



الشارقة عاصمة الثقافة الإسلامية
SHARJAH ISLAMIC CULTURE CAPITAL
2014



13th Meeting of the Consultative Council in Charge of Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World

Final Report

**Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
19-20 Muharram 1436 H/12-13 November 2014**

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As part of its three-year action plan (2013-2015), and following a decision by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (Al Madinah – Capital of Islamic Culture, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, January 2014), ISESCO in coordination with Sharjah Government Department of Culture and Information held the 13th meeting of the Consultative Council in Charge of Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World (Sharjah, 19-20 Muharram 1436 H / 12-13 November 2014). The meeting was convened as part of the celebration festivities of Sharjah – Capital of Islamic Culture for 2014 (SCIC 2014), and alongside the 33rd Sharjah International Book Fair.

Participants included consultative council's members, representing the following countries: United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Oman, Tunisia, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger. The representatives of Egypt, Kyrgyzstan and the OIC failed to attend.

The opening session:

The meeting opened on November 12th with recitation of verses of the Holy Quran, followed by a speech by ISESCO's representative, who greeted the Council's members on behalf of the Director General and wished them success in their work. He also stressed the importance of cooperation between the Council and ISESCO's General Directorate in advancing joint Islamic cultural action as well as in implementing and monitoring implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World. He also expressed hope that the Council would contribute, through discussing the key documents prepared by ISESCO's General Directorate, to the development of a clear vision of the main topic of the Ninth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, which is scheduled for November 2015 in Oman (Nizwa - Capital of Islamic Culture for 2015). The representative of ISESCO also placed on record his grateful appreciation to the Department of Culture and Information (Government of Sharjah) both for cooperating and for hosting this meeting.

Thereafter, the floor was taken by the UAE representative, H.E. Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Al-Qassir, Head of Culture Affairs at the Department of Culture and Information of the Government of Sharjah, who thanked ISESCO and hailed its efforts to promote joint Islamic action. He also praised ISESCO's calendar of culture capitals, and gave an account of the efforts made by the Government of Sharjah, under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the UAE Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, in making SCIC 2014 festivities a success.

During the procedural session, the Council elected its bureau comprising H.E. Mr Khamis bin Abdullah Shamakhi (Oman) as chairperson; Prof. Mourad Riffi (Morocco) as rapporteur; and ISESCO. After adopting the meeting's programme, the Council started discussing the documents placed on its agenda: namely, the draft broad lines of the draft action plan for promoting the role of cultural mediation in the Muslim world; the study on Western media content about Islam in the light of the international law; and the draft agenda of the Ninth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Culture.

Panel discussions covered the following points:

- Stressing the importance of consolidating communication and consultation between the Council's members and ISESCO's General Directorate on issues falling within the Council's ambit and effective implementation mechanisms.
- Inviting the Member States' competent authorities in charge of the celebration festivities of Islamic culture capitals to directly coordinate with ISESCO regarding organizational arrangements, while welcoming Arab, Islamic and international organizations wishing to participate.
- Highlighting the importance of the topics discussed both by the Council and by the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, while commending the quality of the documents associated with these topics and the effort that has been made to keep track of new cultural roles.

At the end of its work, the Council adopted the "draft broad lines of the draft action plan for promoting the role of cultural mediation in the

Muslim world”, and the “study on media content about Islam in the light of international law” and “the draft agenda of the Ninth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers”. It also called on ISESCO’s General Directorate to submit these documents, in their final versions, to the 14th Council’s session, ahead of the Ninth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers.

Based on the proposal by Azerbaijan’s representative, the Council endorsed the offer to convene its 14th session in Baku, on the sidelines of the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue (May 2015), and on the occasion of the [World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development](#).

In addition, the Council adopted the following recommendations:

1. Invite ISESCO to redouble efforts to largely publicize the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World (in its updated version) to the competent authorities in the Member States, the civil society, and similar regional and international organizations.
2. Stress the importance for the Council to cooperate and coordinate with ISESCO, by contributing proposals and insights on joint Islamic cultural action promotion and priority areas of action under ISESCO’s plans.
3. Urge Member States to continue efforts to integrate the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World’s key elements and orientations, along with the documents of the Council’s previous meetings and the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, into their action plans and cultural programmes, and give priority to cultural action for sustainable development, given its potential to attract investment and its role in socio-cultural development for individuals and communities, and propose dedicating 1% of each country’s overall budget to culture.
4. Call on Member States to diversify financing sources for cultural projects, invest endowment funds and tax benefits, create partnerships with private sector companies for this purpose, and establish national funds to support independent initiatives.
5. Commend ISESCO for its efforts to promote Islamic cultural action for Muslims outside the Islamic world, its dedication to activate the Supreme Council for Education, Science and Culture for Muslims beyond the Muslim world, and the support it provides to cultural

centers and Islamic associations in Europe, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, South America and the Caribbean, Southeastern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands, and invite it to continue these efforts to advance Islamic cultural action for the benefit of Muslims outside the Islamic world.

6. Commend the efforts of Member States whose cities have been celebrated as capitals of Islamic culture for 2014, and invite the competent authorities in the Member States with cities listed on the celebration calendar for the coming years to coordinate, exchange expertise, benefit from previous experiences, and accord special attention to these festivities through large-scale advertising and media coverage among the public opinion, both locally and internationally, and stimulate those sectors involved to carry out cultural projects on the occasion.
7. Endorse the membership, in the Council, of the State that has one of its cities selected as capital of Islamic culture, should it play host to one of the meetings of the Council under its mandate, and call on the Conference to decide on the matter.
8. Call on the Ninth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers to make a resolution on protecting Islamic heritage sites outside the Muslim world from obliteration and destruction, and mandate ISESCO to pursue its campaign in this connection, through the Islamic World Heritage Committee, and coordinate the Arab-Islamic group within UNESCO World Heritage Committee to prevent the transfer of ownership of the Mosque of Cordoba, registered on the World Heritage List, to the Diocese of Cordoba, and call for declaring the Mosque a universal cultural and civilizational monument.
9. Commend ISESCO for choosing as a core topic for the Ninth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers the promotion of cultural mediation in the Muslim world, in view of its important role in cultural peace in the Member States, and invite the Member States both to align their cultural policies with this strategically grounded vision, and to establish focal points to coordinate relevant programmes and activities.
10. Call for orienting cultural mediation training programmes toward building social peace in the Member States for the youth and women.
11. Coordinate Member States' stances at international forums to address Islamophobia through a three-pronged, holistic approach involving the media, human rights and culture.

12. Welcome the proposal by the representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to invite, in coordination with ISESCO, a number of Islamic culture capitals to take part in the World Intercultural Dialogue Forum (Baku, May 2015).
13. Welcome the invitation extended by the representative of Indonesia to the Council's members and the Member States to take part in the international meeting scheduled for November 2015 in Bali on the theme "culture, wisdom, clash and understanding".
14. Extend thanks and appreciation to the State of the United Arab Emirates, and the Government of Sharjah, represented by the Department of Culture and Information, for cooperating and hosting the 13th meeting of the Consultative Council in Charge of Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, in coordination with ISESCO's General Directorate and its regional office in Sharjah.
15. Address a message of thanks to H.H. Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, and congratulate His Highness both on the successful conclusion of "Sharjah – Arab Region's Islamic Culture Capital 2014" festivities, and on the cultural and civilizational advancement achieved by Sharjah.
16. Extend congratulations and appreciation to H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of ISESCO, on his nomination as Cultural Personality of the Year 2014, and on selecting ISESCO as guest of honor in the 33rd Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF), in appreciation of the Director General's efforts toward joint Islamic action advancement; and commend the civilizational achievements made by ISESCO in its areas of competence (education, science, culture and communication), as part of the mandate given to Dr Altwaijri as Director General by the Member States.

Done in Sharjah, on 20 Muharram 1436 A.H. / 13 November 2014

**The Members of the Consultative Council in Charge of Implementing
the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World**