express my deep gratitude and appreciation 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 and facilitations it provides to the Organization to successfully carry out its civilizational mission.

I would also like to welcome you all, ladies and gentlemen, thanking you for having honored us by your presence, and beseeching Allah Almighty to crown our endeavors with the comfort and satisfaction of faithfully discharging our mission to serve the supreme interests of our glorious Muslim Ummah.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

The Executive Council's sessions provide us with the recurrent opportunity to evaluate ourselves, to reflect on the outcome of ISESCO's diligent action, to review our rich record of achievement and look into the future in the light of the deliberations and discussions of our honorable fellow members of the Executive Council. Such is the lofty task entrusted to this Council by ISESCO Charter, which sets the roadmap for us to carry our duties in a coherent manner with clearly defined functions and goals, and continue consolidating the firm foundations of this Organization. The ultimate aim is to enable it to close the ranks of the Muslim world in a bid to promote the Ummah's advancement in the sectors of education, science and culture as part of the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals in these areas so crucial to comprehensive sustainable development.

Throughout all the sessions of the Executive Council, we have noted with great satisfaction how performing ISESCO is in discharging its mandate, and observed the qualitative and quantitative expansion of this Organization as one of the most successful and influential organizations on the regional and international levels. We therefore seize the occasion of this present session to pay a strong tribute to 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 other documents submitted to this and previous sessions, thus confirming the continuity of ISESCO's rising positive trend.

But credit should be given where credit is due. Indeed, at this juncture when other organizations are losing ground and failing their missions, we should acknowledge that much of the credit for ISESCO's success goes to the firm leadership of its Director General, His Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, who stands out today as a leading international figure with a well-deserved reputation and an active involvement in regional and international forums. He truly is a great gain to the Islamic world, a source of pride for us, and a leader held in regard by all Member States. His unique qualities and relentless dedicated endeavors have earned the Organization further credibility and continued radiance. This reinforces our ongoing efforts and adds impetus to our action.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

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; while the enemies of the Muslim world are seeking to shape its future course to suit their own agendas.

The clash of cultures or civilizations has come back as serious as it was in its previous stages between the two great blocks of the cold war, thus ushering the world today into a cycle of uncertainty at the level of international politics. But thanks to our distinct civilizational block as Member States of ISESCO, and thanks to the lofty principles we uphold, this stark international situation only strengthens our belief in the values of

intercultural dialogue, rapprochement between civilizations and coexistence among followers of religions.

We, as civilization makers and peace builders, shall not be discouraged by the gravity of such challenges nor by the tough task of addressing them. This requires us to maintain our progress in the fields of education, science and culture, and to make every effort at all levels to boost our capacity to stand against the forces of evil that are seeking to weaken the Muslim world in every field, especially in education, science and culture.

Such is the challenge we are required to rise to in order to be up to the honor of being dignified by Allah as “*the best people raised for the good of mankind*”.

I thank you for your attention, beseeching Allah Almighty to assist us in promoting our Ummah’s development, to spare us all troubles and to guide our steps towards serving the good of humanity at large.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh.