

Final Report

By the grace of Allah, the Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization held its Twenty-Second Session in the Emirate of Sharjah, State of the United Arab Emirates, on 7-11 Shawal, 1422A.H., corresponding to 22-26 December 2001A.D. The Session was graciously hosted by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Governor of Sharjah. The proceedings of this Session were attended by all Executive Council Members, except for the representatives of the following states : Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Suriname, Republic of Gabon, Republic of the Gambia and Republic of Cameroon.

*(Annex 1 : List of attending members of the Executive Council
or their representatives)*

Opening Session : Saturday 7 Shawal 1422 A.H, corresponding to 22 December 2001 A.D.

Morning :

1. The opening session was held in the Palace of Culture, in Sharjah, under the effective presidency of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the Union and Governor of the Emirate of Sharjah, and in the presence of His Excellency Prof. Ali Abdulaziz As-Sharhan, Minister of Culture and Youth in the State of the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Fahd Ghazi Al-Kharisha, member of the Executive Council, Vice-President of the Seventh General Conference Session of the Organization, Mr. Mohamed Abdullah Fares, Chairman of the Organization's Executive Council, His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Mr. Mahmud Ahmed Salim, representative of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and His Highness Sheikh Issam Bin Saqr Al-Qassimi, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Information in the Emirate of Sharjah. The Session was also attended by a host of personalities from the educational, scientific, cultural and information community.

2. After listening to the national anthem of the State of the United Arab Emirates, the session commenced with a recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an. Then, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the Union, Governor of Sharjah, took the floor. At the outset of his address, he indicated that the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) had played a remarkable role in consolidating the bonds of cultural and scientific cooperation among Islamic countries and in highlighting the Islamic world's contribution to the promotion of the universal civilizational renaissance. His Highness went on to say that the Session convened in an international and regional juncture that required further efforts to redress the damage inflicted upon the image of Islam and Muslims, stressing that Islam was a religion of tolerance and brotherliness among all human beings, indeed, pervaded by the spirit of dialogue and civilized debate.

His Highness pointed out that Arabs and Muslims were victims of Zionist terrorism perpetrated against the Palestinian Arab populations and the desecration of Islamic sanctities in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, affirming that the Arab and Islamic states were amongst the first to have condemned terrorist acts and all forms of extremism and fanaticism which they considered a deviation from the innate character of the human being and a far cry from the spirit of Islam. He stressed that Muslims were victims of unjust information campaign that associated them with terrorism and drew of them a stereotyped image equating them with violence and extremism.

His Highness stressed the need to make a clear-cut distinction between terrorism and the right of peoples, particularly the Palestinian people, to resistance and struggle to recover their usurped legitimate rights to return to their homeland, establish their national independent state, and put an end to the tyrannical Zionist occupation of Arab territories, as clearly affirmed by international conventions and resolutions.

Concluding his address, His Highness called for exerting further efforts to avert and repel this campaign and to highlight the bright image of Islam as a religion of brotherliness and tolerance :

(Annex 2 : Address by His Highness Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the Union and Governor of Sharjah)

3. His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sharhan, Minister of Education and Youth in the State of the United Arab Emirates took the floor and welcomed the members of the Executive Council. He underlined the mission and duties devolved on the Islamic Organization, as well as the civilizational role it played, stressing the need for doubling efforts to attain the goals, especially under the present critical juncture replete with tendentious campaigns waged to distort the image of Islam and Muslims and render them systematically chargeable of extremism, terrorism and violence. He highlighted the paramount importance of energizing balanced dialogue between the Islamic civilization and the Western one, to present the genuine image of Islam, built on tolerance, justice and peace. He finally urged for supporting the Islamic Organization to enable it to discharge most effectively the mission entrusted thereto.

(Annex 3 : Address by His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sharhan, Minister of Education and Youth in the State of the United Arab Emirates)

4. Then, His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, delivered an address in which he first expressed his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahyane, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates for his continuous support to the Organization since its inception. He also conveyed his thanks and gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Governor of Sharjah, highly valuing the gracious hosting, by His Highness, of this

Executive Council Session, the first to be held outside the Seat country apart from Sessions preceding the General Conference. He held in high esteem the kind initiative taken, and viewed it as an encouragement and support, on the part of His Highness, for the Islamic Organization, given his strong belief in its civilizational mission.

The Director General indicated that the convening of this Session coincided with critical international changes triggered by violent events that levelled new challenges at the Islamic world and bore heavy consequences on its countries. He emphasized that action in the fields of education, science and culture had become more than any time past a duty, a mission and a responsibility conferred indifferently on each and everybody.

Addressing the September 11 events, the Director General indicated that they had ushered the world in unprecedented phase of human history, pointing out that attention was focused on the Islamic world and Muslim communities who became a target for tendentious campaigns using every device to denigrate Muslims, distort their image, defile their sanctities and deliberately bear prejudice to their supreme interests on all levels. Compounded to this, was an escalation of savage, ruthless Israeli aggression perpetrated against the Palestinian people and its official and civil institutions. He underlined that the situation commanded on our part to mobilize all our capabilities and marshal all available resources to secure self-defence, protect our material and moral entity and safeguard the cultural and civilizational identity of our Muslim Ummah.

The Director General reviewed the achievements accomplished between the Twenty-First and Twenty-Second Council Sessions, owing to the implementation of a major part of the activities under the present Action Plan of the Organization, ranking as priority activities for the Member States and Muslim minorities and communities as they cater for their needs and meet their requirements. These achievements were realized in close cooperation with the competent parties in the Member States. He pointed out that these achievements were realized through the implementation of a number of training sessions, workshops, symposia and expert meetings, and through the preparation of studies, elaboration of curricula, publication of books and supply of financial and technical support to a number of institutions and research centers to enable them to perform their role in the best possible manner.

Concluding his address, the Director General stressed that despite heavy burdens and limited resources, the will stood strong to pursue the civilizational edification of the Islamic world through development of education, advancement of sciences and promotion of cultural creativity, wishing the Executive Council every possible success.

(Annex 4 : Address by Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

5. Mr. Mohamed Abdullah Fares, Chairman of the Executive Council delivered an address in which he first extended thanks to His Highness, Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council, Governor of Sharjah, for kindly granting his patronage to this Session and for the generous hospitality bestowed on its proceedings.

He pointed out in his address that this very session of the Executive Council coincided with the end of the first year of the Action Plan for the years 2001-2003, which he described as a year replete with successful achievements. He commended Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri for his top level performance and successful efforts in developing the work of the Organization and upgrading its performance, to an extent that made of it one of the most efficient Islamic Organizations operating under the aegis of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. He also expressed his satisfaction and affirmed his confidence in the Organization and its distinguished achievements under the leadership of His Excellency the Director General whose wisdom, skills and competence are only well known, a fact which required from the Member States to double efforts if they were to keep up this pace of achievements.

His Excellency recalled the profound mutations witnessed by today's world, being pervaded by tensions and uncertainty. He underscored the concern of the Islamic world about the repercussions of these changes, given the biased, groundless accusations concocted against Islam and Muslims. He urged to continue the battle of comprehensive development, centred on the individual, ensuring his education, teaching and training in order to prepare him to shoulder the life burdens, in the best interest of the entire Ummah.

Concluding his address, His Excellency expressed his thanks and appreciation for the public attending, wishing the Executive Council all success in its current Session.

(Annex 5 : Address by Mr. Mohamed Abdullah Fares, Chairman of the Executive Council)

6. The floor was then taken by Mr. Fahd Ghazi Al-Kharisha, Member of the Executive Council and representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Vice-President of the 7th General Conference Session, who delivered a speech on behalf of the President of the Organization's Seventh General Conference, His Excellency Dr. Najib Zerouali Ouarithi, Minister of Higher Education, Staff Executive Training and Scientific Research in the government of the Kingdom of Morocco. In this address, he stressed the keen interest of His Majesty King Mohammed VI in preserving the unity of the Islamic Ummah and its intellectual renaissance, highlighting the gracious care and interest shown by the Moroccan Monarch vis-à-vis the Islamic Organization, and his support for its Director General, H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, as well as the availability of the government of His Majesty to respond to all requests emanating from the Organization.

His Excellency the President of the General Conference underlined in his address the importance of the issues contained in the agenda of this Session, most particularly the item pertaining to the resources of the Organization which remain inadequate in spite of the commendable and highly appreciated endeavours of His Excellency the Director General to redress this situation and secure extra-budgetary resources. In this respect, Dr. Najib Zerouali Ouarithi stressed the importance of regular payment by Member States of their contributions to the Organization's budget.

His Excellency reviewed the critical circumstances which the Islamic Ummah has been enduring since the September 11 events, and the ensuing repercussions being detrimental to the Islamic Ummah and its faith. He stressed the increasing need for the Organization, now more than ever, and the need for an Islamic cultural presence on the international scene, liable to promote the values of peace, tolerance and mutual solidarity. In his capacity as the President of the 7th General Conference of the Organization, His Excellency appealed upon the governments of the Member States to settle their arrears and pay their contributions on a regular basis.

His Excellency commended the achievements of the Organization in the period between the 21st and 22nd Council Sessions and lauded the efforts exerted by the Director General and his assistants for their diligence and efficiency in implementing the programmes of the Action Plan, a fact which urged all to support him and praise his wise and judicious policy.

At the end of his address, His Excellency reiterated thanks and gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Governor of Sharjah for his generous hospitality and kind patronage of this Session to wish he wished all success.

(Annex 6 : Address by His Excellency Dr. Najib Zerouali Ouarithi, Minister of Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research in the government of the Kingdom of Morocco, President of the Seventh General Conference of the Organization)

7. His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council, Governor of Sharjah and patron of the Ceremony, handed over ISESCO's scientific prizes dedicated to encourage Muslim scientists indulged in research in the fields of science and technology and provide them with incentives to develop scientific and technological research applications in the fields bearing on comprehensive development.

The winners of these prizes are :

- **Dr. Ataurrahman** (Islamic Republic of Pakistan), Chemistry,
- **Dr. Abdurrahman Sultan As-Sharhane** (State of the United Arab Emirates), Geology,
- **Dr. Hanafi Ismail** (Malaysia), Technology,
- **Dr. Marzuq Youssef Al-Ghouneim** (State of Kuwait), Biology,

- **Dr. Azharou Al-Islam** (People's Republic of Bangladesh), Physics,
- **Dr. Mohammed Yussuf Kamarzad Yunussi** (Republic of Tajikistan),
Mathematics.

The winners were awarded honorary certificates by the Islamic Organization in recognition of their scientific expertise, excellence and innovation in scientific research. The value of each prize amounts to five thousand dollars (US\$ 5,000.00).

8. At the end of the opening session, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi inaugurated an exhibition of the publications of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the hall of the Culture Palace. The exhibition included a maquette of the permanent headquarters of ISESCO in Rabat, for the construction of which, His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahyane, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, and His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ibn Abdulaziz have donated respectively one million dollars (US\$ 1,000,000.00), and US\$ 500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand dollars).

His Highness then offered a reception in honour of the members of the Executive Council and the guests. The Council members paid afterwards a visit to the University of Sharjah.

Firstworkingession : Saturday, 7 Shawal 1422 A.H./22 December 2001 A.D.

Afternoon :

Item 1.1 of the Draft Agenda:

Adoption of the Draft Agenda

(Document C.E. 22/2001/1.1 Amended)

9. The Chairman of the Council presented the proposed draft agenda (Document C.E. 22/2001/1.1 Amended). It was approved by the members in its proposed version after the inclusion of an item on ISESCO's perception of ways of interacting with the world changes under its Action Plan for the years 2001-2003, and the setting up of a committee composed of four Council members (Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Qatar and Morocco representatives) to be entrusted with the preparation of a proposal in this connection.

The Council then took the following decision :

Decision on Item 1.1 of the Agenda

(Adoption of the Agenda)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Articles (23 through 25) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,

- Having considered the Draft Agenda of its 22nd Session contained in document (CE 22/2001/1.1 Provisional),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- Adopts the Agenda of its current 22nd Session as contained in the document (CE 22/2001/1.1 Amended) annexed to the Final Report of the said Session.
(*Annex 7 : Adopted Agenda*)

Item 1.2 of the Agenda :
Adoption of the Draft Programme
(Document C.E. 22/2001/1.2 Amended)

10. The Council examined the proposed Draft Programme (Document C.E. 22/2001/1.2 Amended). After deliberation, the Council members agreed to devote in camera session to examine the following items :

- 1) Report of the Director General on Member States' contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization.
- 2) Draft Amendment to Personnel Regulations
- 3) Appointment of the Deputy Director General.

The Council then took the following decision :

Decision on Item 1.2 of the Agenda
(Adoption of the Programme)

The Executive Council,

- Recalling the Decision (CE 21/2000/D 6.1) adopted by the Executive Council in its 21st Session (Rabat, 16-20 November 2000), whereby the Council decided to hold its 22nd Session in December 2001, in Sharjah, State of the United Arab Emirates,
- Considering Decision (CE 22/2001/D 1.1) adopted by the Council in connection with the Agenda of its current 22nd Session,
- Having considered the Draft Programme of this Session contained in document (CE 22/2001/1.2 Provisional),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- Adopts the Programme of its current 22nd Session as contained in the document (CE 22/2001/1.2 Amended) annexed to the Final Report of this Session.
(*Annex 8 : Adopted Programme*)

Item 2.1 of the Agenda :

Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities between the 21st and 22nd Council Sessions

(Document C.E. 22/2001/2.1 Addendum)

11. The Director General made a concise presentation of his report on the activities of the Organization between the 21st and 22nd Sessions of the Council. He pointed out, at the beginning, the changes occurring in the presentation of the data relating to the implementation of the programmes and activities contained in his report. These changes concern mainly the analysis and evaluation of the results of implementation at the level of every axis. He specified that the report tackled the general conditions of the implementation process as well as the difficulties encountered. The Director General indicated that a separate item had been dedicated to the programmes and activities implemented under extra-budgetary funding, in compliance with the 7th General Conference Session's resolutions and the 21st Executive Council Session decisions, as well as their recommendations on classification of the Organization's priority fields of action benefitting Member States and Muslim communities.

In this respect, the Director General pointed out that, out of 327 activities scheduled, 293 have been implemented in good conditions and covered the various fields of action of the Organization. Thus, 59 training sessions, 39 meetings, seminars and specialized symposia were organized, and 58 financial aids and forms of technical assistance granted to a number of educational institutions in the Member States and elsewhere. Furthermore, 108 scholarships were granted to students from Member States and Muslim minorities, in addition to the publication of 37 books, preparation and translation included.

The Director General reviewed ongoing projects initiated under the previous Action Plan, and highlighted the rate of activities carried out through cooperation programmes which accounted for more than 50% of all implemented activities. He also underlined the exceptional event that marked the current year, namely the unprecedented increase in the contributions received from Member States, owing to the tireless and sustained efforts of the Director General and the high-level contacts he engaged in the Member States to urge them to settle their contributions to the Organization's budget and pay their arrears. Commending the efforts of the Executive Council Members in supporting him, the Director General announced that some US\$ 9,705,588.89 have been collected, with arrears accounting for half that amount.

12. During their discussions, the Council members expressed their heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the Director General and his assistants for their tireless efforts to implement the programmes and activities. Their observations focused on the following :

- 1- The need to plan programmes and activities liable to cope with the major international variables in such a way as to highlight the position of Islam vis-à-vis those variables, on the basis of the Islamic Organization's mission which rests on peace, tolerance and dialogue.
- 2- Assigning further importance to the programmes related to Palestine, in general, and to Al-Quds Al-Sharif, in particular, to support the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine, to provide them with the means likely to that would enable them to resist the fierce, aggressive Israeli campaigns, to focus on the programmes of dialogue among cultures, religions civilizations so as to make the true voice of Islam and Muslims heard, and to counteract the fallacious campaigns of defamation and denigration waged against Islam and Muslims.
- 3- Sustaining action geared to taking care of Muslim minorities and communities and preserving their cultural identity, to enable them to assume their role in publicizing Islamic civilization and its universal aspects.
- 4- Praising the new form of presentation of the Director General's report on the Organization's activities implemented between the 21st and the 22nd Sessions of the Executive Council, namely the analysis of the results of these activities.
- 5- Stressing the importance of having the Director General continue his efforts to collect arrears of some Member States and implement the largest possible number of programmes and activities, and follow up the implementation of the programmes already launched.

13. Then the Director General thanked the members of the Council for their valuable observations affirming that the General Directorate was keen on taking them into consideration when implementing the programmes of the current Action Plan through elaborating a reference document for its action undertaken on the Islamic and international sciences.

The Director General requested that the Council agree to increase financial allocations for programmes and activities designed for Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif, in view of the barbaric aggression and blockade against the Palestinian people and Palestinian cities and villages; and the destruction and obstruction against educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine being perpetrated by the aggressive Israeli occupation forces. The Council expressed thanks to the Director General for his initiative and approved his proposal.

After the deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

Decision on Item 2.1 of the Agenda
(Report of the Director General on the Organization's
Activities between the 21st and 22nd Council Sessions)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 21, paragraph (a), of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having considered the Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities between the 21st and 22nd Council Sessions, contained in documents (CE 22/2001/2.1) and (CE 22/2001/2.1 Addendum),
- Having heard the presentation made by the Director General of the Islamic Organization in this connection,
- Thanking the Member States which regularly honour their obligations and settle their contributions in full, and thanking further the organizations, states and personalities of the Islamic world for the solidarity shown towards ISESCO, thus enabling it to carry on implementing its programmes and activities;
- Reiterating its pressing appeal to the governments of Member States to settle urgently their currently due contributions as well as their accumulating arrears;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the observations made by the Council members,

Decides the following :

- 1-** Adopts the Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities between the 21st and 22nd Council Sessions as contained in documents (CE 22/2001/2.1) and (CE 22/2001/2.1 Addendum), taking into account the observations made by the Executive Council members;
- 2-** Thanks the Islamic personalities and institutions which kindly granted donations to the Islamic Organization, endowing it with additional resources instrumental in the implementation of the programmes and activities.
- 3-** Expresses thanks to the Director General and his assistants for their outstanding efforts in pursuing the implementation of programmes and rationalizing expenditure thereon, while taking into account the fulfilment of the pressing needs of the Member States and the Muslim communities in non-Member States;
- 4-** Thanks the Director General for the steady efforts he expends to broaden the areas of cooperation with international and regional organizations as well as Arab and Islamic institutions within the framework of programme implementation;

- 5- Agrees on the increase of the financial resources allocated to Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif to support the efforts of the Palestinian people in combatting the ugly Israeli occupation;
- 6- Agrees to submit this report to the forthcoming General Conference Session, and recommends its adoption by the General Conference.

Item 2.2 of the Agenda :

Draft Programme of the Promotion of Peace Culture in Africa

(Document C.E. 22/2001/2.2)

14. The Director General gave a brief presentation on the draft programme of promotion of the culture of peace in Africa, in which he explained the bases of this project, chief of them are wars and conflicts tearing apart many African nations, the exacerbating economic crises, internal ethnic and tribal fight, the dwindling of the geopolitical position of Africa in the post cold war era, and the failing of regional peace initiatives to resolve Continental conflicts. This urged the General Directorate to work out this draft programme, which takes into account the specificities of the African situation, and the future aspirations of the peoples of the continent.

The Director General highlighted the main characteristics of this project consisting in the promotion of the Islamic approach to disseminate peace culture and settle internal and regional conflicts on the basis of Article 4 of the Organization's Charter, which calls for reinforcing understanding among Muslim peoples and contributing to establishing peace and security in the world through various means, especially through education, science, culture and communication.

He pointed out that the goals of the project were manifest in its intellectual, educational, cultural aspects, as well as diplomatic aspect, as a basis for settlement of conflicts. The axes underlying the project materialize in the elaboration of a regional strategy for settling conflicts and providing assistance to extirpate discrimination policies and rewrite African history from an Islamic perspective with a view to rehabilitating the African peoples, held in bondage in the colonial time.

15. During the discussions, the members of the Council commended the initiative taken by the General Directorate to draw up this project capitalizing on the power of the Islamic culture to reinforce and entrench the values of peace and tolerance among all human beings. The members of the Council invited the General Directorate to utilize the institutional and individual expertise available in this area, without going beyond the competencies of the Organization set in its Charter.

16. In his response to the observations made by the members of the Council, the Director General stressed the resolve of the Islamic Organization to continue the implementation of this project and to intensify its contacts with the leaders of the African Member States in order to elaborate a viable implementation scheme for this ambitious project, taking into account the observations of the Council in this respect.

After deliberation, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 2.2 of the Agenda
(Draft Programme of the Promotion of Peace Culture in Africa)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with article (4), paragraph (c) of the Charter,
- Pursuant to Resolution CG 7/2000/R 3.2, of the Seventh General Conference Session,
- Having considered the “Draft programme of the Promotion of Peace Culture in Africa” contained in document (CE 22/2001/2.2),
- Having heard the presentation made by the Director General,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1-** Adopts the “Draft programme of the Promotion of Peace Culture in Africa” as contained in document (CE 22/2001/2.2), taking into account the observations made by the Executive Council members.
- 2-** Invites the Director General to approach cooperating partners and donors and have them contribute to the financial support of programme implementation.
- 3-** Expresses thanks to the Director General and his assistants for preparing this programme and calling for its implementation in consultation with the members of the Executive Council and the competent authorities in the Member States.
- 4-** Includes this item in the Agenda of the next Session of the Executive Council.
- 5-** Agrees to submit the Draft programme and the relevant Director General’s reports thereon to the following General Conference Session, and recommends their adoption by the General Conference.

Second working session : Sunday, 8 Shawal 1422 A.H./23 December 2001 A.D.

Item 2.3 of the Agenda :

**The Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts of
Financial Year 2000, and General Statements of Accounts and
Expenditures up to the end of September 2001**

(Document CE 22/2001/2.3 and Document C.E 22/2001/2.3 Addendum)

17. The Director General made a succinct presentation on the financial report of the closing accounts for the period from January 1 to December 2000 and of the general statements of the Organization's accounts and expenditures from January 1 up to the end of September 2001. He pointed out that the Islamic Organization received in the year 2000 a total amount of US\$ 6,352,375 of which US\$ 3,695,056 represents the contributions under the financial year 2000, being 29% of the expected Organization's budget amounting to US\$ 12,861,722. The receipts are modest compared to the volume of programmes and activities scheduled for implementation. He added that off-budget income had reached in the same year a total of US\$ 733,269 including various donations from His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz, the "Foundation of Manasik Al-Haj" in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Solidarity Fund, the Institute for Energy and Environment of Francophone Countries in Canada and a donation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia destined to the project of the Educational Center in Chad.

He then indicated that the Organization had received a number of donations from His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, His Royal Highness, Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Second Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet Council, Minister of Defense and Airforce General Inspector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and from the World Islamic Call Society in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah specifying that these additional resources were obtained thanks to the intensive contacts made by the Director General.

The Director General pointed out that the total arrears accumulated since the inception of ISESCO, up to December 31, 2000, had reached US\$ 71,829,264, being 41% of the total budgets. He affirmed that the Organization had taken into consideration the scales of priority in the implementation, as well as the observations made by the Executive Council, along with the needs of the Member States.

18. Then, the Council members discussed the contents of the report and issued the following recommendations :

- Saluting and thanking the personalities who offered donations to the Islamic Organization.
- Addressing a message of thanks to the State of the United Arab Emirates for its hosting of the 22nd Session of the Executive Council of the Islamic Organization.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 2.3 of the Agenda
(Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts
for Financial Year 2000 and General Statements of Accounts
and Expenditure up to the end of September 2001)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article (16) of the Charter,
- In compliance with Articles (19) and (29) of the Financial Regulations,
- In compliance with Article (21), paragraph “d” of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Pursuant to Resolution CG 7/2000/R 2.3 of the 7th General Conference and considering Decision CE 21/2000/D 2.3 adopted by the Executive Council at its 21st Session (Rabat, 16-20/11/2000),
- Having considered the Financial Report of the Director General and the Closing Accounts for Financial Year 2000 as well as the General Statements of Accounts and Expenditure up to the end of September 2001, contained respectively in documents (CE 22/2001/2.3) and (CE 22/2001/2.3 Addendum),
- Having heard the clarifications provided by the Director General and his assistants in this connection,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the observations made,

Decides the following :

- 1-** Adopts the Financial Report of the Director General and the Closing Accounts for Financial Year 2000 and the General Statements of Accounts and Expenditure up to the end of September 2001, as contained respectively in documents (CE 21/2001/2.3) and (CE 22/2001/2.3 Addendum);
- 2-** Extends thanks to all the persons and institutions that made donations to the Organization;
- 3-** Thanks the Director General and his assistants for the efforts they exerted to rationalize expenditure and improve its methods;

- 4- Stresses the necessity for the Director General to continue his moves and contacts with donors with a view to obtaining maximum support for the Organization's activities;
- 5- Congratulates the Director General on the outstanding results achieved in terms of collecting arrears and mustering financial support from numerous personalities and institutions to shore up implementation of the Organization's activities and programmes ;
- 6- Agrees to submit this report to the following General Conference Session, and recommends its adoption by the General Conference.

Item 2.4 of the Agenda :

**Reports of the Financial Control Committee and
Audit Company for Financial Year 2000**

(Document CE 22/2001/2.4)

19. The Chairman of the Financial Control Committee presented the report of his Committee for the financial year 2000, and indicated that the Committee noted with satisfaction the implementation by the General Directorate of the recommendations issued at the previous meeting, particularly with regards to the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations made by the Audit Company in its last report.

The Committee also commended the financial report of the Director General and the closing accounts for year 2000, which reflected accurately the financial operations, and lauded the distinguished efforts expended by the Director General to collect the contributions of Member States and raise donations to boost the financial situation of the Organization. The Committee took cognizance of the financial and administrative procedures of the Organization and noted that they reflected sound and satisfactory financial and administrative management.

The Committee also noted with satisfaction the development of ISESCO's financial performance, owing to the additional funds raised which consolidated the budget of the Organization. This was made possible thanks to the personal contacts undertaken by the Director General resulting in a number of donations in favour of the Organization, enabling it to implement more projects and programmes. The Committee also noted the increase in the contributions settled by Member States, and their commitment to regularly pay their contributions, a matter that is likely to have a positive impact on the pace of project and programme implementation. The Committee urged all countries with overdue contributions to hasten in honouring their commitments to the Organization.

In conclusion of its report, the Committee expressed its appreciation for the great efforts exerted by the Organization in implementing its programmes, and hailed the policy of expenditure rationalization followed by the General Directorate, and the sound administrative and financial management maintained by the Organization in the past few years. This contributed positively to lifting the Organization to the status befitting it among parallel international organizations, in spite of its limited financial and human resources.

20. After deliberation on this item, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 2.4 of the Agenda
(Reports of the Financial Control Committee and
the Audit Company for Financial Year 2000)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the following:
 - * Article 19 of the Charter,
 - * Article 20 and Articles 24 through 29 of the Financial Regulations,
 - * Article 21, paragraphs “b” and “c” of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Taking note of the meeting held by the Financial Control Committee at ISESCO’s headquarters, at the invitation of the General Directorate, on 9-13 July 2001, wherein it took stock of the financial, administrative and accountancy procedures in force at the Organization and examined the Director General’s Financial Report for the year 2000, in addition to the report of the Audit Company as submitted by the Company’s representative with whom the Committee looked into all contents thereof,
- Recalling Decision (CE 19/98/D.2.3) adopted by the 19th Executive Council Session (Rabat, 19-24 November 1998) whereby the Council approved the nomination of “Audit International” group as auditor of the Organization’s accounts,
- Having considered document (CE 22/2001/2.4) which contains the Reports of the Financial Control Committee and the Audit Company for Financial Year 2000,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Adopts the Report of the Financial Control Committee and the Report of the Audit Company for Financial Year 2000, as contained both in document (CE 22/2001/2.4);

- 2- Thanks the Chairman and members of the Financial Control Committee for their work;
- 3- Thanks the personalities and the parties that made donations to the Organization, thus enabling it to secure support for its activities;
- 4- Commends the great efforts exerted by the Director General to muster additional resources and continue the implementation of programmes and management by relying on the rationalization of expenditures, as well as his compliance with the recommendations of the Financial Control Committee adopted by the Council;
- 5- Agrees to submit these two reports contained in document (CE 22/2001/2.4) to the following General Conference session and recommends their adoption by the General Conference.

Third working session : Sunday, 8 Shawal 1422 A.H./23 December 2001 A.D.

Item 3.1 of the Agenda :

Construction of the Organization's Headquarters

(Document CE 22/2001/3.1)

21. The Director General then took the floor and presented the document pertaining to the construction of the Organization's headquarters and reviewed the measures and steps taken in this connection. Such measures included the final choice of the plot of land on which the headquarters would be erected and the follow-up of the registration and other required formalities. The Director General also reported on the contacts he engaged in with a number of high-ranking personalities in the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These contacts were fruitful and resulted in the donation of US\$ 500,000 by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Abdulaziz as a contribution to the building of the headquarters, in addition to one million dollars previously donated by His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahyane, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates.

The Director General reviewed the technical steps preliminary to the construction of the new headquarters, such as the architectural plans and blueprints, the laying of the foundation stone, which took place in an official ceremony, on 3 May 2001, under the high patronage of the Moroccan Sovereign, His Majesty King Mohammed IV, and in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, brother of the Moroccan Monarch, as well as the president of the General Conference and the Chairman of the Executive Council of the Organization, in addition to senior government officials of the Kingdom of Morocco, and members of the Diplomatic corps accredited to Rabat.

The Director General gave detailed explanations of the maquette of the new headquarters, and outlined the main features and components of the Project, reiterating his determination to pursue and intensify efforts in order to launch the works as early as possible.

22. The members of the Executive Council thanked the Director General for his sustained efforts to bring this project into being and requested him to pursue his contacts with high officials in Member States and some eminent Islamic personalities to solicit their contributions to the construction of the headquarters. The Council suggested that some halls and floors of the building be named after the donating personalities and institutions, as part of recognition of their deeds, and to give a special care to the architectural and aesthetic aspects of the building, as well as to examine the possibility to assign offices to the delegations of ISESCO's Member States.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

Decision on Item 3.1 of the Agenda (Construction of the Organization's Headquarters)

The Executive Council,

- Recalling the previous resolutions and decisions taken by the General Conference and the Executive Council in this respect, notably Decision CE 21/2000/D 4.2 which was adopted by the Executive Council at its 21st Session and the Seventh General Conference Resolution CG 7/2000/R 3.3,
- Having considered the report of the Director General on the construction of ISESCO's headquarters contained in document CE 22/2001/3.1,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Thanks His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahyane, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, for his donation amounting to US\$ 1,000,000 as part of funding of the construction of ISESCO's permanent headquarters;
- 2- Thanks His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ibn Abdulaziz, for donating US\$ 500,000 as part of funding of the construction of ISESCO's permanent headquarters;
- 3- Thanks Mr. Oumar Saad Touré, former Deputy Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, for donating US\$ 10,000 as part of funding of the construction of ISESCO's permanent headquarters ;
- 4- Thanks the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for the facilitations offered and invites the Director General to pursue his efforts with the competent

Moroccan authorities and with the President of the General Conference to expedite land related procedures required for the start of construction works within the time-limit ;

- 5- Empowers the Director General to undertake all necessary contacts with the Kings, Presidents, Emirs, Prime Ministers and different donors in the Member States and inform them of the status of the Project, with the purpose of having them contribute to its funding. It also invites the members of the Executive Council to take part in this enterprise ;
- 6- Thanks the Director General for the steady efforts he exerted to secure implementation of the Project ;
- 7- Places this item on the agenda of the 23rd Session of the Council;
- 8- Agrees to submit the matter to the following General Conference Session for consideration and action.

Item 3.2 of the Agenda :

Opening ISESCO's Regional Offices in the Member States

(Document CE 22/2001/3.2)

23. The Director General presented the document on setting up regional offices of ISESCO in the Member States. He reviewed the efforts he deployed with a view to securing the implementation of the General Conference's resolutions and the Executive Council's decisions on the opening of these offices. He indicated that after the approval of the establishing of a regional office in Sharjah and the approval in principle to open a regional office in Tehran, he signed the seat agreement for the Sharjah Office with the Chairman of the Department of Culture and Information in the Emirate of Sharjah. He specified that the Director of the Office was appointed and had already taken up service.

Regarding the opening of the regional office in Tehran, the Director General informed the Council that contacts were made with the competent authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran which have been provided with the draft seat agreement based on the reference study relating to the conditions for the opening of regional offices of the Organization, pending the conclusion of a final agreement thereon, to specify the date of signature of the Agreement and opening of the Office.

24. The observation of the Council members focused on the following :

- Necessity to specify the duties and competences of the regional offices, and work out their rules of procedures including their annual budget and expenditure.

- Evaluating the operation and achievements of existing offices prior to the opening of new regional offices.
- Ensuring the independence of the offices from the host countries.
- Taking advantage of the experience of specialized international organizations, such as UNESCO, ALECSO in terms of the running of these offices.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 3.2 of the Agenda
(Opening ISESCO's Regional Offices in the Member States)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of Article (2) of ISESCO's Charter,
- Recalling the Decision CE 21/2000/D 4.1 of the Executive Council at its 21st Session, notably operative paragraph 1 which provides for "adopting the first part of the document concerning the study on opening ISESCO's regional offices in the Member States, as an organizational framework that would guide the action of the General Directorate in this respect",
- Recalling the the General Conference Resolutions CG7/2000/3.4 (a) and (b) concerning the adoption of the study on the setting up of ISESCO regional offices and the conditions for opening the Regional Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran,
- Having considered the study contained in document CE 22/2001/3.2,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1-** Affirms the decisions of the Executive Council and the resolutions of the General Conference in connection with the conditions of opening ISESCO's Regional Offices in the Member States.
- 2-** Thanks His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the Union, Governor of Sharjah, for his generous support to the Organization and his supply of equipment necessary for the opening of ISESCO Regional Office in Sharjah.
- 3-** Thanks the Director General for his efforts to make the Office operational as soon as possible.
- 4-** Invites the Islamic Republic of Iran to approve the Draft Seat Agreement as proposed by the Islamic Organization.
- 5-** Places this item on the agenda of the 23rd Council Session.

Item 3.3 of the Agenda :
Project of establishing an Islamic satellite channel

(Document CE 22/2001/3.3)

25. The Director General presented the document on the project of establishing an Islamic satellite channel, indicating that the project aimed at publicizing the Islamic culture and civilization and presenting the image of Islam to the world. The document was based on the study submitted to the General Directorate by the State of Qatar, being the party which proposed the setting up of the channel.

The Director General stressed the importance of this project in view of the need of the Islamic Ummah for a satellite channel with special specifications using living languages. He indicated that the Islamic Organization had enriched the study in consultation and coordination with the State of Qatar, to secure fulfillment of the civilizational and cultural objectives of the channel, its legal and administrative framework, its broadcasting languages, financial charges, and needs in terms of human resources.

26. The observations of the Council centered on a number of issues mainly :

- Examining the possibility of adding other living languages and some Muslim peoples' languages in order to meet the needs of a number of Muslim communities and minorities.
- Looking into the possibility of referring the project to the competent information and communication authorities in the Member States.

After deliberations, the Executive Council took the following decision :

Decision on Item 3.3 of the Agenda
(Project of establishing an Islamic satellite channel)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Considering the proposal tabled by the State of Qatar concerning the examination by the Council of the project of establishing an Islamic satellite channel,
- Having considered the document on establishing an Islamic satellite channel,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Adopts the Document (CE22/2001/3.3) concerning the Project of establishing an Islamic satellite channel, taking into account the Council members' observations thereon.
- 2- Invites the Director General to pursue cooperation with the concerned parties in the State of Qatar with a view to implementing this project.
- 3- Thanks the Director General, his assistants and the competent bodies in the State of Qatar for preparing this study.
- 4- Refers the project to the Third Islamic Conference Ministers due to be held in Doha, Qatar, on 29-31 December 2001.
- 5- Places this item on the agenda of the 23rd Session of the Executive Council.
- 6- Agrees to submit this project to the forthcoming General Conference Session.

Item 3.4 of the Agenda :

**Election of the members of the
Financial Control Committee**

27. The Chairman of the Council presented the issue to examination. Then, the representative of the Republic of Yemen proposed the composition of the Financial Control Committee as follows : State of the United Arab Emirates, Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, Republic of Benin, Syrian Arab Republic and Sultanate of Oman. The Council approved the proposal and took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 3.4 of the Agenda
(Election of the Financial Control Committee Members)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with :
 - * Article 19 of the Charter,
 - * Article 24 of the Financial Regulations,
 - * Article 21, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having considered the Document C.E.22/2001/3.4 concerning the election of the Financial Control Committee members,
- Considering the termination of the three-year term of the current Committee, which was elected by the 19th Executive Council Session as per Decision n° CE 19/98/D.4.2,

- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

1- Elects the following States as members of the Financial Control Committee for a three-year term :

- * State of the United Arab Emirates
- * Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam
- * Republic of Benin
- * Syrian Arab Republic
- * Sultanate of Oman

2- Calls upon the States which are members of this Committee to nominate their representatives from among their experts in the field.

**Fourthworkingession : Monday, 9 Shawal 1422 A.H./24 December 2001 A.D.
(in camera session)**

28. Before the beginning of the in camera session, the Director General took the floor and paid homage to Mr. Oumar Saad Touré, Deputy Director General of the Organization, on the occasion of his end of service. He commended the efforts exerted by Mr. Touré during his assignment in the Organization, from 1985 to 2001, and lauded his qualities and diligence at work as well as the support he provided to the Organization. The Director General then wished him success and happiness and announced the organization of a farewell ceremony at the Organization's headquarters, and the award of the Golden Medal in recognition of his service to the Organization.

29. In his response, Mr. Oumar Saad Touré thanked the Director General and praised his outstanding efforts as well as his moral and professional qualities. He announced his donation of \$US 10,000 to contribute to the construction of the permanent headquarters of the Organization.

30. The Council held an in camera session to discuss the following items of its agenda.

Item 2.5 of the Agenda :

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

31. After examination of the item, the Council took the following decision :

Decision on Item 2.5 of the Agenda
Report of the Director General on the Status of Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 6 of the Financial Regulations,
- Recalling the decisions adopted by the previous sessions of the Executive Council and the resolutions of the General Conference of ISESCO in this connection, in particular the following :
 - * Decision C.E. 21/2000/D. 2.5 adopted by the Executive Council at its 21st Session (Rabat, 16-20/11/2000), whereby it invited, in the fifth operative paragraph, the Director General to arrange for special visits to the Member States with arrears in order to meet with officials therein, and to intensify efforts with a view to urging Member States to settle their contributions and pay up their arrears,
 - * Resolution CG 6/97/R 2.5 of the 6th General Conference (Riyadh 6-9/12/1997) affirming the provisions of the Resolution of the 5th General Conference and the necessity for the Member States to settle their contributions and pay up their arrears in order to help the Organization fulfill its civilizational mission,
 - * Resolution CG 7/2000/R 2.5 adopted by the 7th General Conference (Rabat 22-24/11/2000) ,
- Considering the presentation made by the Director General in this respect,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1-** Adopts the Report of the Director General on the Status of Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization, as contained in Document C.E. 22/2001/2.5 and its addendum;
- 2-** Affirms the above-mentioned resolutions and decisions previously taken by the General Conference and the Executive Council in this respect;

- 3- Expresses thanks and appreciation for the Director General in consideration of his efforts to intensify contacts with the Member States in order to collect a maximum of contributions, as well as for his efforts to promote cooperation with international organizations to secure further support to the Organization's activities and programmes;
- 4- Urges Member States which did not pay their arrears and contributions to do so as early as possible to secure implementation of the Organization's activities and programmes;
- 5- Agrees to submit this Report to the following Session of the General Conference, and recommends its adoption.

Item 3.5 of the Agenda :

Draft amendments to the Personnel Regulations

(Document CE 22/2001/3.5)

32. After examination of the item, the Council took the following decision :

Decision on Item 3.5 of the Agenda

(Amendments to the Personnel Regulations)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with :
 - * Article (125) of the Personnel Regulations
 - * Article (21) paragraph (k) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council
- Having considered the Document C.E.22/2001/3.5 concerning the project of Amendment to the Personnel Regulations,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place

Decides the following :

Approves the proposed Amendments to the Personnel Regulations as contained in Document CE22/2001/3.5, annexed hereto, subject to introduction of the modifications agreed by the Council.

(Annex 9 : Adopted amendments to the Personnel Regulations)

Item 3.6 of the Agenda :

Appointment of the Deputy Director General

33. After examination of the item, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 3.6 of the Agenda
(Appointment of the Deputy Director General)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with article 12 II, paragraph 2 of the Charter;
- In accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council;
- Recalling the Decision of the Executive Council at its 19th Session (Decision n° C.E.19/98/D.4.1);
- Considering the presentation made by the Director General;
- Considering the discussions which have taken place and the procedures followed;

Decides the following :

- Appoints Dr. Mohamed Hashem Fallougi (from the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) as Deputy Director General for a three-year term extendable once, as of 1st January, 2002.

Item 3.7 of the Agenda :

**ISESCO's Perception of the Ways of Interacting with
International Changes under its Action Plan for the Years 2001-2003**

(Document CE 22/2001/3.7)

34. The floor was taken by the representative of the State of Qatar, speaking on behalf of the four-member committee entrusted by the Council with the task of formulating the Organization's perception of the ways of interacting with international changes under its Action Plan for the years 2001-2003. The representative pointed out that the events of September 11 had cast dark shadows on the Islamic world epitomized in suspicion and allegations concocted against Islamic countries and Muslims, revealing thereby a deeply-seated ignorance of the image and real causes of Arabs and Muslims. This raised questions as to whether we have fulfilled the duty of sensitizing the world about our true Islamic religion and causes crucial to us.

In this regard, the Council feels that the Organization is called upon, today more than ever before, to deploy its commendable efforts in discharging the positive role it can play in the current conjuncture, in accordance with its Chart which stipulates the need to consolidate the authentic Islamic culture, protect the independence of Islamic thought against cultural invasion and distortion factors, and identify the means and ways of safeguarding the Islamic identity of Muslims in non-Muslim countries.

He emphasized that the present conjuncture required a firm stand in foiling all attempts by the enemies of Islam to avail of the opportunity of the current conjuncture and to tamper with Islam, associate it with terrorism and distort the human and civilizational image of the Muslim. In order to translate this perception into a reality, the Council deems it necessary to develop a mechanism, comprising feasible ideas as introduced in the above-mentioned document, that the Organization should carry into action - as part of its programmes and activities - before it is too late.

35. The observations of the Council focused on the fundamentals of the project, its methodology and implementation mechanisms. It stressed the necessity to set up an expert committee to further develop the document into one of the major civilizational projects of the Organization.

36. The Director General took the floor and expressed thanks and appreciation to the committee entrusted with the task of developing this document. He conveyed his appreciation for the ideas and proposals presented by the Council's members. He reviewed the programmes and activities that the Organization intends to implement next year in various Islamic world countries, European and American states, affirming the readiness of the Organization to seek guidance in the content of the document during the implementation of its current Action Plan.

37. After deliberation, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 3.7 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's perception of ways of interacting with
the world changes under its Action Plan for the years 2001-2003)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with articles (23 through 25) of the Charter;
- Having heard the presentation made by the representative of the State of Qatar to the Executive Council;
- Considering the discussions which have taken place.

Decides the following :

- 1- Considers Document CE22/2001/3.7 pertaining to the perception of the Islamic Organization of the ways of interacting with the world changes under its Action Plan for the years 2001-2003, and the Council's observations thereon as a basis for a broader perception to be elaborated and presented to the following Council Session ;
- 2- Invites the Director General to dedicate special activities and programmes to this matter within its current Action Plan and Budget, and its future action plans ;
- 3- Invites the Director General to intensify contacts and foster coordination with specialized Islamic and international bodies as part of contribution to highlighting the genuine image of Islam and Muslims, and to consecrate dialogue among civilizations.
- 4- Refers the matter to the Third Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, to be held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 29-31 December 2001.
- 5- Submits the matter to the forthcoming Council Session.

38. Before moving to the next item, the Council expressed its consternation with regard to the dangerous events taking place in the Palestinian territories and the killing and destruction perpetrated as well as the blockade imposed by Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people. To convey its solidarity with the Palestinian people and its leadership, the Council issued the following communiqué :

Communiqué on Solidarity with the Palestinian People

The Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization :

- Having examined in its 22nd Session, held in the Sharjah Emirate, the general situation in the Palestinian territories, the unrelenting siege imposed on the Palestinian people and the destructive and overwhelming aggression perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces;
- Having reviewed the dramatic situation prevailing in educational and cultural institutions in Palestine, and taken cognizance of the deprivation, oppression and siege endured by the Palestinian teaching corps, students and pupils, the closing down of Palestinian educational institutions, the prevention of access thereto, and the deliberate shooting at pupils;
- Reaffirming its commitment to and responsibility vis-à-vis the rights of the Palestinian people, its support for its valiant steadfastness on its national Palestinian homeland, and its sharing in its heart-rendering human tragedy;

- Keeping in line with related resolutions issued by Islamic and Arab conferences, and by the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly;
- **Strongly condemns** the Israeli measures of imposing a total and unrelenting siege on the territories of the National Palestinian Authority, thus disrupting educational and cultural processes, and preventing teachers, students and pupils from accessing schools, institutes and universities.
- **Vehemently denounces** the siege and the increased pressures exercised on the head of the National Palestinian Authority, His Excellency President Yasser Arafat, and the restriction imposed on his moves amongst his people and institutions, as well as on the contacts he may engage in with his brothers and friends to urge them to take action towards saving the Palestinian people.
- **Appeals** to the Palestinian people to preserve its national unity in order to confront the challenges imposed on it, and to stand strong in the face of the external pressures and attempts to shatter the Palestinian national unity.
- **Calls upon** the international community to intervene and exercise pressure on Israel to implement the United Nations resolutions, to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian Territories and accept international observers to enable Palestinians to exercise their right to freedom, to decent life and to independence.
- **Urges on** implementation, with no delay, of the resolution of the United Nation's General Assembly which guarantees the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state, with Al-Quds as its capital.
- **Solemnly pays tribute** to the Palestinian people for its steadfastness in the just struggle it leads under the legitimate national leadership of the National Palestinian Authority.

Item 4.1 of the Agenda :

Date and Venue of the Twenty-Third Session of the Executive Council

39. The Chairman of the Council presented the document relevant to the setting up of the date and venue of the 23rd Session of the Council. The Council decided to take the following decision :

**Decision on Item 4.1 of the Agenda
(Date and Venue of the Twenty-third
Session of the Executive Council)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of Article (10) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, whereby the Council sets, during each one of its Sessions, the date and venue of the following session,
- Having considered document CE 22/2001/4.1,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- Convenes the Twenty-third Session of the Executive Council in the second half of December 2002 in the Seat Country.

Closing Session : Tuesday, 10 Shawal 1422 A.H./25 December 2001 A.D.

40. Having taken cognizance and examined the Draft Final Report (Doc.CE 22/2001/D.F.R), the Executive Council adopted the Final Report as contained in Document (CE 22/2001/F.R).

41. The Executive Council addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahyane, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, for his unfailing support and generous care bestowed on the Organization.

(Annex 10 : Message addressed to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahyane, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates)

42. The Executive Council also addressed a message of thanks to His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the Union, Governor of Sharjah, for his support and generous patronage of the 22nd Executive Council Session of the Islamic Organization.

(Annex 11: Message addressed to His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the Union, Governor of Sharjah)

43. The floor was then taken by Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, who expressed his

heartfelt thanks and gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahyane, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, for his unstinting support and generous care lavished on the Organization. He also conveyed his thanks to His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the Union, Governor of Sharjah, for his valuable assistance and kind patronage of the 22nd Executive Council Session of the Islamic Organization. The Director General likewise thanked both His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sharhan, Minister of Education and Youth, President of the Emirati National Commission for Education, Science and Culture, and His Highness Sheikh Issam Bin Saqr Al-Qassimi, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Information in the Emirate of Sharjah, for their support to the Organization and keen interest to promote its mission.

His Excellency the Director General also conveyed his thanks to the Chairman and members of the Executive Council for the positive results arrived at by the 22nd Session of their honourable Council, materializing mainly in the decisions and recommendations issued. He affirmed the resolve of the General Directorate to step up its efforts, boost its working methods and comply faithfully with the decisions and recommendations of the Council to lead the Islamic Organization to further progress and prosperity.

Concluding his address, ISESCO's Director General welcomed the incoming Deputy Director General and congratulated him on the confidence placed in him by the Executive Council, wishing him every success in discharging his new duties.

(Annex 12: Address by Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, at the closing of the 22nd Executive Council Session)

44. In his closing address, Mr. Mohamed Abdullah Fares, Chairman of the Executive Council, lauded the praiseworthy results achieved by the 22nd Council Session, affirming that the Islamic Organization was gaining further strength, Session after Session, and was growing more determined to carry out its civilizational mission.

He called upon the Council members to pursue their kind efforts to provide financial support to the Organization, by means of urging Member States which have payments in arrears to settle them and have Member States pay regularly their annual contributions. He also invited the members of the Council to exert every effort to have independent personalities from the Muslim world contribute to the funding of programmes and activities, and more specifically, the funding of the permanent headquarters of the Organization.

Mr. Mohamed Abdullah Fares concluded by expressing his congratulation to Dr. Mohamed Hashem Fallougi, representative of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah on his appointment as Deputy Director General. He praised the services paid by Mr. Oumar Saad Touré, the outgoing Deputy Director General, whose term of office terminates by the end of the year 2001, and wished him every success and happiness. He finally reiterated his thanks to the members of the Council for their participation and wished them happy return and pleasant travel back home.

(Annex 13 : Address by Mr. Mohamed Abdullah Fares, Chairman of the Executive Council, at the closing of the 22nd Executive Council Session)