

Final Report of

The Third General Conference of

**The Islamic Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization**

Held at

Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

on

2-5 Rabii II, 1409AH/12-15 November, 1988

Opening session

1. The Third General Conference of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) held its opening session on Saturday, 2 Rabii II, 1409H / November 12, 1988 in Amman. His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal, graced the occasion on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal, Monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. As the Chairman of the Second General Conference was unable to attend the Third General Conference for reasons beyond his control, the Vice-Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Anwar Ibrahim, Minister of Education in Malaysia, represented him.

The opening session was attended by His Excellency Mr. Thouquan Hindawi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education; His Excellency Prof. Abdelhadi Boutaleb, Director General of ISESCO; and Mr. Mohamed bin Ahmed Al-Othaimine, Chairman of the Executive Council of ISESCO. The meeting was also attended by the delegations of ISESCO's Member States, most of which were headed by Ministers of Education, and by the representatives of guest international organizations and institutions working in ISESCO's fields of competence (*Annex 1*).

2. Following the Jordanian national anthem and recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an, His Excellency Mr. Thouquan Hindawi delivered his welcome address in which he expressed his happiness over the convening of the Third General Conference on the land of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the land of Islam, deep-rooted Arab Nationalism and faith in Islam's universal message. He then commended the efficient role played by ISESCO, as a vanguard Organization in the fields of education, science and culture. At the close of his speech, he reiterated his thanks to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince for having graciously accepted to inaugurate the Conference and to bestow his patronage thereon (*Annex 2*).

3. His Excellency Mr. Mohamed bin Ahmed Al-Othaimine, Chairman of the Executive Council, then greeted the participants and expressed his gratitude to His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince, for having accepted to inaugurate this Conference, and to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the participants. He then stressed the importance of ISESCO's fields of competence and the crucial role played by the Islamic Organization in the overall advancement of the Islamic communities. He felicitated His Excellency the Director General for his efforts to overcome the difficulties and obstacles with which ISESCO has been confronted, particularly those resulting from scarcity of resources and from failure of some Member States to honour their commitments. At the close of his address, he urged Member States to step up their support to the Organization, so that it may fulfil its sacred mission and expressed the hope that this Conference would achieve results worthy of the aspirations of the Islamic World (*Annex 3*).

4. The representative of the Chairman of the Second General Conference, His Excellency Dr. Shamsuddin Muhammad Qureshi then addressed the Conference and pointed out that the Organization embodied the aspiration and hopes of Muslims all over the world and that despite the fact that it was set up only recently, it managed to develop a distinctive structure of its own while taking into consideration the experience of similar organizations.

He further indicated that the General Directorate had acquired ample experience and full confidence and that it had shown commitment and dedication in the management of the Organization in a dynamic and efficient manner. He underlined the need for serious and confident intellectual and practical undertakings (*Annex 4*).

5. Speaking next, His Excellency Prof. Abdelhadi Boutaleb, Director General of ISESCO expressed deep appreciation at the convening of ISESCO's Third General Conference in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and extended his grateful thanks to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince for having graced the Conference by his presence on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein. He also expressed his thanks to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the efforts made to ensure the success of the Ninth Executive Council session and of the Third General Conference of ISESCO.

He highlighted the pioneering role played by the Kingdom in advancing the Arab and Islamic causes, thanks to the sagacious leadership of His Majesty King Hussein in this respect. He also expressed his deep indebtedness to His Majesty for the importance he has attached to the Organization and the blessings he has been granting to its activities ever since its inception.

The Director General then welcomed their Excellencies the Ministers, the distinguished delegates of Member States and the representatives of guest organizations. He mentioned the problems confronting Islamic countries, particularly Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan, and emphasized the need for solidarity among the Muslim Ummah. His Excellency the Director General also expressed deep grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Late President General Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and considered it a great loss for the Muslim Ummah and paid rich tributes for his contribution to the causes of Islam.

He underlined the excellent conditions in which the Conference was being held and which augured well for better times and for greater solidarity among Islamic countries. He recalled the basic rationale which prompted the setting up of ISESCO and which aimed at achieving the educational, scientific and cultural advancement of Islamic countries so that they may meet the challenges of modern times. He then briefly reported on the programmes and activities carried out by the Organization. At the close of his speech, he offered his thanks to His Royal Highness and the Government and the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for all the assistance extended to the Conference (*Annex 5*).

6. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Hassan then delivered an address at the beginning of which he welcomed the participants and expressed his pleasure at the convening of the Conference in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the land of Arab nationalism and Islam. He then conveyed to the participants the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal.

His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince referred to the meeting convened by the Organization in 1986 in Amman on ISESCO's role in the promotion of science and technology and pointed to the important recommendations of that meeting. He mentioned the

next Plan of Action of the Organization, commending the dedication and the experience reflected therein, as well as the complementarity and the comprehensiveness which characterized the five major areas in the Plan, particularly with regard to the enhancement of the educational, scientific and cultural development of Islamic countries.

Speaking about the importance of eradication of illiteracy and dissemination of learning, His Royal Highness urged that the Islamic Organization as well as other institutions should work out an overall plan dealing with the problem of illiteracy in the Islamic World with a view to eradicating it before the end of the century. His Royal Highness referred to other important needs, particularly those related to setting up an Islamic publishing house, supporting Islamic communities in non-Muslim countries, establishment of an institute for teaching Islamic languages, training in scientific research methodology, rewriting the history of the civilizations of the Muslim Ummah, revision of school curricula and correction of information that distorts the image of Islam and Muslims, planning for an Islamic information policy, encouraging activities related to writing, publishing and undertaking of critical studies, in addition to laying down a comprehensive policy for scientific research and technology.

At the close of his address, His Royal Highness gave a brief account of the experience of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the fields of education, science and culture and of the achievements accomplished by its specialized institutions and centres (*Annex 6*).

7. At the end of the opening session, the delegations of the participating Member States and the representatives of the international organizations and institutions paid their respects to His Royal Highness Prince Hassan.

First plenary session

8. The first plenary session was held at 13.00 on Saturday 2 Rabii II, 1409H / 12 November, 1988.

9. At the start of the meeting, His Excellency Mr. Thouquan Hindawi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, was elected Chairman of the Third General Conference by acclamation. The newly-elected Chairman thanked the delegations of the Member States for expressing their trust in electing him, a move which he regarded as a great honour for his country. He reiterated his Government's support to the Organization and expressed his special consideration for His Excellency Prof. Abdelhadi Boutaleb, the Director General, and his assistants for their intensive and continuous efforts aimed at developing the Organization. He also stressed the need for cooperation and solidarity among the Member States within the Organization's fields of competence (*Annex 7*).

10. The Chairman then conducted the elections of the remaining members of the Bureau as per agenda item. Their Excellencies the Ministers of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Mali were elected as Vice-Chairmen, and the head of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Rapporteur General of the Conference.

11. The Chairman then introduced the draft agenda of the General Conference for consideration. The Conference unanimously endorsed it as in the attached document (*Annex 8*).

12. Before adjourning the meeting, the Chairman called on delegates of Member States to record the names of their respective representatives on the Programme Committee and the Legal, Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee in the proforma which was to be circulated by the Secretariat.

Second plenary session

13. The Conference held its second plenary session on Saturday afternoon, 2 Rabii II, 1409H / 12 November, 1988, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Prof. Thouquan Hindawi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education.

14. The Conference adopted the address delivered by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince as an official document of the Conference for guiding its proceedings.

15. The report of the Chairman of the Executive Council for the period between the second and third sessions of the Conference was read out by the Executive Council Rapporteur, His Excellency Dr. Abul-Wafa Taftazani, from the Arab Republic of Egypt. He pointed out that the Council had convened in three regular sessions in the interval between the second and their third sessions of the General Conference to follow up the activities of the Organization and implementation of the programmes in the 1405-1408H / 1985-1988 three-year Action Plan and to express its views on the next three-year Action Plan for 1408-1411H / 1988-1991 (*Annex 9*). The Conference took note of the report pending discussion on respective matters by the two Committees that were to be set up by the Conference.

16. The report on the activities of the Organization in the interval between the second and third sessions of the General Conference and on the financial situation of the Organization was presented to the Conference by His Excellency the Director General who indicated that despite the Organization's financial difficulties caused by failure of some Member States to honour their financial obligations, the General Directorate had succeeded in carrying out most of the programmes in the 1405-1408H / 1985-1988 Plan of Action. He also indicated that the Organization had to implement its programmes jointly with organizations and institutions operating in its fields of competence within the Islamic World and outside in view of its budget deficit. The Director General then gave an outline of the next 1408-1411H / 1988-1991 three-year Plan of Action, indicating that it comprised 86 programmes related to education, science and culture, information, the Islamic Information and Data Bank and the Organization's Printing Unit. He also pointed out that a US\$ 28,130,288 budget had been allocated to the proposed Action Plan, an amount which is identical to the budget of the previous three-year Action Plan with a 5% annual increase to allow for inflation.

The Conference took note of the Director General's Report pending discussion by the two Committees to be set up by the Conference (*Annex 10*).

17. His Excellency the Minister of Religious Affairs in the Republic of Indonesia and head of delegation announced that his Government had remitted 100,000 US\$ to the Organization towards the end of October 1988 in partial settlement of its contribution to the budget of the Organization. It was likewise announced by the Director General that he was handed over a remittance by His Excellency the Minister of Education in the Republic of Niger and head of delegation to cover his country's arrears for the 1982-1985 period. His Excellency the Minister of Education of the State of Kuwait and head of delegation announced that his Government was committed to paying its contribution to the budget of the Organization as of the date of ratification of its membership in the Organization and that its arrears for 1987-1988 were actually being transferred to the Organization. The head of the Republic of Chad delegation announced that his Government had paid part of its share, but wished to be exempted from 50% of its arrears.

18. Before adjourning the session, the Chairman pointed out that the Programme Committee and the Legal, Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee would convene and begin their work in the morning of Sunday 3 Rabii II, 1409H / 13 November, 1988.

Third plenary session

19. The third plenary session was held in the morning of Sunday 3 Rabii II, 1409H / November 13, 1988. At the beginning of the session, it was decided that the plenary session be converted into Programme and Legal, Administrative and Financial Affairs Committees to elect the Bureaux of the Committees. The Bureaux were elected with the following composition:

A- Programme Committee:

- The Arab Republic of Egypt - Chairman
- The Republic of Senegal - Rapporteur

B- Legal, Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee:

- The Republic of Niger - Chairman
- Palestine - Rapporteur

20. On the situation of ISESCO, His Excellency the Director General presented a brief report for the six years of its life. He addressed the following four main points:

- a- the circumstances in which ISESCO was established for the purpose of consolidating Islamic solidarity on the basis of science, education and culture;
- b- the necessity for ISESCO to play its due role of coordination assigned to it by the Charter, among educational, scientific and cultural institutions within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, so as to avoid the duplication of the work and rationalize expenditure;
- c- the achievements accomplished by ISESCO through its previous action plans, under which 72 programmes were implemented for the benefit of 32 Islamic countries out of a total of 37 Member States;

d- the future orientation of ISESCO which depends on the political will of Member States to support the Organization, to develop it, and to provide it with its means of action (*Annex 11*).

21. Subsequently, a general debate was held on this question with the participation of chief delegates. Their statements centered mainly on the following:

- thanking His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Government and the People of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the generous hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants and for the excellent preparations for the Conference;
- commending the continuous endeavours and action of His Excellency the Director General in the management of ISESCO affairs through his experience and wisdom and through the efforts of Deputies, Directors and entire staff of the Organization;
- thanking the Chairman and the members of the Executive Council for the efforts made in order to develop the Organization and promote its activities;
- appreciation for the achievements of ISESCO through implementation of the programmes and activities it had undertaken, notwithstanding the financial and other difficulties with which it was confronted;
- the necessity of filling the gaps in ISESCO's Charter and other statutory provisions in order to facilitate the work of the Organization and the need for streamlining of its structure;
- the necessity of implementing programmes on priority basis and according to such needs of Member States, with attention to more needy ones, taking into account equitable geographical distribution at the same time;
- the necessity of enabling ISESCO to play effectively its appropriate role and to achieve coordination among the institutions and centers operating in fields of its competence within the OIC system, and the necessity of making such recommendations to the Organization of the Islamic Conference and to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (*Annex 12*).

Fourth plenary session

22. The fourth plenary session was held at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 3 Rabii II, 1409H / November 13, 1988, and resumed general discussion on the situation of ISESCO, six years after its inception. Discussions concentrated mainly on the points as were discussed during the third plenary session.

23. The General Conference decided to send a message of congratulations to His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty's birthday (*Annex 13*).

24. Upon nomination by the Chief delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Prof. Abdelhadi Boutaleb was unanimously re-elected by the General Conference as Director General of ISESCO for the next three-year period. He was given a standing ovation.

His Excellency Mr. Thouquan Hindawi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of Jordan, and Chairman of the General Conference congratulated the Director General for the confidence placed in him by Member States, commending him as an eminent Muslim and Arab thinker. He then called upon Member States to provide full support to ISESCO's Director General in order to enable him to discharge his mission and achieve the objectives of ISESCO in the best conditions.

His Excellency Prof. Abdelhadi Boutaleb in reply thanked the Member States for the trust they reposed on him and for their determination to support the Organization.

Fifth plenary session

25. The fifth plenary session was held in the morning of Monday 4 Rabii II, 1409H / 14 November, 1988.

26. The following representatives of international organizations addressed the Conference: His Excellency Dr. Mohieddin Saber, Director General of ALECSO, Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Kazem, UNESCO, Dr. Ali Ibn Mohamed Al-Towegry, Director General of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, Dr. Al-Mukhtar Dirah on behalf of Dr. Ahmed Al Shareef, Secretary General of the World Islamic Call Society. In their statements, they congratulated His Excellency Prof. Abdelhadi Boutaleb on his re-election as Director General of ISESCO for the next three years. They commended his contributions and wished him all success during the next tenure. They also praised the fruitful and constructive cooperation which existed between their institutions/organizations and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). They likewise expressed the hope that this cooperation would be further enhanced and consolidated (*Annex 14*).

27. As regards the amendments proposed to the Charter and recommended by the Executive Council, the Conference decided to postpone its consideration and set up a Committee to be nominated by the Conference Bureau to comprehensively and critically review the Charter, rules of procedure and all other related matters which may require attention (*Resolution CG/III/88/ODG*) and to submit a report to the Fourth General Conference. The Conference recommended to the Member States to send their proposals within six months' time to His Excellency the Director General to be submitted to the above-mentioned Committee (*Annex 15*).

28. The General Conference considered the recommendation of the Executive Council on coordination. His Excellency the Director General gave full background of the question. The General Conference gave mandate to His Excellency the Director General to inform the Islamic Conference of Foreign Minister and the Organization of the Islamic Conference of the desire of the General Conference of ISESCO to stress the importance of ISESCO as an apex

Organization in charge of coordination activities in the fields of education, science and culture within the framework of OIC.

The General Conference also gave mandate to the Director General to inform the Islamic Conference of Foreign Minister and the Organization of the Islamic Conference of the desire of the General Conference of ISESCO to review the functions of OIC subsidiary organizations operating in these fields by them in order to either integrate them in ISESCO or, if necessary, abolish them (*Annex 16*).

29. The Headquarters Convention signed by the Islamic Organization (ISESCO) and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco was endorsed unanimously, and the recommendation of the Ninth Executive Council session in this regard was endorsed (*Annex 17*) including the decision to send a message to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco expressing gratitude for his kindness of providing such facilities for establishing ISESCO headquarters in Rabat (*Annex 18*).

Sixth plenary session

30. The sixth plenary session was held in the morning of Tuesday 5 Rabii II, 1409H / 15 November, 1988.

31. The General Conference welcomed the announcement of the proclamation of the State of Palestine on the Palestine land with Jerusalem as the capital and decided, at the initiative of the head of the delegation of Senegal, to send a message in this respect to the Palestine National Council held in Algiers (*Annex 19*).

32. The General Conference decided exceptionally to extend the mandate of the members of the present Executive Council until the convening of the fourth regular General Conference.

33. The General Conference decided to convene its fourth session in ISESCO's headquarters in Rabat, during the first week of November 1991.

Seventh plenary session

34. The General Conference held its seventh plenary session in the afternoon of Tuesday 5 Rabii II, 1409H / November 15, 1988, to examine the reports of the Programme Committee and of the Legal, Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee.

35. The General Conference adopted the Report of the Programme Committee (*Annex 20*).

36. The General Conference adopted the Report of the Legal, Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee (*Annex 21*) upon discussion of the paragraphs in the report pertaining to the three-year Budget (1408-1411H / 1988-1991 and the amendments to some of the internal regulations of the Organization. Subsequently, the General Conference decided the following:

- a- as regards the three-year Budget 1408-1411H / 1988-1991, the General Conference adopted a budget to the amount of US\$ 28,130,288 at the majority of present and voting Member States. This amount is equal to the previous three-year Budget for the 1405-1408H / 1985-1988 period, increased by 5% to make up for inflation.
- b- as regards amendments to some of the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference and of the Financial Regulations, the General Conference and of the Financial Regulations, the General Conference decided to postpone their consideration and referred them to the Committee it set up to examine amendments to the Charter as well as to other internal regulations.

Closing session

37. The closing session was held in the evening of Tuesday 5 Rabii II 1409H / November 15, 1988, and was devoted to consideration of the draft Final Report, which was read out by the Rapporteur General of the General Conference and representative of Pakistan, His Excellency Dr. S.M. Qureshi. The General Conference adopted the Final Report.

38. The representative of Malaysia, His Excellency Mr. Tan Sri Abdur Rahman, spoke on behalf of Asian Member States and expressed thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for hosting the Conference. He praised the speech of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and commended the achievements of the Organization. He further suggested that each Member State should, in the future, bear the costs of the participation of its delegation in the Organization's meetings and conferences as is the case in other international organizations (*Annex 22*).

39. Then, the representative of Niger and Minister of Education, His Excellency Lt. Col. Ousmane Gazere, took the floor on behalf of African delegations, thanked the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and praised the wisdom, moderation and deep interest taken by His Excellency the Director General of ISESCO in the affairs of the Muslim Ummah and his dedication in serving it. He stressed that it was necessary for African Member States to support the Organization, for it embodied part of the ambitions of these states. He then expressed his pride at the establishment of the Palestinian State (*Annex 23*).

40. The representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco and of the Arab Republic of Egypt spoke on behalf of the Arab group and expressed thanks and appreciation to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the generous hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants in the Conference. They also praised the wisdom and extensive experience of the Director General in running the Organization and seeking to achieve its noble objectives (*Annexes 24 & 25*).

41. The General Conference decided to send a message of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal, Monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, for his gracious solicitude towards the Conference (*Annex 26*).

42. His Excellency the Director General took the floor and thanked Almighty Allah for the success of the proceedings of the Third General Conference. He also expressed gratitude

to His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal for his gracious solicitude and to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal for having graciously chaired the inaugural session of the Conference. He also thanked the Jordanian Government for the measures it took so that the Conference could meet in the best conditions. He further praised the experience and wisdom of His Excellency Mr. Thouquan Hindawi, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Third General Conference in running the proceedings of the Conference, a fact which contributed to its success. He then expressed deep thanks to the participating delegations for their fruitful contributions to the success of the Conference and to the achievement of its objectives. His Excellency the Director General also thanked the participating international Organizations, the Jordanian Organizing Committee, the translators, the interpreters and the staff of the General Directorate of the Organization. At the end of his statement, His Excellency the Director General indicated that Islamic solidarity was no longer a dream but a reality, and that God willing, words will be turned into concrete action. He added that it was an auspicious sign that the convening of the Conference should coincide with the establishment of the Palestinian State.

43. His Excellency Mr. Thouquan Hindawi, Chairman of the Third General Conference, then took the floor and expressed profound thanks and consideration to all those who participated in the proceedings of the Conference and its committees as well as to the organizing committees. He expressed happiness at the fact that the convening of the Conference should coincide with proclamation of the State of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital. He then declared the proceedings of the Third General Conference closed.