



SECOND ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS

**Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
22nd-24th Zul Qi'da 1427 A.H./13-15
December 2006**

**JEDDAH COMMITMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

ICEM-2/2006/3.3

Jeddah Commitments for Sustainable Development

We the members of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers in the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, convened for the second session of the Conference, held under the high patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in Jeddah, from 22 to 24 Zul Qida 1427A.H./ 13-15 December 2006,

- **Based on** the resolutions of the First Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdurrahman bin Abdulaziz, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Aviation and Inspector General, in the city of Jeddah, over the period between 29 Rabii I and 1 Rabii II 1423 A.H 10-12 June 2002;
- **Recalling** Resolution No. 11/9-E, issued by the 9th Islamic Summit Conference on the Environment from an Islamic Perspective, whereby the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- was mandated, in coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme and all relevant international and regional organizations, to prepare an action programme representing the Islamic perception of the environment and development, to be presented at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002;
- **Based on** the content of the reference document which was prepared and presented by ISESCO to the Johannesburg Summit under the title of **“Islamic world and sustainable development: specificities, challenges and commitments”**;
- **Also based on the Islamic approach** calling for maintaining man's dignity and fulfilling lieutenancy on earth through good deeds, which are the cornerstone for sustainable development, as well as fostering social solidarity and servicing present and future generations;
- **Having in mind** the orientations, recommendations and outcome of :
 - The Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm-1972);
 - The Arab Communiqué on Environment, Development and Future Horizons (Cairo-1991);
 - The Rio United Nations Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Content of the 21 century Agenda (1992);
 - The Earth Charter (1992);
 - First Global Forum on Environment from An Islamic Perspective (2000);
 - The Malmö Declaration, on the occasion of the First Global Ministerial Environment Forum (2000);
 - The Millennium Development Goals (2000);
 - The Tehran Declaration on Religions, Civilizations and the Environment (2001);
 - The Abu Dhabi Declaration on the Future of Environmental Action in the Arab World (2001);

- The Rabat Declaration on the Opportunities of Investment for Sustainable Development (2001);
- Resolutions of the Oman International Forum on the Environment and Sustainable Development (Muscat 2001);
- The Islamic Declaration on Sustainable Development (Jeddah 2002);
- The Outcome and Resolutions of the World Summit Conference on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg 2002).

In an endeavour to respond to the main challenges facing the countries of the Islamic world in the field of sustainable development, particularly:

- The social, economic and environmental impact of conflicts, wars and the failure of the international community to address their root causes on a basis of justice and within the framework of the relevant international resolutions;
- The increasing rates of poverty, famine and food insecurity in some Islamic countries, in addition to the pervasiveness of illiteracy, the increase in population and unemployment rates, low salaries, poor living standards, low income and mounting debts and their interests;
- The increasing rates of population growth, urban expansion, rural exodus and poor housing which deviate from the relevant urban laws and norms;
- The burden of the major environmental challenges, including climate changes as well as natural and man-made disasters, such as floods, earthquakes, forest fires, burial of harmful and poisonous waste dumped by industrial activities, chemical weapons and insecticides;
- Shortage and scarcity of water resources, low water quality, unbalanced use of underground water tables, and irrational and excessive use of waters, especially in agriculture;
- Soil and arable land degradation leading to a decrease in biodiversity, loss of many plant and animal species, and desertification in many of our countries;
- Degradation of coastal and sea environment, depletion of fish stocks, and spread of all forms of pollution that affect water, soil and air in settlements, especially in the urban areas;
- Burden of debt on many Islamic countries, which hinders the possibility to find the right opportunities and atmosphere for sustainable development;
- Inadequate sources of funding necessary for sustainable human development and capacity building, lack of integration, bilateral trade exchange and investments through an effective partnership among the States of Islamic world;
- Disproportionate performance of education and research systems in the area of keeping pace with scientific and technological progress in the world, and meeting the requirements for sustainable development and transfer of technology to the countries of Islamic world;
- Facing the challenges of globalization at the levels of economy, culture and media; and the need to preserve the Islamic original cultural and architectural heritage, consisting in archaeological sites and the cultural heritage in the fields of architecture, arts and culture;

- The nascent experience of the civil society and the lack of effective involvement in the development and implementation of strategies and programmes on sustainable development.

Based on the above, we the members of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers assert our resolve to work towards implementing the contents of the commitments hereunder, as well as providing appropriate means and conditions and coordinating with the competent authorities in our Member States for the fulfilment of these commitments:

Commitment I: Formulating a common, integrated Islamic strategy for sustainable development

Through the following:

- Drawing up executive strategies, reference studies, field surveys and periodic reports on environment issues in the Member States, and presenting solutions and proposals regarding environment challenges and future stakes;
- Combining efforts and coordinating positions among the Member States to create a standard regulation wherein converge the common fundamentals of national policies and plans relative to environment protection;
- Setting up an Islamic network of associations operating in the areas of the environment and sustainable development in the Islamic countries to upgrade their capacities in the area of sustainable environment, especially as relates to project development and implementation;
- Setting up the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment to assist Islamic countries in procuring adequate funding for the implementation of environment-related projects and programmes.

Commitment II: Fostering the efforts of peace and security and raising awareness about their role in promoting sustainable development

Through the following:

- Defusing tensions and extirpating their root causes through peaceful means and dialogue instead of conflicts and wars and armed confrontation;
- Fostering education in tolerance and human rights, and disseminating the culture of justice and peace in the Islamic world;
- Coordinating efforts and initiatives in the relevant regional and international circles to find just and equitable solutions for the issues of the Islamic world and highlight the environmental situation in Palestine in particular;
- Promoting dialogue among religions and cultures and alliance of civilizations.

Commitment III: Combating illiteracy, poverty and unemployment, and improving the quality of life for Muslim peoples

Through the following:

- Fostering technical and institutional cooperation and solidarity among the states of the Islamic world to provide an open economic system suitable to the creation of adequate opportunities for economic progress and the fight against illiteracy and poverty;
- Fighting exclusion, marginalization and unemployment, especially among the youth, women, and the socially and economically vulnerable categories.
- Catering for the population of rural areas and poor districts in cities, and affording them job opportunities through encouraging medium and small-sized enterprises;
- Preserving and developing handicrafts of great civilizational value, so that they become an economic income-generating activity and a factor in the fight of poverty and unemployment;
- Supporting rich Islamic countries and specialised Islamic funding institutions as well as encouraging investment and facilitated small-loans institutions which allow for more job opportunities, in addition to fighting unemployment, extending educational services, countering illiteracy, especially in rural areas, and providing basic infrastructure services;
- Facilitating the movement of citizens and commodities among Islamic countries (redirecting the flow of emigrating poor Muslim citizens looking for job, from the developed countries towards Islamic countries);
- Transferring debts and their ensuing interests towards funding of sustainable development projects with a view to investing them in the fight against poverty, the protection of the environment and the improvement of life quality in the Islamic world;
- Supporting the setting up and/or the energizing of partnerships among Islamic countries on the one hand, and between the private and public sectors, elected representatives, scientific research institutions, and civil society within each Islamic country, on the other, with the aim of devising and implementing programmes and plans on economic and social development at the local, national and Islamic levels;
- Providing a favourable Islamic environment likely to encourage regional and international institutions to increase investments directed to the States of Islamic world.

Commitment IV: Improving and generalizing the level of health services

Through the following:

- Promoting mutual aid and cooperation among Islamic countries to provide health care and fight epidemics and infectious diseases;

- Providing opportunities to get access to health services and welfare suitable to the individuals and communities, with special focus on children and women during pregnancy and maternity;
- Supporting the efforts being made towards the development of population health through the provision of clean water and proper food, sanitation and control of the dangers of all forms of pollution and chemical material;
- Taking interest in health education programmes through education and communication channels;
- Strengthening human capacities and scientific researches in the field of health at the Islamic level, and enhancing exchange of the relevant scientific researches and discoveries.

Commitment V: Developing educational services and supporting capacities in the field of education and transfer of technology

Through the following:

- Supporting the development of an Islamic strategy on education and literacy as an integral part of an Islamic strategy for sustainable development, in such a way as to ensure full integration of children of school age in basic and secondary education, and heightening interest in vocational and technical education;
- Developing educational curricula and creating specialties in higher education that meet the requirements of the era of knowledge-based society, labour market and the challenges of sustainable development;
- Promoting joint applied scientific research, the exchange of expertise and experiences among Islamic countries in the field of research findings and transfer of technology from and into the Islamic world;
- Supporting the development of a system of information technology through integrated Islamic initiatives, and providing suitable environment to attract investments to Islamic countries;
- Finding an effective mechanism for encouraging the private sector to engage in and support scientific research in the service of sustainable development.

Commitment VI: Supporting participation of women, the youth and civil society in Sustainable Development

Through the following:

- Promoting the role of women and the youth as key partners in sustainable development;

- Empowering women and the youth, and promoting their role in the management of public affairs;
- Redoubling the efforts being made in the field of literacy and vocational education among women and the youth both in cities and in rural areas;
- Strengthening the role and capacities of women in the implementation of income- generating activities that would improve women conditions in rural and urban areas;
- Issuing and developing legislation supporting the issues of childhood and maternity, and applying international legislation and conventions approved by the States of the Islamic world;
- Facilitating participation of committed non-governmental organizations in the efforts towards sustainable development, and providing adequate funding to implement developmental programmes and projects.

Commitment VII: Enlarging scope for democracy from an Islamic perspective as well as participation in decision-making

Through the following:

- Considering the respect for human rights and dignity, as enshrined in Islam- as a key factor in sustainable development;
- Setting up and /or strengthening an effective institutional and legislative mechanism for the respect of human rights in accordance with Islamic principles and teachings, as well as the relevant international commitments, conventions and instruments;
- Encouraging large participation and consultation to reinforce the principle of Shoura in Islam, in line with what has become to be known as good governance concerning decision-making in the economic, social and political fields;
- Commitment to transparency in the flow of information and facts, and harnessing modern communication technology to allow access to information by the majority of citizens in the Islamic world;
- Formulating Islamic reference indicators to evaluate democracy exercise at all levels in the Islamic world.

Commitment VIII: Preserving and rationalizing water resources

Through the following:

- Ensuring the right to have access to water, and preserving and developing water resources for present and coming generations;

- Protecting underground and surface waters, and ensuring good exploitation and rational utilization of these resources;
- Adopting an integrated management of water resources, including water basins;
- Adopting strategies for developing water resources and rationalizing their use, through desalination, rain harvest, recycling of used waters and encouraging more efficient and economical irrigation techniques, guided therein by the Strategy for Management of Water Resources in the Islamic World, which was adopted by the Tenth Islamic Summit;
- Developing environment legislations, in general, and legislations relating to the protection of surface and underground waters from all forms of pollution and waste, in particular;
- Promoting cooperation among States of the Islamic world for optimum utilization of shared waters.

Commitment IX: Preserving soil, land and biodiversity

Through the following:

- Developing and implementing joint Islamic projects on agricultural production, providing food and ensuring solidarity to fight famine among poor Muslim peoples;
- Fostering cooperation among Islamic countries with a view to developing agricultural researches, protecting arable lands and combating desertification and soil erosion, through setting up leading local development projects;
- Encouraging the adoption of organic agriculture methods and expanding the establishment of natural reserves;
- Expanding the establishment of national banks for seeds and genes, redoubling of projects of forestation, and preserving tree cover;
- Protecting oceans, seas and coastal environment from pollution and depletion of fish stocks with a view to preserving biodiversity and ensuring food security;
- Safeguarding the diversity of cultural heritage, using it to promote tourist sustainable and clean development in the Islamic world, as well as preserving vulnerable environmental systems such as mountains, oases, coastal and humid areas, and raising awareness about their importance in the protection of underground water resources;
- Enforcing the conventions adopted by the international community as concerns the fight against desertification, preserving biodiversity and developing cooperation among Islamic countries in the support of institutional, human and material capacities.

Commitment X: Taking interest in the quality of air, energy and the impact of climate change

Through the following:

- Encouraging joint researches and programmes, as well as the exchange of experience as concerns the ways to keep air pollution in check and reduce its effects through the development of adequate urban planning strategies inspired by Islamic architecture, identifying the different areas of land uses and programmes to control air emissions, and organizing traffic in cities;
- Facilitating access to energy for the benefit of rural and urban population as well as encouraging the use of environment-friendly renewable and clean energies, and using modern technologies to better process fuel and reduce emissions;
- Supporting cooperation among Islamic countries concerning the support to the institutional, human and material capacities, in order to benefit from the funding mechanisms and means available at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change as well as the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol as a clean development mechanism (CDM);
- Laying down strategies and setting up projects for renewable energies and techniques for a better processing of fuel and reduction of emissions in the Islamic countries;
- Encouraging research in the area of absorption and reduction of carbon dioxide.

Commitment XI: Encouraging production and sustainable consumption

Through the following:

- Diffusing the mechanisms and techniques of safe and clean production, and making proper use of the different natural resources through adequate incentives and activities of education, media and communication;
- Supporting the promotion of sustainable consumption patterns among citizens, and industrial, commercial and tourist institutions;
- Encouraging businessmen and Islamic economic institutions to cooperate with a view to establishing a common Islamic market for environment-friendly products.

Commitment XII: Updating and enforcing special legislation

Through the following:

- Enforcing and developing environmental legislation and integration of the environmental dimension in developmental plans, including studying the environmental impact of economic and social developmental projects;

- Strengthening cooperation among Islamic countries in the measures and expertise related to the ways of prevention from natural and technological disasters, and the methods to mitigate its effects on the components of sustainable development;
- Integrating the right of people to balanced environment and sustainable development as a basic right into national laws and constitutions in the States of the Islamic world;

Procedural matters:

In order to fulfil the commitments and objectives hereinabove, action shall be made to:

- Establish the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, under the presidency of His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz, President of the first and second sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, and to entrust the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- with the Bureau's General Secretariat in its Permanent Headquarters in Rabat. The Bureau shall be in charge of coordinating action among Islamic states in the field of the environment, and following up the implementation, evaluation and development of these commitments;
- Issue a referential periodic report on the situation of sustainable development in the Islamic world;
- Urge the Member States to integrate the principles and clauses of these commitments into their developmental and environmental policies;
- Develop cooperation and partnership with international and regional institutions and bodies concerned with the support of development and the preservation of the environment;
- Enforce the role of the media, universities and civil society institutions and associations to publicize these clauses and muster support for them;
- Ensure large-scale publication of the principles and contents of these commitments, and make them known in international and regional forums, meetings and conferences;
- Create adequate conditions to help the Islamic States to practically enforce the principles and contents of these commitments.