



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

39th ISESCO Executive Council

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

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

Excellencies colleagues members of the Executive Council,

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

Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh,

By the grace of Allah, we open the 39th session of the Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), beseeching Allah Almighty to assist us and guide our steps toward success.

I am pleased, on this happy occasion, to first express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, may Allah preserve him, for his care to ISESCO. I would also like to sincerely thank the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for its support and assistance to the Organization. My thanks are also due to the leaders of Member States, may Allah assist them, for their support to ISESCO and keenness for the success of its civilizational mission. I am also pleased to welcome you all and thank you for your attendance, imploring Allah Almighty to crown our endeavors with success and guide our steps to always, Allah willing, discharge our missions with success and dedication in the service of our glorious Ummah and humanity at large.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The 39th session of the Executive Council is of a special importance as it precludes the 13th ISESCO General Conference which will, Allah willing, usher the Organization into a new stage with an advanced plan that keeps pace with international and regional changes, and a genuine will from the General Directorate to carry on the development of the Organization and achieve its set objectives.

At this outstanding session, held at a time when ISESCO's achievements at all levels are on the rise, the Executive Council will prepare for the 13th General Conference through referring the decisions it will adopt to the Conference for approval, including the decision on the adoption of the Three-Year Action Plan for the next period that we should, in this context, proclaim that it is a comprehensive systematic plan which meets the requirements of consistency, balance, quality and perfection. This is by all accounts a remarkable achievement for ISESCO General Directorate under the leadership of His Excellency Dr Altwaijri. This achievement should proudly be added to the record of the noble services His Excellency renders not only to ISESCO but also to the Islamic world and humanity at large, as he has become today one of the world leading actors at international events who work for the promotion of the values of inter-civilizational, intercultural and interfaith dialogue and for the dissemination of the culture of tolerance and mutual respect.

I am delighted, on this occasion, to recall, with great pride, the praise of ISESCO and its Director General and their efforts in disseminating the culture of dialogue, tolerance and mutual respect, expressed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may Allah preserve him, in his message to the participants in the International Conference on Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue, held last

month in Fez. Such praise is a highly appreciated testimony in favor of Dr Altwajri and our Organization. It is also compelling evidence that ISESCO is moving on the right track towards building the future of the Islamic world within the realm of its vital areas of competence.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We hold the current session under the firm belief that ISESCO will continue, with a rising trend, fulfilling the goals it was set for, which gives the Organization ample power, resistance, and capacities to skillfully adapt to change and to open up to renewal and upgrade. Against this backdrop, developing administrative and managerial methods and action plans' implementation mechanisms, and addressing developmental needs in the Islamic world through building the capacities of Member States in the fields falling under ISESCO's realm of competence have become the robust and sound approach of action at ISESCO. We, at the Executive Council, are thus confident in the sustained fruitful efforts exerted by the General Directorate together with ISESCO family, as a homogenous working team and under the wise, clear-sighted and skilled leadership of His Excellency the Director General, Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri.

Given the volume of work carried out by ISESCO, the agenda of the Executive Council's current session features key and satisfactory sectoral reports, which were successfully prepared by the General Directorate following the rigorous method we have seen in all its action, because these reports give detailed account of the multifaceted progress ISESCO has made. Thus, the Executive Council should study them in depth and discuss their contents extensively before reaching the decisions which will be submitted to the General Conference.

We are all aware of the overall disconcerting circumstances the Islamic world is witnessing nowadays, for the challenges the Muslim Ummah is now facing affect negatively the efforts to achieve comprehensive sustainable development in all fields, including education, science, culture and communication, ISESCO's areas of competence.

The road to achieving the Ummah's aspiration for a civilizational revival based on education, science and culture is not as paved as we hope for, because of the growing challenges combined with limited, if not scarce, financial resources. This highlights the utmost importance and high value of the efforts exerted by ISESCO General Directorate to implement action plans in a way that benefits all Member States and Muslim communities outside the Islamic world. It is a remarkable challenge that ISESCO has managed to overcome successfully.

Therefore, I urge all Member States to sustain their support to ISESCO and to its Director General with all means necessary for maintaining ISESCO's outreach and fruitful action in service of joint Islamic action.

I beseech Allah almighty to grant us success to serve our glorious Muslim Ummah and our well-established Islamic Organization.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh.