



Address by

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

At the opening of the
39th Session of ISESCO Executive Council

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*All praise be to Allah, peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad,
his kith and kin*

Excellency the Chairman of the Executive Council of ISESCO,

Excellencies members of the Executive Council,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh,

It is my pleasure to warmly welcome you to the headquarters of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in the beautiful and historic city of Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, at the opening of the 39th session of its Executive Council which precedes the 13th General Conference.

First and foremost, I would like to seize this opportunity to commend, with deep pride and appreciation, the kind patronage given to ISESCO by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, may Allah preserve him, and the facilitations extended to the Organization by the Moroccan Government to enable it to fully discharge its mission in the best conditions, beseeching Allah Almighty to preserve and guide His Majesty and his fellow leaders of Member States toward the good, glory, progress and prosperity of the Islamic world.

I am pleased to thank my brother the Chairman of the Executive Council for his kind appreciation, expressed in his eloquent address, for the efforts made at the General Directorate to attain the set objectives, while reaffirming our constant keenness to continue such efforts, with the help of Allah, to improve and innovate the Organization's action and expand its fields of competence.

I am pleased to welcome the new members of the Executive Council, wishing them success in their new missions, namely their excellencies: Mr Mohamed Ben Ali Oueslati, Head of Education Minister's Office of the Republic of Tunisia; Dr Hamad bin Nasser Al Mehrej, Under-secretary of Educational Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Mr Abdulgadir Muhammad Hassan Noureddin, Secretary General of the Sudan National Commission for Education, Science and Culture; Dr Karim Obaid Hilayil Al-Waeli, Secretary General of the Iraqi National Commission for Education, Science and Culture; Ms Layali Khalil Othman, General Director of the International, Arab and Islamic Organizations, State of Palestine; Mr Faisal Abdullah Al Maqsid, Under-secretary of Educational Development, State of Kuwait; Dr Abdel-Mouneim M'hammed Abu Laiha, Secretary General of Libyan National Commission for Education, Science and Culture; Ambassador Hassan Hami, of the Kingdom of Morocco; Dr Diallo Kadia Maiga, Secretary General of the Malian National Commission for Education, Science and Culture for UNESCO and ISESCO, Republic of Mali; Dr Gholamreza Karimi, Vice-Minister of Education and International Affairs, Secretary General of Iranian National Commission for ISESCO, Islamic Republic of Iran; and Datuk Dr Amin bin Senin, Director General of Education, Malaysia.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The present session of the Executive Council coincides with the final implementation phase of the current Three Year Action Plan 2016-2018.

In 2017, ISESCO successfully implemented a great number of activities and programmes outlined in its Three-Year Action Plan 2016-2018. Accordingly, ISESCO achieved balanced growth and complementary progress, thus becoming one of the most influential and productive organizations of joint Islamic action and one of the regional and international organizations enjoying high credibility

and active and influential presence in all forums and international events of common interests.

Last year, ISESCO's balance of achievements greatly increased. In education, 99 achievements were accomplished out of 110 scheduled achievements with a rate of 90%. In science and technology, 52 achievements were accomplished out of 60 scheduled achievements with a rate of 87%.

As for culture, ISESCO accomplished 90 achievements out of 102 scheduled achievements with a rate of 88%. In human and social science, 35 achievements were accomplished out of 39 scheduled achievements with a rate of 90%.

In external relations and cooperation, 82 achievements were accomplished out of 90 scheduled achievements with a rate of 91%. As for the Secretariat of the Executive Council, General Conference and Specialized Ministerial Conferences, 22 achievements were accomplished out of 23 scheduled achievements with a rate of 96%. The Centre of Planning, Information, Documentation and Publishing accomplished 26 achievements out of 29 scheduled achievements with a rate of 89%. In information and communication, 22 achievements were accomplished out of 25 scheduled achievements with a rate of 88%.

These detailed figures and well-examined statistics, featured in the report of the Director General on the educational, scientific, cultural and communication activities implemented by ISESCO in 2017, which is now submitted to the Executive Council, reflect the quantitative and qualitative progress in the action of the Organization during the past year. This situation proves that ISESCO operates in compliance with the objectives of the **“Ten-Year Programme of Action to Meet the Challenges Facing the Muslim Ummah in the 21st Century”**, issued by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al Mukarramah in 2005, as well as with the UN's **“2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**.

This achievement, which is constantly growing, has been accomplished, thanks to Allah, amid difficult regional and international circumstances, marked by mounting tensions and exacerbating crises at many levels, with adverse effects on joint Islamic action in general. Nevertheless, all these challenges have not impacted our action. Rather, ISESCO has managed to forge ahead with its civilizational mission and developmental goals, based on well-planned action, rational governance, effective management, and firm commitment to achieve its objectives, while according priority to the implementation of the Action Plan's programmes.

This qualitative progress is epitomized in the Director General's Report on ISESCO's Activities for 2017 and in the two respective reports on the evaluation of the Organization's action for 2013-2015 and 2016-2018. These statistical and evaluation reports provide a detailed overview of all the mentioned achievements. Equally important, the evaluation process for the aforementioned periods concluded that the policy followed by the General Directorate in the implementation of the Action Plan is marked by seriousness, efficiency, clear-sightedness and the constant keenness to serve the high interests of ISESCO, while adhering to the provisions of the Charter, the internal regulations of the Organization and the respective resolutions and decisions of the General Conference and the Executive Council.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Never in recent history had the world gone through such a critical period. International problems, some of which place at stake the stability of many regions of the Islamic world, are exacerbating; economic crises and political divides worsening; and trends of racism, extremism and sectarianism mounting, amid a troubled world order where international issues and problems are handled with double standards, in a stark violation to the international law.

In the atmosphere of instability plaguing the world today, there is a pressing need for reconstructing the world order on the foundations of international laws, spiritual and ethical values and human principles. By the same token, the Islamic world should muster efforts to confront and surmount all these challenges so as to protect the best interests of its peoples, preserve their legitimate rights and maintain their gains. This can be done only through activating the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and complying with its provisions which, in fact, are inspired from the teachings of Islam which advocate unity, solidarity and good deeds that benefit people and have an everlasting effect.

To conclude, I beseech Allah Almighty to guide our steps, endow us with wisdom and success and bring back our Islamic Ummah and humanity at large on the path of success and peace.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh.