

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
-ISESCO-

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL / 17th SESSION

Rabat, Rajab 1417 H

1-6 December 1996

Final Report



The Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization held its 17th session in Rabat, capital-city of the Kingdom of Morocco, the seat country, from 19 to 24 Rajab 1417H, corresponding to 1-6 December 1996. It was attended by the Member of Executive Council, representing the Member States of the Organization, with the exception of the representatives of two Member States of the Organization, namely the Republic of Gabon, and the Republic of Maldives.

(Annex n°1: List of attending members of the Executive Council)

Opening session: Sunday, 19 Rajab 1417H (6 December 1996)

Morning:

- 1- The opening session was held under the chairman of His Excellency Mr. Lamine Karama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea and Chairman of the Executive Council. It was attended by His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Ghassan Al-Halabi, Minister of Education of the Syrian Arab Republic and President of the 5th General Conference, His Excellency Dr. Idriss Khalil, Minister of Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research of the Kingdom of Morocco, His Excellency Mr. Abdallah Azmani, Minister of Cultural Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco, His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of the Islamic Organization, His Excellency Ambassador Othman Motary, Representative of His Excellency the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco and Chairman of the 7th Islamic Summit, and His Excellency Dr. Samir Sanbar, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations for Public Information. The Session was also attended by many senior officials from the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, the members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Rabat, the representatives of a number of international and regional organizations as well as several personalities in the fields of letters, culture and information.
- 2- The Opening Session started with the recitation of some verses of the Holy Quran. H.E. Mr. Lamine Kamara, Chairman of the Executive Council, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea and the representative of Guinea in the Council, then delivered an address, in which he expressed his pleasure at opening the 17th Session of the Council, and thanked all the participants for the interest they took in the Islamic Organization. He also expressed profound satisfaction at the steady development Organization thanks to the wise management of Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri. He commanded the high academic level of the activities implemented and the serious efforts made by the General Directorate to rationalize expenditures and streamline the utilization of work means, thus enhancing the credibility of the Organization on the international scene as well as its status on a par with

the major international organizations. He emphasized the need to include a number of topical issues directly related to development in the next Three-Year Action Plan for the years 1998-2000. He, then, concluded by expending his most profound thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, for the generous care and sustained support he bestowed on the Organization.

(Annex n°2: Address of H.E. Lamine Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea, Chairman of the Executive Council)

- 3- H.E. Dr. Idriss Khalil, Minister of Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research of the Kingdom of Morocco, delivered an address in which he first welcomed the members of the Executive Council on behalf of the Government of His Majesty King Hassan II. He, then, expressed his appreciation for the praiseworthy mission discharged by the Islamic Organization and stressed importance of combining planning and work in an integrated manner and with a clear-cut methodology. He referred to the message addressed by the Moroccan Monarch to the Muslim Ummah on the occasion of the advent of the Fifteenth Century of the Hegira, in which His Majesty emphasized that thanks to a sound Islamic planning and a sustained organized work, the Muslim Community would overcome most of its crises, take up successfully the challenges leveled at it, and assume by itself the responsibility for its development and growth within the framework of its own civilization.

In this address, Dr. Idriss Khalil commended the good elaboration of the Organization's documents submitted to the Council, which, he said, combined the components of both planning and work. Talking about the achievements undertaken with the framework of the current Action Plan, he stated that such accomplishments were likely to create the appropriate conditions for achieving the comprehensive and sustainable growth of the Muslim Community, on the basis of both knowledge and values. He reminded that the responsibility devolved on the Islamic Organization regarding the progress and development of the Muslim Ummah placed it in a vanguard position by virtue of its Charter, objectives as well as the hopes pinned on it.

(Annex n°3: Address of H.E. Dr. Idriss Khalil, Minister of Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research of the Kingdom of Morocco)

- 4- H.E. Mr. Mohammed Ghassan Al-Halabi, Minister of Education of the Syrian Arab Republic and President of the 5th General Conference, delivered an address in which he expressed his pleasure at attending the opening of the 17th Session of ISESCO's Executive Council, commending the great achievements of the Islamic Organization in the realms of education, science and culture. He voiced his confidence in the success of the Council's proceedings, which would enhance the Organization's efficiency and sustain its course as well as develop its methodology and performance. He congratulated His Excellency Mr. Lamine Kamara, Chairman of the Executive Council, on his appointment as Foreign Minister of his country, and expressed thanks to the Council members for their valuable contributions, and to His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO's Director General, for the unfailing efforts he was exerting to develop the Organization's

work. Concluding his address, he extended his sincerest thanks and gratitude on behalf on the General Conference to His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, for the generous care and continued support he bestowed upon the Organization.

*(Annex n°4: Address of His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Ghassan Al-Halabi,
Minister of Education in the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic,
President of the 5th General Conference)*

5- In his address, His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, extended his warm welcome to the members of the Executive Council and expressed his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, for the generous care he bestowed upon the Organization. He also expressed his warm thanks to the leaders of Member States, indicating that the activities of the Organization, since its inception, had covered the Muslim communities within and outside the Muslim countries and gave impetus to the national efforts made to develop the human resources of the Muslim world. He further indicated that the growing confidence reposed in the Organization by the Member States and international and regional organizations had strengthened its determination to discharge its assigned duties and better serve the Muslim world.

He then highlighted the various aspects marking the period between the 16th and 17th Sessions, namely the expansion of ISESCO's activities, the upgrading of its performance, the creation of new fields of action, the improvement of work methods, and the soar of the implementation rate to 90% by the end of the year. He indicated that, relying on the principles of modern management and scientific thinking, the Organization had worked out a medium-Term Plan apt to usher it in the next century on the basis of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, and approached an elite of scholars versed in this domain for an in-depth review of the Plan.

He concluded his address by welcoming all participants, beseeching Almighty God to crown the Organization's efforts with success in the best interest of the Muslim Ummah.

*(Annex n°5: Address of His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri,
Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization)*

6- At the end of the Opening Session, the Director General of the Islamic Organization signed two cooperation agreements with the Moroccan Ministry of Cultural Affairs, represented by His Excellency Mr. Abdallah Azmani, Minister of Cultural Affairs of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, and the Spanish Comillas Foundation, represented by His Excellency Mr. Felipe Gomez, Vice-Executive Manager, who delivered an address on this occasion. The Director General also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations General Directorate of Public Information, represented by H.E. Dr. Samir Sanbar, UN Assistant Secretary General for Public Information.

*(Annex n°6: Address of His Excellency Mr. Felipe Gomez,
Comillas Vice-Executive Manager)*

First working Session: Sunday, 19 Rajab 1417H (1st December 1996)

Afternoon:

**Item 1.1 of the Agenda
Adoption of the Agenda
(Document CE.17/96/1.1 Provisional (Revised))**

7- The Council considered the draft Agenda submitted in the Document CE. 17/96/1.1 Provisional, Revised. After deliberation, the Agenda was adopted. In this respect, the Council took the following decision:

**Decision n° CE. 17/96/D.1.1
On Item 1.1 of the Agenda
(Adoption of the Agenda)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with articles 22, 23 and 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council;
- Having considered the Draft Agenda of its Seventeenth Session, contained in Doc (CE 17/96/1.1 Provisional (Rev.);
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

Decides the following:

Adopts the Agenda of its current Seventeenth Session as contained in the Doc CE 17/96/1.1 Adopted, which is annexed to the Final Report of the aforementioned Session.

(Annex n°7: Document CE. 17/96/1.1 Adopted)

**Item 2.1 of the Agenda:
Adoption of the Programme of the Session's proceedings
(Document C.E. 17/96/1.2 Provisional (Revised))**

8- The Council considered the proposed Programme of the Session's proceedings. After deliberations, the Programme was adopted. In this regard, the Council took the following decision:

Decision n° CE. 17/96/D.1.2
On Item 1.2 of the Agenda
(Adoption of the Session's Programme)

The Executive Council,

- Recalling Decision CE 16/95/D 6.1, which was adopted by the Council at its 16th Session (Rabat, 1-5/12/1995), and in which the Council decided to convene its 17th Session in Rabat, in the first two weeks of December 1996 for a duration of six days;
- Considering the Decision CE 17/96/D 1.1 by virtue of which the Council adopted the Agenda of the current 17th Session;
- Having examined the Draft Programme of the present Session's proceedings, contained in Doc. CE 17/96/1.2 Provisional 5Rev;);
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following:

Adopts the Programme organizing the proceedings of its 17th Session as contained in Doc. CE 17/96/1.2 Adopted, which is annexed to the Final Report of aforementioned Session.

(Annex n°8: Document CE. 17/96/1.2 Adopted)

Item 2.1 of the Agenda:
Report of the Director General on the Organization's
activities between the 16th and 17th Council Sessions
(Document C.E. 17/96/2.1 and Document CE. 17/96/2.1 (Addendum))

9- The Director General gave an overview of the new procedures introduced by the General Directorate during the present year to improve the implementation of activities, such as computerization and the utilization of the technical sheets system for monitoring the academic aspects of activities and ensuring continuous assessment, which made it possible to follow up activities rigorously and prepare reports quickly. He also reviewed the salient elements and data relating to the Organization's achievements during the second year of implementation of the Three-Year Plan of Action. In this context, he highlighted the efforts exerted by the General Directorate to boost the international cooperation of the Organization and reinforce the cooperation agreements, in addition to the practical measures taken to strengthen the mechanisms pertaining to programme implementation. He further specified that 312 activities had been programmed for the current year in the fields of education, science, culture, communication, information, documentation, the press and cooperation, against 185 activities during the previous year, representing an increase of 68%. He said that a total amount of US\$ 5,500,000 had been earmarked for these activities, including US\$ 2,500,000 provided by cooperating partners. He pointed out that the present year's appropriations had increased by 150% in comparison with the previous year's appropriations. He then reviewed the major achievements of the Organization between the 16th and 17th Council Sessions, underlining that those achievements continued a qualitative leap in the course of the Organization, and

emphasizing that the implementation rate of Directorate, Services and Divisions would rise to 90% by the end of December 1996.

10- The Executive Council members congratulated the Director General on the quality of the report, its clarity and comprehensiveness as well as the diversified and balanced activities and programmes it contained, which bore testimony to the improved management and upgraded work mechanisms of the administration. Deliberations ensued, in which the Council members made observations, foremost of which were:

- The Executive Council registered, with great satisfaction, the distinct relations existing between the General Directorate and the Seat Country, as well as the growing number of cooperation agreements concluded with the competent parties in the Kingdom of Morocco;
- The Council expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Director General as illustrated by the number of his work visits, commended the outcome of these visits and contacts with senior officials and praised the direct contacts because of their beneficial effects;
- The Director General was invited to widen the base of such visits and contacts to include all Member States, as this would increase awareness about the Organization's activities, enlarge the scope of its programmes and consolidate them;
- The Council called for distinguishing in the Organization's documents between the activities implemented within the scope of the Plan of Action and those programmed and implemented on an extra-budgetary basis in cooperation with States and governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- The Council called for including in the report of the Director General his activities in the Seat Country along with his activities outside the Seat Country.

Second working Session: Monday, 20 Rajab 1417H (2nd December 1996)

Morning:

Item 2.1 of the Agenda: (continued)

11- The Executive Council members pursued discussion of the Director General's report, making observations and proposals which may be summarized as follows:

- To widen the scope of programmes and activities relevant to scientific research as to cover the humanities, in particular the social sciences and psychology, instead of limiting them to basic sciences;
- To focus, in the scientific activities, on bioethics and informatics ethics in order to cope with the rapid developments occurring in this area, take measures to monitor them and check the impacts which run counter to the values of the Muslim society;

- To request the Organization to adopt some major projects marked by their Islamic specificity, and to incorporate its programmes and activities within these projects;
- To request the Organization to identify the potentials and needs of Member States in the fields of education, science and culture in order to have indicators on the basis of which it may draw up its action plans and determine the opportunities of cooperation and exchange of expertise among the Member States;
- To request the Organization to attach greater importance to the quantitative and qualitative evaluation of its activities as well as to the assessment of the implementation rate, the quality of achievement and the overall productivity, in addition to identify the difficulties;
- To request the Organizations to set up ISESCO Clubs in Member States in order to promote awareness about ISESCO, its objectives, mission and programmes.

12- In his reply to the remarks and queries of the Council members, the Director General pointed out that the activities and programmes of the Organization were all incorporated in the Plan of Action approved by its organs. He stressed the importance of cooperation programmes with international, Islamic and Arab institutions, in particular the cultural and scientific organs operating within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. He also pointed out that the Organization's evaluation methodology took into account the opinions of the parties participating in every activity carried out.

13- The Deputy Director General in Charge of Programmes and the Director of Science provided some clarifications and replies to the queries raised by the Council members.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision:

Decision n° CE. 17/96/D.2.1

On Item 2.1 of the Agenda

**(Report of the Director General on the Organization's
Activities between the 16th and 17th Council Sessions)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the Article 20, paragraph "d" of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, which stipulates that the Council examines the Director General's Report on the Organization's activities that are being implemented;
- Having considering the Report of the Director General on the Organization's activities between the 16th and 17th Council Sessions, which is included in documents CE 17/96/2.1 and CE 17/96/2.1 Addendum;
- Having heard the presentations made by the Director General and his assistants;
- Noting, in particular, that the course followed by the Organization aimed at taking maximum advantage of the cooperation agreements concluded with the other international organizations has led to the rationalization of expenses and the exchange

of experiences, which constitutes a positive asset in the Organization's work methods and programme implementation techniques;

- Noting, also, that the harnessing of cooperation agreements has brought about a significant increase in the programme implementation;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place as well as the opinions and comments expressed by the Executive Council members;

Decides the following:

1. Adopts the Report of the Director General on the Organization's activities between the 16th and 17th Council Sessions, contained in documents CE 17/96/2.1 and CE 17/96/2.1 Addendum;
2. Commands the tremendous efforts exerted by the General Directorate to implement the bulk of activities and programmes and extend the fields of cooperation with international organizations, Arab and Islamic institutions, regional bodies, and foundations, which has procured to the Organization substantial important resources and ushered it into international community in order to take advantage of its resources and experiences;
3. Commends the Director General's policy of programme implementation according to the priorities adopted by the Executive Council at its previous sessions;
4. Requests the establishment within the Executive Council of a restricted committee composed of the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Yemen with a view to evaluating the contents of concluded agreements and the real impact of the programmes implemented within their framework in the light of the Organization's objectives;
5. Requests the Director General to set up an external evaluation mechanism entrusted with assessing the activities carried out;
6. Requests the Director General to make a distinction between the activities carried out with budgetary appropriations and those carried out with extra-budgetary resources;
7. Agrees to submit this Report to the next General Conference and recommends its adoption by the General Conference.

**Item 2.2 of the Agenda:
Financial Report of the Director General,
Closing Accounts for the Financial Year 1995;
General Statements of Accounts and Expenditure
up to the end of September 1996**

(Document C.E. 17/96/2.2 and Document CE 17/96/2.2 Addendum)

- 14-** The Director General introduced the document, indicating the amounts received by the Organization from 1 January 1995 to 31 December 1995 and the expenditures incurred during the same period. He indicated that, in 1995, the Organization had received US\$ 4,726,529.40, which was a meagre amount when compared with what had been received during the previous period, i.e. US\$ 6,252,086.41, and when compared with the expected budget amounting to US\$ 11,486,938.00. He pointed out that the arrears, until 31

December 1995, had amounted to US\$ 45,483,774.24, and that actual expenditures on the Organization's programmes, in 1995, were based on 40% of the adopted estimated budget. He explained that the General Directorate had pursued its efforts to obtain additional resources, through cooperation agreements, and had received US\$ 700,000 to implement joint programmes. He concluded his presentation saying that the Report also included the balance and operating account, as at 31 December 1995, for both the End-of-Service Allowance Fund and the Medical Insurance Fund of ISESCO.

Third working Session: Monday, 20 Rajab 1417H (2nd December 1996)

Afternoon:

Item 2.2 of the Agenda (contd.)

15- The Council pursued its consideration of the Financial Report, Closing Accounts and General Statements of Accounts and, after deliberation, took the following decision:

Decision n° CE. 17/96/D.2.2

On Item 2.2 of the Agenda

**(Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts
for the Financial Year 1995; and General Statements of Accounts
and Expenditure up to the end of September 1996)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the Article 29, paragraph "d" of the Financial Regulations and Article 20, paragraphs "e" and "f" of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council;
- In compliance with operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of Decision CE 15/94/D.2.2 adopted by the Executive Council at its 15th Session (Damascus, 19-24/11/1994), regarding the time frame of the preparation of the financial reports;
- Having considered the Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts for Financial Year 1995 as well as the General Statements of Accounts and Expenditure up to the end of September 1996, contained respectively in documents CE 17/96/2.2 and CE 17/96/2.2. Addendum;
- Having heard the explanations provided by the Director General and his assistants;
- Taking note that the Financial Control Committee has examined the Financial Report and Closing Accounts for 1995, has expressed its appreciation for this report and made suggestions in this connection;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

Decides the following:

1. Adopts the Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts for Financial Year 1995 as well as the General Statements of Accounts and Expenditure up to the end of September 1996, contained respectively in documents CE 17/96/2.2 and CE 17/96/2.2. Addendum;
2. Commands the General Directorate adherence to the Decision DE 15/94/D2.2 adopted by the Executive Council at its 15th Session, regarding the preparation of the financial reports;
3. Commends also the Director General for the efforts he has exerted in gearing the bulk of the financial resources to the implementation of programmes, and in monitoring the operating expenses;
4. Agrees to refer this Report to the next General Conference and recommends its adoption.

**Item 2.3 of the Agenda:
Report of the Financial Control Committee
and of the Audit Company for financial year 1995
(Document C.E. 17/96/2.3)**

- 16- The Chairman of the Financial Control Committee made a brief presentation, in which he first commended the efforts made by the General Directorate to facilitate the work of the Committee. He indicated that the Committee had reviewed the accounts of the Organization, inspected its stocks and ascertained the accuracy of the accounts audited. He then went through the most important recommendations made by the financial Control Committee at its last meeting, in particular the recommendation requesting the General Directorate to complete the registration formalities of the ownership of the building housing the offices of the Organization so as to become its sole property; the recommendation calling upon the Council members to look into the fixed assets that remained at the disposal of the retired Deputy Director General and take the appropriate measures to settle this question; the recommendation that the Internal Auditor have access to the files relevant to "purchases" and the responsibility for stocks be transferred from the Stocks and Procurements Section to the Financial Affairs Division.
- 17- The Council Members congratulated the Financial Control Committee on its comprehensive and precise report. During deliberations, the following observations were put forth:
- To provide training to the finance staff;
 - To monitor and develop the Medical Insurance Fund through entrusting an insurance expert with the task of drawing up system for the Fund;
 - To set up active committees to render the special Funds more effective and improve their resources.

18- In his comments on the observations made by Council Members, the Director General indicated that the formalities of ownership by the Organization of the building housing its headquarters and been completed and the building had become the sole property of the Organization. Moreover, he said that he had exerted great efforts to procure resources for the Al-Quds Fund and, in this connection, urged the financing organizations and institutions to provide support to this Fund.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision:

Decision CE 17/96/D. 2.3
on Item 2.3 of the Agenda:
(Report of the Financial Control Committee
and of the Audit Company for Financial Year 1995)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with
 - * Article 20 and 24 through 29 of the Financial Regulations;
 - * Article 20, paragraph "b" and "g" of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council;
- Taking note that the Financial Control Committee convened its meeting at the Organization's headquarters upon the invitation of the Director General in compliance with operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of Decision CE 15/94/D.2.2. adopted by the Executive Council at its 15th Session concerning the time frame of preparation of financial reports, and invitation of the Financial Control Committee to convene and prepare its report;
- Having considered the reports of the Financial Control Committee and the Audit Company for Financial Year 1995, contained in Doc. CE 17/96/2.3;
- Having heard the explanation made by the Chairman of the Financial Control Committee, and the explanations provided thereon by the Director General and his assistants;
- Taking note, also, that the Director General has taken the necessary measures to ensure full ownership of the present Headquarters by the Organization, by virtue of the mandate given him by the Executive Council as per operative paragraph 6 of Decision CE 16/95/D.2.3, adopted by the Council at its 16th session, regarding the Report of the Financial Control Committee and the Audit Company Report for financial year 1994;
- Considering the endeavour of the Director General to enforce the recommendations of the Financial Control Committee;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

Decides the following:

1. Adopts the Reports of the Financial Control Committee and Audit Company for Financial Year 1995, as contained in Doc. CE 17/96/2.3;
2. Thanks the Chairman and the members of the of the Financial Control Committee for the efforts they exerted to improve the financial and accounting procedures of the Organization;
3. Commands the Director General for his adherence to the recommendations of the Financial Control Committee and his endeavour to implement them, and invites him to go on in that direction;
4. Thanks the Director General for taking the necessary measures to ensure the full ownership of the present Headquarters by the Organization by virtue of the mandate granted him by the Executive Council as stipulated in operative paragraph 6 of Decision CE 16/95/D.2.3, adopted by the Council at its 16th Session;
5. Agrees to submit the report of the Financial Control Committee and Audit Company, contained in Document CE 17/96/2.3, to the next General Conference and recommends their adoption.

**Item 2.4 of the Agenda:
Report of the Director General
On the Fixed Assets that remained at the disposal
of the retired Deputy Director General
(Document C.E. 17/96/2.4)**

- 19- The Council decided to discuss the said report in camera, and, after deliberations, decided to entrust its Chairman with making the necessary contacts he deemed appropriate to solve the problem in a friendly manner and with his customary wisdom, and to inform the Council of the outcome of his good offices.

**Item 2.5 of the Agenda:
Financial Report of the Director General
on Member States' contributions to the Organization's
Budget and on redressing the Organization's Financial Situation
(Document C.E. 17/96/2.5)**

- 20- The Council started its proceedings under the chairman of Dr. Hamadi Ben Jaballah, representative of the Republic of Tunisia, Vice-Chairman of the Council, as the Council Chairman was compelled to leave. The Deputy Director General submitted the report on the situation of Member States' contributions, indicating that the funds received from 1 October 1995 to 30 September, 1996 totalled US\$ 5,394,207.89, of which US\$

1,875,422,20 represented contributions for the financial year 1996, paid at the rate of 16% of the expected budget. This rate had then increased to reach 23% for the same financial year, or an additional amount of US\$ 2,707,675.50. He further stated that the arrears had accumulated since 1982 to presently amount to US\$ 72,070,795.18, or 58% of the expected budgets, while the arrears of the financial year 1996 represented 77% of the budget earmarked for that year. He pointed out at the end of his presentation that some Member States, when settling their contributions, did not indicate the financial year for which the settlement was made, an occurrence which made it difficult to enter those contributions under the relevant financial year.

21- The Council members reviewed the various aspects of the Report. Discussions ensued, resulting in observations and proposals that can be summarized as follows:

- To consider setting aside an annual percentage of the Organization's income as a legal deposit to be invested in order to secure a permanent additional income for the Organization;
- To consider ways and means whereby to assist the Member States unable to settle their financial contributions in cash by allowing them to do so in kind;
- To amend the Financial Regulations so as to allow fixing a percentage that may be settle in local currency.

22- Some Council members emphasized their countries' commitment to settle their contributions to the Organization's budget. In this respect, the representatives of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and of the Republic of Yemen stated that their countries' contributions had already been transferred, while the representative of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah announced that this country had already transferred part of its contributions. A number of Member States' representatives asked to defer the settlement of their countries' contributions, while the representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh presented a written request for a waiver of his country's arrears. The Council was of the view that the request fell under the competence of the General Conference, and did not examine it.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision:

Decision CE 17/96/D.2.5

on Item 2.5 of the Agenda:

**(Director General's Report on the Situation of Member States'
Contributions to Organization's Budget and on Redressing
the Organization's Financial Situation)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the Article 17 of the Charter, Article 6 of the Financial Regulations;
- Recalling the previous decisions and resolutions at the Organization's Executive Council and General Conference sessions in this connection, in particular:

- * Decision C.E. 15/94/D.2.4 which was adopted by the Executive Council at its 15th Session (Damascus, 19-24/11/1994), whereby it endorsed, in the third operative paragraph, the report of the Committee set up by the Executive Council at its 14th Session to examine the situation of Member States' contributions to the Organization's budget;
- * Resolution C.G. 5/94/R.2.5 adopted by the 5th General Conference (Damascus, 27-30/11/1994), whereby it invited, in the third operative paragraph thereof, the representatives of Member States in the General Conference as well as the members of the Executive Council to contact the authorities concerned in their countries with a view to emphasizing the paramount importance of commitment to a regular settlement of their contributions and payment of their arrears in order to keep the Organization's work momentum;
- Noting, after taking cognizance of the Director General's Report on Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing its Financial Situation, included in Doc. CE 17/96/2.5, that the pace of Member States' settlement of their contributions is still below the required standard;
- Having heard the presentation made by the Director General and his assistants;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

Decides the following:

1. Adopts the Director General's Report on Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing its Financial Situation as contained in Doc. CE 17/96/2.5 taking into account the remarks made by the Council members;
2. Expresses concern over the pace of Member state's settlement of their contributions to the Organization's budget and their arrears;
3. Affirms the previous decisions adopted by the Council in this connection;
4. Invites the Executive Council members and officials in charge of the National Commissions to intensify their efforts in order to prompt a greater commitment of their respective countries to settle their contributions;
5. commends the Director General for his efforts in collecting as many contributions as possible from the Member States and invites him to pursue his efforts in this connection;
6. Agrees to submit this Report to the next General Conference and recommends its adoption.

Fourth working Session: Tuesday, 21 Rajab 1417H (3rd December 1996)

Morning:

Items 3.1 and 3.2 of the Agenda:

Revision of the Medium-Term Plan for the Years 1991-2000

(Document C.E. 17/96/3.1 Revised)

Broad Lines of the Draft Three-Year Action Plan

Of the Organization for the Years 1998-2000

(Document C.E. 17/96/3.2 and Document CE. 17/96/3.2 Addendum)

- 23-** The Director General made a presentation on his report regarding the Broad Lines of the Draft Three-Year Action Plan for the Years 1998-2000, stating that the Plan stemmed from an awareness about the challenges leveled at the Muslim World as well as conviction of the necessity to meet the requirements of educational, scientific and cultural development of Member states and take into account the prospective developments in the years preceding the 21st century. He stated, in this connection, that a number of major civilizational projects had been adopted in compliance with the directives of the Executive Council. These projects, said the Director General, gave substance to the aspirations of the Muslim Ummah and were intended to engender a better and more lasting impact, in addition to contributing efficiently to comprehensive development. He pointed out that the Broad Lines were prepared on a basis of a number of reference documents, notably the Charter of ISESCO, the Medium-Term-Plan, the strategy for the Promotion of Education in Muslim Countries, the cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, the ISESCO document concerning the Strategy for the Development of Science and Technology, in addition to the UNESCO and ALECSO work plans. The Director General underlined the fact that the Medium-Term-Plan had been revised for the purpose of linking it to the first Action Plan of the 21st century. He pointed out that the work had been carried out by an Expert Committee from the Organization, supported by an prospective thinking, on the basis of reference documents and specialized reports.
- 24-** The Council members congratulated the Director General and his assistants on the efforts exerted in the preparation of the aforementioned two documents, which they said were marked by deep intellectual effort and sharp, global perception. They praised, likewise, the method of the elaboration of the two plans, which had benefited from the international documents published in this field as well as from the experience and opinions of an elite of Arab and Muslim scholars. The discussions which ensued touched on the various aspects of the two documents, then focused on the following:
- Respond to the needs of Members States in the fields of energy and oil sciences, and encourage studies and research works in this area;
 - Promote Projects in the fields of modern microelectronics;
 - Take advantage of the UNESCO report on "human creativity" during the finalization of the Three-Year Action Plan;

- Strengthen interaction between the university and the environment in the best interest of the agricultural, industrial, and social development as well as in the field of services;
- Endeavour to find ways of coordinating among the satellite channels of the Muslim World and strengthen cooperation among them with a view to optimizing the harnessing of the available information facilities in developing the Muslim society;
- Extend the third scientific field to comprise new energies, in addition to renewable energies;
- Attach paramount importance to the diversification of secondary education fields;
- Focus on the development of intellectual capabilities as well as on the development and encouragement of creativity in order to move from the phase of consumer behaviour to that of participation in the production process;
- Give priority, in the educational activities, to training more than to symposia and seminars;
- Set up an educational centre concerned with the development of Quranic schools, and conduct studies in this area;
- Exert efforts to lay the groundwork for a modern Islamic school, which takes advantage of the modern developments;
- Take further interest in the field of sponsoring education and promoting its economic aspects, mainly through thinking about certain low-cost educational patterns;
- Encourage the setting up and developing of scientific associations comprising scientists from various disciplines;
- Promote, in the fields of informatics, the services of extended to the Member States and enable them to take advantage of the databases established by ISESCO;
- Coordinate the efforts exerted in the field of prospective studies and the correction of the misconceptions about Islam and Muslims;
- Take appropriate action regarding the Islamic Cultural Decade, and consider the possibility of submitting it to the relevant institutions operating within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Item 3.1 and 3.2 of the Agenda (continued)

25- The Director General expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Council members for their judicious opinions, useful remarks and sound guidelines likely to enrich the project submitted by the Organization. The Director General indicated that the diversity characterizing the enthusiastic opinions conveyed about the Organization's work bore testimony to the fact that the Organization had reached a high level of achievement in discharging its momentous tasks which enjoyed a privileged status in the Muslim World as well as in the international scene. He pointed out that the Organization had submitted mere broad lines, not an integrate project, and underlined that the Organization would take into account, upon drafting the final project of the Plan, all the judicious opinions and valuable remarks in order to have an integrated Plan that incorporated the issue of comprehensive development and was flexible enough to interact with the modern developments. The Director General concluded by proposing the establishment of a restricted Committee, made up of Prof. Iba Der Thiam, representative of the Republic of Senegal, Dr. Wan Mohd. Zahid. Noordin, representative of Malaysia, and Mr. Fawzi Abdul Zaher Khamis, representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to be entrusted with the revision of the draft plan and its finalization, after its amendment by the General Directorate in the light of the guidelines, observations and proposals put forward by the Council members, in order to present it to the General Conference.

The Council, then, took the following decision:

Decision CE 17/96/D3.1 and 3.2

On Items 3.1 and 3.2 of the Agenda:

(Revision of the Medium-Term Plan for the Years 1991-2000)

(Broad Lines of the Draft Three-Year Action Plan

Of the Organization for the Years 1998-2000)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 20, paragraph "2" of the Rules and Procedures of the Executive Council;
- Recalling the discussions, proposals and guidelines put forward by the Executive Council members during the 16th Session of the Executive Council regarding the Director General's Report on the Organization's activities and programme implementation (Final Report of the 16th Session contained in Document CE 16/95/FR, paragraph 10), requesting the General Directorate to take into consideration these guidelines upon the preparation of the broad lines of the Organization's next Three-Year Action Plan 1998-2000;

- Considering that these proposals and guidelines entail the revision and reconsideration of the Organization's Medium-Term Plan for the Years 1991-2000, which was adopted by the General Conference, at its 4th Session (Rabat, 28-30/11/1991), and on the basis of which the Organization's former two Action Plans (1991-1994) and (1995-1997) have been prepared;
- Taking note of the measures taken by the Organization's Director General, in particular the setting up of an internal Expert Committee, headed by the Deputy Director General in Charge of Programmes, and an external Committee, made up of a number of distinguished scholars from the Muslim World, with a view to putting forward proposals for the revision of the Organization's Medium-Term Plan 1991-2000 and drawing up the Broad Lines of the Organization's Draft Three-Year Action Plan for the years 1998-2000;
- Having taking cognizance of document CE 17/96/3.1 Rev., containing the report of the External Committee and the opinions of its members regarding the revision of the Organization's Medium-Term Plan 1991-2000 and the two documents CE 17/96/3.2 and CE 17/96/3.2 Addendum, containing the Broad Lines of the Organization's Draft Three-Year Action Plan for the years 1998-2000 and the Major Civilizational Projects included in this Plan;
- Considering that the opinions and orientations included in the aforementioned documents respond to a large extent to the guidelines expressed by the Executive Council members during the 16th Session of the Council regarding the Director General's Report on the Organization's activities and programme implementation;
- Having heard the presentation of the Director General and his assistants;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the amendments proposed by the Council members.

Decides the following:

1. Commends the efforts exerted by the Director General and the members of the two committees which he had set up to give substance to the deliberations and guidelines of the Executive Council in connection with the Organization's Action Plan and their improvement;
2. Invites the Director General to reformulate the orientations and opinions included in the report of the External Committee contained in document CE 17/96/3.1 (Rev.) concerning the revision of the Organization's Medium-Term Plan 1991-2000, after introducing the amendments proposed by the Executive Council members;
3. **a/** Considers the guidelines and opinions made by the Council members as a basis for the preparation of the Draft Three-Year Action Plan and Budget of the Organization for the years 1998-2000, and calls for submitting the Plan, in its final form, to the coming Council Session for adoption;
b/ Adopts the guidelines of the Council members regarding the preparation of the next Medium-Term Action Plan of the Organization for the years 2001-2009, and calls for consulting Member States in this connection;
4. Sets up a tripartite Committee, made up of the representative of the Republic of Senegal (Prof. Iba Der Thiam), the representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt (Prof. Fawzi Abdul Zaher Khamis), and the representative of Malaysia (Dr. Wan Mohd.

Zahid. Noordin), for the purpose for studying the drawing up the final version of the Draft Three-Year Action Plan and Budget for the Years 1998-2000 and the Draft Amendments to the Medium-Term Plan for the Years 1991-2000, prior to submitting them to the 18th Session of the Executive Council, which would present them to the 6th General Conference Session for approval thereof.

Item 3.3 of the Agenda:
Construction of Organization's Headquarters
(Document C.E. 17/96/3.3)

- 26-** The Director General reviewed the efforts he had exerted with a view to implementing the project of construction of the permanent Headquarters of the Organization. He recalled the generous gesture made by His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, who had donated a plot of land to host the Headquarters of the Organization. He also recalled the kind approval of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nehyan, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, to finance the construction of the organization's Headquarters. In his presentation, he talked about the contacts he had made with H.E. the Minister of the Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and scientific Research of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, regarding the possibility of providing a substitute plot. He also spoke about the contacts he had recently made with the competent parties in the State of the United Arab Emirates on the subject during his visit to this country. The Director General concluded by expressing his optimism that those efforts would soon yield fruitful results with the Grace of God.
- 27-** The Council members expressed thanks to the Director General for the efforts he had expended in this connection, and started considering the issue.

*Message to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nehyan
President of the State of the United Arab Emirates*

- 28-** The Council sent a message of congratulations and thanks to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nehyan, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, in which the Council members addressed their congratulations to His Highness on his reelection as President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, expressing to him their sincerest thanks and most profound gratitude for the support provided by His Highness to the Islamic Organization and his generous interest in supporting the construction of the permanent headquarters of the Islamic Organization.

*(Annex n°9: Message to His Highness
Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nehyan
President of the State of the United Arab Emirates)*

After deliberations, the Council passed the following decision:

Decision CE 17/96/D3.3
on Item 3.3 of the Agenda:
(Construction of Organization's Headquarters)

The Executive Council,

- Recalling the former decisions adopted by the Council in connection with the "Construction of the Organization's Headquarters", the latest being decision C 16/95/D 3.2 which it adopted at its 16th Session, whereby it invited the Director General to submit a report on his endeavours in this respect to the 17th Session;
- Having considered Doc. CE 17/96/3.3, containing the report on the efforts exerted by the Director General in this connection;
- Having heard the presentation made by the Director General;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

Decides the following:

- 1- Affirms the previous decisions concerning the construction of the Organization's Headquarters;
- 2- Expresses thanks to His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, and to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nehyan, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, for their continues support to the Islamic Organization to enable it to build its permanent headquarters, and commends the efforts exerted by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco as well as cooperation with the Organization in this regard;
- 3- Thanks the Director General for his efforts and invites him to pursue them so as to secure a permanent headquarters for ISESCO that benefits its civilizational mission;
- 4- Includes this item in the Agenda of the 18th Council Session.

Item 4.1 of the Agenda:
Draft amendments
To the Rules of Procedures of the Executive Council
(Document C.E. 17/96/4.1)

- 29- The Chairman of the Committee in charge of preparing a unified version of the said draft made a presentation in which he talked about the work methodology of the Committee, and proposed to the Council Chairman to examine the draft article by article. the Council members then started looking into the draft and expressed their view on its various articles.

Sixth working Session: Wednesday, 22 Rajab 1417H (4th December 1996)

Morning:

- 30-** The Council members continued the examination of the draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council article by article, during the Morning Session, putting forward proposals and introducing the necessary amendments thereon.

Seventh working Session: Wednesday, 22 Rajab 1417H (4th December 1996)

Afternoon:

- 31-** The Council started its proceedings with the ceremony of signature of a cooperation agreement between the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Organization by Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, the Director General, and on behalf of UNEP, by Ms. Elisabeth Dowdeswell, the Executive Director. On this occasion, the Director General delivered an address in which he thanked the UNEP Executive Director and highlighted the importance of this agreement which fell within the framework of the Islamic Organization's extensive international activity. Ms. Elisabeth Dowdeswell then made an address in which she expressed her pleasure at signing the agreement with an Islamic Organization of international dimension, and underlined the importance of environmental issues at both regional and international levels. She also underscored the necessity to attach importance to the environment, as it was a main passageway to comprehensive development, and emphasized the importance of complementary of educational, cultural and scientific aspects and their close link to the environmental issues. Both officials expressed the hope to see their cooperation yield fruitful results. In conclusion, the Vice-Chairman of the Council paid tribute to this initiative, which he said was another contribution to the consolidation of the towering edifice built up by the Islamic Organization.

Item 4.1 of the Agenda (continued)

- 32-** The Council members resumed their consideration of the draft amendments to the Rules and Procedure of the Executive Council, making proposals and observations and introducing the necessary amendments to the articles thereof.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision:

Decision C.E. 17/96/D.4.1
On Item 4.1 of the Agenda:
(Draft amendments
To the Rules of Procedures of the Executive Council

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 27 of the Rules and Procedure of the Executive Council;
- Recalling Decision CE 16/95/D. 4.4 which was adopted by the Executive Council at its 16th Session, and in which the Council decided to set up a Committee made up of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Senegal, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Yemen with a view to examining the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedures of the Executive Council, contained in Document CE 16/95/4.4, which the Council had examined at its aforementioned session, and asked to redraft it in a unified form to be submitted to the current 17th Session of the Council;
- Taking note that the Director General has invited the Council members representing the Member States in the abovementioned Committee to convene on 29 and 30 November 1996;
- Having examined the unified version of the Draft Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, contained in document CE 17/96/4.1 as agreed upon by the Committee at its abovementioned meeting;
- Having heard the presentation made by the Director General;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the proposals made by the Council members;

Decides the following:

- 1-** Adopts the Rules and Procedure of the Islamic Organization –ISESCO- as contained in Document CE 17/96/4.1, after introducing the amendments proposed by the Council members, and annexes them to the Final Report of the Seventeenth Council Session; they shall come into force after the end of the proceedings of the current session;
- 2-** Thanks the Committee members for the efforts they exerted in this connection;
- 3-** Thanks the Director General and his assistants for their efficient contribution to the success of this work.

*(Annex n° 10, Rules and Procedure of the Executive Council
adopted by the 17th Executive Council Session)*

**Item 4.3 of the Agenda:
Raising the External Relations
and Cooperation Division to the level of Directorate
(Document C.E. 17/96/4.3)**

33- The Director General reviewed the increasing responsibilities developed on the External Relations and Cooperation Division, which were at the origin of the request to raise it to the level of a Directorate. He emphasized the importance of international cooperation in providing the Organization with additional financial resources that helped implement tens of activities and projects. International cooperation also upgraded the quality of these activities through taking advantage of the rich expertise available in that domain, widened the scope of work, gave access to new fields and provided services to diverse communities and States. The Director General indicated that the Cooperation Directorate would develop the technical and financial assistance programmes geared to National Commissions, and would improve the performance of various directorates of the Organization. He indicated that the Organization had implemented in the 1991-1994 Action Plan 47 activities with cooperating organs which contributed US\$ 1,500,000. He added that the cooperation activities had increased in the 1995-1997 Three-Year Plan to reach 27 activities in 1995, with a contribution amounting to US\$ 700,000. They rose again, said the Director General, to 117 activities, in 1996, with a contribution amounting to US\$ 2,500,000. Moreover, in the light of provisions of the agreements and protocols concluded, it was expected to implement, said the Director General, 160 activities in 1997, with a financial contribution amounting to US\$ 7 million provided by cooperating parties.

The Director General also indicated that the similar organizations and agencies had in their organization charts "Cooperation Directorate", such as UNESCO, which had a cooperation directorate headed by an Assistant Director General. He then requested the Council to agree to raise the External Relations and Cooperation Division to the level of a Directorate.

34- The Council members expressed satisfaction with the efforts made by the External Relations and Cooperation Division and conviction of the reasons given by the Director General to raise the Division to the level of a Directorate.

**Decision C.E. 17/96/D.4.3
on Item 4.3 of the Agenda:
(Raising the External Relations
and Cooperation Division to the level of Directorate)**

The Executive Council,

- Recalling Decision CE 16/95/D.4.5 adopted by the Council at its 16th session, whereby it decided to defer consideration of raising the External Relations and Cooperation Division to the level of Directorate to the current 17th Session of the Council and invited the Director General to prepare an evaluation of this Division;
- Having taken cognizance of Document CE17/96/4.3 Revised and Supplemented, which contained the evaluation requested by the Council and confirms the former proposal of raising the External Relations and Cooperation Division to the level of Directorate;
- Being of the view, after hearing the presentation of the Director General in this connection, that the cooperation relations with similar governmental and non-governmental organizations have become useful on the financial and moral levels and represent a qualitative leap in the working methods of the Islamic Organization;
- Considering further that the volume of work in the fields of cooperation and external relations is steadily increasing;
- Having heard the presentation made by the Director General;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

Decides the following:

Approves the raising of the External Relations and Cooperation Division to the level of Directorate.

Eighth working Session: Thursday, 23 Rajab 1417H (5th December 1996)

Morning:

**Item 4.2 of the Agenda:
Draft Islamic Convention for the Protection of Copyright
(Document C.E. 17/96/4.2)**

35- The Deputy Director General introduced the draft Islamic Convention for the Protection of Copyright, recalling the various measures taken by the General Directorate in this connection, since 1988. he indicated that the Organization had received, during the current

year, observation on the Draft Convention from six Member States namely the State of Qatar, the State of Bahrain, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Niger.

36- Deliberation ensued, which accepted, in general, the principle of copyright protection, subjecting as yet the adoption of the Draft Convention to a number of prerequisites, notably the definition of the concept of property in the context of the Islamic principle that upheld the right of individuals and peoples to acquire knowledge and the freedom to disseminate and circulate it; the difference between the concept of property in the context of the Islamic civilization and other concepts; the differentiations in the text of the Convention between the provisions relevant to the Islamic sacred texts and others; the determination of the means whereby the Muslim Ummah could have a legal framework for the protection of copyright compatible with international agreements, safeguarding all the need to strike a balance in the Convention between the material dimension and the cultural and legal dimensions. To this end, the Council members were of the view that Member States had to be given an opportunity to study the Draft Convention in a deeper way.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision:

Decision C.E. 17/96/D.4.2
On Item 4.2 of the Agenda:
(Draft Islamic Convention for
the Protection of Copyright)

The Executive Council,

- Recalling Decision CE 16/95/D.3.1 which was adopted by the Council at its 16th Session, and in which the Council decided to defer consideration of the Draft Islamic Convention for the Protection of Copyright to the current 17th Session of the Council;
- Recalling also the request addressed by the Council, through the abovementioned decision, to some National Commissions which had not yet advised of their countries' opinion regarding the Draft Convention to exert more efforts in order to obtain the views of the concerned parties in their countries and transmit them to the Organization;
- Taking note that the Organization has sent the Draft Convention and the Council's decision to the relevant National Commission to obtain their opinion, in compliance with the said decision;
- Having considered Document CE 17/96/4.2 containing the replies received by the General Directorate from a number of National Commissions contacted in connection with the Draft Islamic Convention for the Protection of Copyright;
- Having heard the presentation of the Director General and his assistance;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

Decides the following:

- 1- Invites the General Directorate to approach the Member States with a view to urging them to advise of their stance vis-à-vis the principles and contents of the Draft Islamic Convention for the Protection of Copyright, and to put forward proposals in this connection;
- 2- Thanks the Director General and his assistants for their efforts and directs the General Directorate to consider the in-depth dialogue concerning the project to be continuing, reformulate the project in the light of the Council's deliberations as well as the States' replies, and submit the new version to a later session;
- 3- Set up an expert committee to reflect deeply on the principles and concepts which should underline the Draft Islamic Convention for the Protection of Copyright, and evolve practical perceptions likely to reinforce intellectual cooperation among the Muslim countries.

Item 5.1 of the Agenda:

**ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina
(Document C.E. 17/96/5.1)**

- 37-** The Director General introduced his report on ISESCO's role in supporting educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, recalling his visit to this country accompanied by the Director General of UNESCO in compliance with the decisions adopted by the Executive Council, at its 16th Session, to take stock of the difficult conditions endured by the people of Bosnia, and conduct talks with senior officials on ways and means of cooperating in order to provide support to Bosnia and Herzegovina. He also referred to the various activities carried out by the Organization in favour of this country and to the measures taken by the General Directorate in terms of contacting the Ministries of Education of Member States, cultural institutions and financing organs, urging them to provide Bosnia and Herzegovina with assistance and support. Their response was encouraging. In this connection, he commended the Moroccan Committee for Assistance to Bosnia, which raised funds and donations in favour of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 38-** The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina took the floor to thank the Organization for the assistance it had provided to his country, and to the Muslim States for their bountiful assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina. He talked about the beneficial effects of the visit of the Director General, citing the educational, scientific and cultural institutions which had benefited from the assistance provided by the Organization. Pointing out the severe conditions experienced by Bosnia, he identified his country's educational, scientific and cultural needs as follows: scholarships, restoration of educational, scientific and cultural institutions printing of books, teaching aids for schools, courses of acquaint Bosnian students with Muslim countries, assistance for the production of a documentary film

showing the devastating effects of the war, exchange of visits and relations between the educational and cultural institutions of Bosnia and those of Muslim countries.

After deliberations, the Council passed the following decision:

Decision C.E. 17/96/D. 5.1
On Item 5.1 of the Agenda:
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of the Organization's Charter;
- Recalling the previous decisions adopted by the Executive Council concerning "ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina", the last being Decision CE 16/95/D5.1, which was adopted by the Executive Council at its 16th Session ;
- Taking note of Doc. CE17/96/5.1 concerning "ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina" and, in particular, the Director General's visit to the Sarajevo with UNESCO's Director General in order to take stock of the educational, scientific and cultural needs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and taking further note of the assistance provided by the Organizations during that visit;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

Decides the following:

1. Pays tribute to the Director General for the visit he has paid to Sarajevo in compliance with the decisions adopted by the Executive Council in this connection, congratulates him warmly on all the distinct initiatives that he has taken during and after the visit, and commends the material and moral support provided during the visit to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
2. Affirms the previous decisions concerning the support of educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and invites the Director General to follow up the implementation of these decisions;
3. Invites the Member states and the competent institutions of the Muslim World to provide assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the fields of educational, scientific, cultural and communication;
4. Expressed appreciation for the announcement made by the representative of Iran to allocate ten scholarships to Bosnian students;
5. Includes this item in the Agenda of the 18th Council Session.

**Item 5.2 of the Agenda:
ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia
(Document C.E. 17/96/5.2)**

- 39-** The Director General introduced his report on the support of educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Somalia, recalling the efforts made by the General Directorate to implement the activities agreed upon, aimed at the supporting the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Somalia, namely to assign a Somali expert to teach the sons of Somali refugees in the Republic of Yemen, and to allocate a number of scholarships and grants to Somali university students. He expressed his thanks to the Yemeni National Commission for its efforts to facilitate the implementation of the Organization's programmes in this connection. He felt confident that those programmes would be further developed after the resumption by the Somali National Commission of its activities.
- 40-** The representative of the Democratic Republic of Somalia took the floor and commend the decision of the Executive Council and the resolution of the General Conference on the support to be provided to the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Somalia. His expressed his thanks to the Director General who spared no effort in helping Somali students, providing the Somali Refugee Institute in Yemen with materiel and moral support, and printing textbooks. He indicated that conditions were nowadays peaceable in Somalia, and he therefore urged the Council to extend the assistance of the Organization to the country itself so that it could play an efficient role in the educational, scientific and cultural fields. He identified a number of institutions which should have top priority, namely the Faculty of Islamic and Arab Studies, the Quranic schools, the mosques and the Zawiyas. He emphasized the importance of consolidating the role of Islamic culture against the evangelization attempts, which should be done through the Somali National Commission for Education Science and Culture. He thanked the Muslim countries for their various forms of assistance to Somalia, in particular for opening their educational institutions to Somali students.

After deliberations, the Council passed the following decision:

**Decision C.E. 17/96/5.2
on Item 5.2 of the Agenda:
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of the Organization's Charter;
- Recalling to the previous decisions adopted by the Executive Council concerning "ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia", the last being Decision CE 16/95/5.2 which was adopted by the Executive Council at its 16th Session;

- Taking note, after examining Doc. CE 17/96/5.2 concerning "ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia", that the Organization has implemented a number of programmes in favour of Somalia;
- Having heard the presentation made by the Director General;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

Decides the following:

1. Registers its profound appreciation for the Director General's continued support to Somalia in spite of the difficult circumstance;
 2. Affirms the previous decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Council and the General Conference concerning "ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia", and invites the Director General to carry on their implementation;
 3. Invites the Member States to provide support to educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Somalia;
 4. Expresses its appreciation for the offer of the representative of Iran to provide ten scholarships to the Somalian students at the University of Tehran;
 5. Calls on the Somali factions to reconcile and unite;
 6. Includes this item in the Agenda of the 18th Council Session.
- 41- The representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone took the floor and talked about the difficulties endured by the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in his country, pointing out their need for support from the Islamic Organization and the Member states to enable them to discharge their tasks in an optimal way. He emphasized that the time was ripe for undertaking such action, particularly after the election of H.E. President Ahmad Tijan Kabbah, who was looking forward to the support and assistance of the Muslim countries.

*Message to His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Tijan Kabbah,
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone*

- 42- The Council sent a message to His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Tijan Kabbah, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and expressing gratification that His Excellency was the first Muslim President in three decades. It also expressed its satisfaction at the signature of the Perace Agreement, beseeching Almighty God to bless this agreement and support its process. The Council also indicated its readiness to provide educational, scientific and cultural support to the people of Sierra Leone, wishing His Excellency full success in his new responsibilities.

*(Annex n° 11: Message to His Excellency
Dr. Ahmad Tijan Kabbah,
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone)*

**Item 6.1 of the Agenda:
Date and Venue of the Eighteenth Session
of the Executive Council**

(Doc. C.E. 17/96/6.1)

- 43-** The Director General made a presentation on the said item, recalling the generous offer of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the Sixth General Conference Session and the Eighteenth Council Session at the capital of the Kingdom, and indicating that the General Directorate had received the approval of the Member States regarding this invitation.
- 44-** The representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia renewed the invitation and expressed the pleasure taken by the Kingdom in hosting the Sixth General Conference Session and the Eighteenth Session of the Executive Council. He apprised the Council of the readiness of the organizing parties in the Kingdom to provide all means for the success of the two events.
- 45-** The Council members extended their thanks and gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generous invitation, expressing their happiness at holding the following session in the capital of the Kingdom and their hope to have an opportunity to perform the 'Omrah during the 18th Council Session. The representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia declared that the organizing parties in the Kingdom had already envisaged the organization of a trip to enable the Executive Council members to perform the 'Omrah.

*Message to the Custodian of the
Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ben Abdulaziz Al Saud
Sovereign of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

- 46-** The Council addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ben Abdulaziz Al Saud, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, may God preserve him, for having kindly issued his lofty instructors to host the Sixth Session of the General Conference of the Organization and the Eighteenth Session of the Executive Council in Riyadh, capital of the Kingdom.

*(Annex n° 12: Message to the Custodian of the
Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ben Abdulaziz Al Saud,
Sovereign of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)*

47- The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed the desire of his country to host the Seventh Session of the General Conference and the Twenty-First Session of the Executive Council in the Capital of Iran. The Council members expressed their thanks to Iran for their praiseworthy initiative.

The Council, then, adopted the following decision:

**Decision CE 17/96/D 6.1
on Item 6.1 of the Agenda:
(Date and Venue of the 18th Session
of the Executive Council)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of Article 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, by the virtue of which the Council determines at each one of its sessions the date and venue of the following session;
- In accordance also with Article 20, paragraph "j" of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, which stipulates that the Executive Council prepares for the meetings of the General Conference;
- Taking into consideration Resolution CG 5/94/R.6.1 adopted by the General Conference at its 5th Session (Damascus, 27-30/12/1994), whereby it set the first half of December 1997 as the date for holding its 6th Session;
- Considering, after taking cognizance of Document CE 17/96/6.1 (Rev.) concerning the date and venue of the 18th Session, the offer of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 6th Session of the General Conference in the period from 6 to 9 December 1997 (6-7 Shaaban 1418 H) and the 18th Session of the Executive Council in the period from 29 November to 4 December 1997 (29 Rajab – 4 Shaaban 1418H);
- Taking into account also the thanks, gratitude and appreciation expressed by the members of the Executive Council toward the generous initiative of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud, may Allah preserve him;

Decides the following:

- Expressed thanks and gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generous invitation to host the 6th Session of the General Conference and the 18th Session of the Executive Council, and for its sustained support to the Islamic Organization and its civilizational mission;
- Convenes the 18th Session in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the period from 29 November to 4 December 1997.

Tribute to ISESCO's staff and raise of their salaries

- 48-** At the end of the session, the Director General took the floor and commended the outstanding efforts of all staff of the Organization, which contributed largely to the achievement of the objectives of the Organization and upgraded its performance. He proposed to the Council to kindly approve a 15% increase of the base salaries of all staff members in view of the steady rise of the cost of living in the Seat Country, and the fact that no salary raise had occurred since 1991.
- 49-** The Council members intervened to hail this noble initiative and generous gesture that stemmed from a lofty Islamic spirit, proposing a higher rate as a token of appreciation from the Council for the outstanding, exemplary efforts expended by the staff of ISESCO. The Director General, the, proposed a 20% increase, which was subsequently approved by the Council, coming into force as from January 1997.

Closing Session: Friday, 24 Rajab 1417H (6 December 1996)

Afternoon:

- 50-** At the beginning of the session, the Council examined the Draft Final Report, paragraph by paragraph. After making a number of remarks and amendments to the Draft Final Report, the Executive Council members adopted it and invited the General Directorate to take into account those amendments upon finalizing the Report.
- 51-** H.E. Mr. Mohammed Ghassan Al-Halabi, Education Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, President of the 5th General Conference of ISESCO, took the floor and expressed his happiness at taking part in the proceeding of the 17th Session of the Executive Council as well as his profound satisfaction with the discussions of the Council members, which enriched the issues raised, in particular with regard to the Medium-term Action Plan and the coming Three-Year Action Plan. He thanked Dr. Hamadi Ben Jaballah, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council, for his sound steering of the session's proceedings, and expressed thanks to Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Organization, for his steady efforts to upgrade the Organization's status.

Concluding his address, he expressed his thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, for the care he bestowed upon the Organization.

*(Annex n° 13: Address by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ghassan Al-Halabi,
Education Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic,
President of the 5th General Conference of the Islamic Organization, at the closing of the
17th Council Session)*

52- The Director General addressed the Executive Council, expressing his deep satisfaction with the positive results achieved. Commending the efforts exerted by the Council members with a view to ameliorating the Islamic Organization's performance, he praised the wise way in which they tackled the issues on the agenda, stressing that the General Directorate would take into account their remarks and comments during reformulation of the documents to be submitted to the General Conference. He thanked the President of the 5th General Conference for his regular attendance of the Council's sessions and commended the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council for his wise conduct of the session's proceedings. He thanked, furthermore, all those who contributed to the success of the session. At the end of his address, he expressed his profound thanks and appreciation for His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, for the generous care and assistance that he bestowed upon the Islamic Organization, he also thanked the government of the Kingdom of Morocco for the support and assistance granted to the Organization.

*(Annex n° 14: Address by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri,
Director General of the Islamic Organization,
at the closing of the 17th Council Session)*

53- Dr. Hamadi Ben Jaballah, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council, took the floor and commended H.E. Mr. Lamine Kamara, Chairman of the Executive Council, for his outstanding wisdom and experience. He thanked the Council members for facilitating his conduct of the session's proceedings, praising their deep awareness of the challenges and stakes confronting the Ummah, thus making it possible to crystallize an integrated approach likely to help the Organization discharge its future responsibilities. He registered with deep satisfaction the brotherly relations existing among all ISESCO's staff under the wise leadership of Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Organization. Concluding his address, he expressed his thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, for the generous care and sustained support he bestowed upon the Islamic Organization.

*(Annex n° 15: Address by Dr. Hamadi Ben Jaballah,
representative of the Republic of Tunisia,
Vice-Chairman of the Council,
at the closing of the 17th Council Session)*

- 54-** The Council addressed a message of support to H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, President of the State of Palestine, in which it expressed its solidarity with the Palestinian people and its support for their steadfast stance against the Israeli authorities' intransigence and obstruction of the implementation of the peace agreement.

*(Annex n° 16: Address to H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat,
President of the State of Palestine)*

- 55-** At the end of the proceedings of the 17th Council Session, the Council addressed message of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, President of the Seventh Islamic Summit, Chairman of Al-Quds Committee, for the generous care and unstinted support to the Islamic Organization

*(Annex n° 17: Message to
His Majesty King Hassan II,
Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco,
President of the Seventh Islamic Summit,
Chairman of Al-Quds Committee)*