

*In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful*

The General Conference of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization held its 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Session in Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, on 25-27 Shaaban 1421 A.H./22-24 November 2000.

The Session's proceedings were attended by Their Excellencies the Ministers of Education (or their representatives), members of the General Conference. The Session was also attended by the Secretaries-General and the representatives of Islamic, Arab and international organizations.

*(Annex 1: List of the Members of the General Conference  
and the Members of the Delegations of Participating Islamic, Arab  
and International Organizations)*

**Opening Session: Wednesday 25 Shaaban 1421 A. H (22 November 2000)**

**Morning**

1. The opening session of the Conference was marked by the presence of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Moatassim, Counsellor of His Majesty King Mohammed VI the Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, H.E. Dr. Khaled Ibn Mohammed Al-Ankary, Minister of Higher Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President of the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference, H.E. Dr. Najib Zerouali, Minister of Higher Education, Executive Training and Scientific Research in the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Abdullah Faris, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council, H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ghazali, Representative of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in addition to a number of members of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, members of the Organization's Executive Council, members of the Islamic diplomatic corps accredited to Rabat, representatives of Arab, regional and international organizations, presidents of the universities of the Kingdom of Morocco, together with many cultural and scientific personalities and pressmen.
2. Following a recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an, the participants listened to the lofty Royal Message addressed to the Conference by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, and read by His Majesty's Counsellor, H.E. Mohamed Moatassim. The Royal Message first welcomed Their Excellencies the Ministers and the Heads of Delegation, expressing His Majesty's delight to bestow his solicitude upon the Conference in keeping with the commendable tradition set by his father, the late King Hassan II – may Allah rest his soul- and in recognition of the noble objectives

which the Organization spared no effort to achieve in support of the Islamic action. The Moroccan Sovereign hailed the Executive Council's decision to proclaim the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference the "Al-Quds Intifada Session" as a token of support to the steadfast Palestine. The Royal Message extolled the cooperation agreement between the Islamic Organization and Bayt Mal Al-Quds Agency, paying tribute to ISESCO's achievements and expressing appreciation for the generous gesture of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyane, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates.

The Royal Message underlined the Islamic Organization's efforts to update constantly its programmes in order to keep pace with a rapidly changing world and meet the needs of Islamic countries for development. In this connection, the Royal Message highlighted the Islamic Organization's action in terms of following up the implementation of the Cultural Strategy and devising scientific and technological mechanisms. It further underscored that, bearing in mind the onset of a new age with the third millennium, the Organization had elaborated an ambitious Medium-Term Plan that sought to promote scientific research and implant technology.

Before concluding, the Royal Message commended the action and achievements of ISESCO by dint of the work of its Director General, its experts and all those working within the Organization, which reflected a deep commitment to its mission, and an unstinted endeavour to preserve the identity while keeping abreast of the modern epoch.

*(Annex 2: Text of the Lofty Royal Message)*

3. His Excellency Dr. Khaled Ibn Mohammed Al-Ankary, Minister of Higher Education in the Government of Saudi Arabia, President of the Sixth General Conference, delivered an address in which he conveyed the greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud, and of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, along with their wishes of full success for the General Conference. He expressed his thanks and esteem to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, for the continued support that he bestowed upon the Organization, and for the care extended by his Government to ISESCO. He also extended thanks to all leaders of the Member States for their renewed confidence in ISESCO and their unfailing support to it. He then pointed out that the Session constituted a turning point in the course of the Organization for two reasons. The First raison, said he, lied in the Session would focus on two important action plans of ISESCO, the Three-

Year Plan for 2001-2003, and the Medium-Term Plan for 2001-2009, while the second reason consisted in the juncture at which the Session was being held, as the Islamic world was undergoing rapid mutations and successive developments that laid heavy burdens on the Organization and increased its responsibility vis-à-vis its Member States. He added that the two plans featured the elements of innovation, creativity and novelty, and would, with the will of the Almighty, contribute to furthering the march of the Islamic world toward a brighter future. His Excellency also recalled the 1<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, organized by ISESCO in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in Rajab 1421 A.H./October 2000, in Riyadh, underlining its tremendous success and ascribing the credit for that to ISESCO. He concluded his speech by thanking Their Excellencies the members of the General Conference for their support during his mandate as President. He likewise conveyed his thanks to H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajjri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, commending his efforts and conveying his greetings to the Chairman of the Executive Council of ISESCO.

*(Annex 3: Address by H.E. Dr. Khaled Ibn Mohamed Al-Ankary, Minister of Higher Education in the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President of the Sixth General Conference)*

4. His Excellency Prof. Mohammed Abdullah Fares, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, delivered a speech in which he addressed sincere thanks and deep gratitude on behalf of the Council, to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco for the support and care extended to ISESCO by His Majesty. He, then, emphasized that the Islamic Organization had accomplished great achievements and considerable success during the period between the Sixth and Seventh Sessions of the General Conference, and that the Executive Council had been able to note the evolution marking ISESCO's work by following up the implementation of the three-year action plan for the years 1998-2000, monitoring its action, evaluating its activities and issuing decisions and recommendations with the aim of improving its fulfilment. He also indicated that despite the outstanding level of development in ISESCO's performance of its civilizational mission thanks to the wise policy of its Director General, the Member States' commitment to pay their contributions regularly had become a pressing necessity.

He further pointed out that the current session of the General Conference was held at a critical juncture in the history of the Muslim world, emphasizing that the Conference would accordingly adopt the three-year plan and budget for the years 2001-2003 and the Medium-Term Plan for the years 2001-2009, which were designed to usher ISESCO into the twenty-first century, the century of great challenges. He explained that the formidable challenge faced by the Muslim World at that stage was to consolidate the joint Islamic action organs on the forefront of which was the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the important and powerful tool for the comprehensive civilizational renaissance of the Muslim Ummah.

He, then called upon the Seventh General Conference to issue a resolution inducing for settlement of the accumulating arrears of some Member States and urging the Member States to pay their contributions regularly in order to enable the Islamic Organization to continue discharging its civilizational mission in an optimal way.

*(Annex 4: Address by Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Fares, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)*

5. H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, delivered afterwards an address, in which he first expressed sincere thanks and deep gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, for his high patronage of the Seventh Session of the General Conference as well as for the royal support and lavish care bestowed upon ISESCO ever since its inception, by his glorious father, His Majesty the late King Hassan II, may Allah have him in His Mercy, and by His Majesty since he had been enthroned. He then invited the honourable Conference to adopt the Royal Message as a basic document for its proceedings, and expressed thanks and appreciation for Their Majesties, Their Excellencies and Their Highnesses the leaders of the Member States for their continuous support for the Islamic Organization. He then welcomed their Excellencies the heads of delegation of ISESCO's Sixth General Conference, in particular the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria, headed by H.E. the Minister of National Education, Prof. Boubker Ben Zaid, after his country had recently joined ISESCO.

He further indicated that the Conference was being held at a critical stage in the history of the Muslim world, marked by the onslaught of evil forces

of aggression that threatened its sanctities in Al Quds Al Sharif in particular, and in Palestine in general, which made it necessary for the Muslim world to be equipped with science and knowledge. He then pointed out that, being fully aware of its huge responsibilities at that critical juncture, the Islamic Organization spared no effort to promote the new civilizational cycle of the Muslim Ummah and endeavoured relentlessly to build for the future in the short and medium term guided by two action plans: the three-year action plan for the years 2001-2003 and the Medium-Term plan for the years 2001-2009.

He indicated that the draft three-year action plan (2001-2003) dealt with issues of education, science, culture and communication from an all-embracing perspective receptive to the deep changes and rapid technological developments on the international scene, within a framework that sought to revive the authentic values through a civilizational pattern that met the spiritual, material and social needs of the individual and linked life with the aims and purposes of the Righteous Religion of Islam.

He expressed thanks and appreciation to H.E. Dr. Khalid Ibn Mohammed Al-Ankary, Minister of higher Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the valuable services he had rendered to the Organization during his presidency of the sixth Session of the General Conference to strengthen its presence on the Islamic and international arena.

He concluded his address by stressing that the seventh Session of the General Conference constituted a milestone on a long and strenuous road which the Islamic Organization had taken upon itself to tread with full confidence and determination, seeking help from Almighty Allah and relying on the valuable trust of the Member States.

*(Annex 5 Address by His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri,  
Director General of the Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization)*

6. In recognition of the outstanding efforts expended by the constellation of leaders of Islamic and international educational, cultural and scientific action, ISESCO took the opportunity of the Seventh General Conference to pay tribute to them. His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of ISESCO had the honour of awarding ISESCO's decoration to:

- H.E. Dr. Nasser Eddin Assad, Former President of the Royal Academy of Islamic Civilizational Researches in Amman.
  - His Eminence the late Sheikh Abul Hassan Ali Al Hassani Al Nadawi, may Allah have him in His mercy, Chairman of the ulema Forum in Lakanuh, India.
  - His Eminence the late Sheikh Mohammed Al Jasser, may Allah have him in His mercy, Scholar of the Arabian Peninsula, famous writer and historian.
  - H.E. Dr. Salha Sanqar, former Minister of Higher Education in the Syrian Arab Republic.
  - His Eminence Sheikh Ibrahim Jop, Secretary General of the League of Moroccan and Senegalese Ulema.
7. His Excellency Dr. Nasser Eddin Assad spoke on behalf of the figures celebrated and said that a person felt tremendous pride when one country or one institution paid him tribute, let alone when the tribute was paid by one of the greatest organizations in the Muslim world and when the tribute took place in a country of such noble people, where the General Conference was being held under the patronage of His Majesty the King. He indicated that the Islamic Organization had always been endeavouring to keep pace with modern times with its plans, programmes and its contemporary cultural project designed to interact with the world civilizational discourse in order for Muslims to resume their mission and contribute to shaping the human civilization. He stated that ISESCO had spared no effort to enable some peoples to regain their Islamic cultural identity by recovering the Arabic script and the Arabic language while at the same time interacting with such modern issues as modernity, globalization, human rights, modern technology, information systems and satellite channels in order to keep abreast of the new developments and changes.

His Excellency concluded his speech by emphasizing the fact that the Islamic Organization was founded on righteousness under its first Director General and that it derived its youth from its current young Director General, its determination and dynamism from his own resolution and stamina so much so that it gained such prominent status and achieved such plans, programmes and projects. He added that we were looking forward

to seeing ISESCO achieve yet more accomplishments, and that it was most worthy of our praise.

8. At the close of that session, the Director General offered a reception in honour of Their Excellencies the heads of delegation and the guests.

**Item 1.1 of the Agenda: Examination of accreditation documents  
and the list of delegations**

**(Document CG 7/2000/1.1 Provisional)**

9. The Bureau of the Sixth General Conference examined the accreditation documents and the list of delegations and recommended that the Sixth General Conference adopt the resolution thereon (document CG7/2000/1.1 provisional), taking into account article (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference.

**Resolution on Item 1.1 of the Agenda  
(Examination of Credentials and the List of Delegations)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with:
  - Articles 6, 7 and 10, paragraphs 1 and 5 of the Charter;
  - Articles 1 through 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference;
  - Articles 1 through 8 of the Observer Status Regulations;
- Having considered Document CG7/2000/1.1 (Provisional) containing the list of participants in the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference;
- Taking into account the recommendation of the Bureau of the 6<sup>th</sup> General Conference to adopt the said list;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the list of participants in the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference as contained in Document CG7/2000/1.1 (Adopted) and appends it to the Final Report of the 7<sup>th</sup> General Conference;

2. Invites the Member States to take into account the provisions of Article 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference upon composition of their delegations.

*(Annex 6: Adopted Agenda of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference)*

**Item 1.2 of the Agenda: Adoption of the Agenda  
(Document CG 7/2000/1.2 Adopted)**

10. Following consideration of the draft agenda by the Conference, the head of the delegation of the Republic of Somalia requested to add to the draft agenda an item on exemption of his country from payment of financial arrears. The head of the delegation of the Republic of Iraq also requested to add an item on the suffering of the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in his country from the embargo and Western aggression directed against his country. The head of the delegation of the State of Kuwait requested to add an item on the Kuwaiti prisoners and disappeared who had been deprived of their natural right to education, and the sufferings of their families because of that situation.

Upon deliberations, the Conference agreed to keep the items of the draft agenda unchanged without adding any new item, and passed the following Resolution:

**Resolution on Item 1.2 of the Agenda  
(Adoption of the Agenda)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with:
  - Article 11 of the Charter;
  - Articles 12 through 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference;
- Having considered the Draft Agenda of its Seventh Session contained in Document CG7/2000/1.2 Provisional;
- Taking into account Decision CE 21/2000/D.6.2, adopted by the Executive Council at its 21<sup>st</sup> Session, whereby it recommended that the General Conference adopt its Agenda as contained in the proposed document;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

Adopts the Agenda of its Seventh Session as contained in Document CG7/2000/1.2 Adopted, and appends it to the Final Report of the Seventh Session of the General Conference.

**Item 1.3 of the Agenda: Adoption of the Programme  
(Document CG/7/2000/1.3 Adopted)**

11. Following examination of the draft programme of its proceedings, the Conference adopted it in the appended version (Document CG 7/2000/1.3 Adopted), Annex n° 7 and passed the following Resolution:

**Resolution on Item 1.3 of the Agenda  
(Adoption of the Programme)**

**The General Conference,**

- Recalling Resolution CG6/97/R.6.1 adopted by the General Conference at its Sixth Session whereby it decided to hold its Seventh Session in the Seat Country in 2000;
- Considering Resolution CG7/2000/R1.2 whereby it adopted the Agenda of the Seventh General Conference as contained in Document CG7/2000/1.2 Adopted;
- Having considered the Draft Programme contained in Document CG7/2000/1.3 Provisional;
- Considering Decision CE 21/2000/D.6.2 adopted by the Executive Council at its 21<sup>st</sup> Session, recommending that the Seventh General Conference adopt the programme as per the proposed document;

**Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the Programme as contained in Document CG7/2000/1.3 Adopted, and appends it to the Final Report of the Seventh Session of the General Conference.

*(Annex 7: Adopted Programme of the Seventh Session of the General Conference)*

**Item 1.4 of the Agenda: Constitution of the Conference Bureau  
(Document CG 7/2000/1.4)**

12. The Conference unanimously approved the designation of H.E. Dr. Najib Zerouali Ouariti, Minister of Higher Education, Executive Training and Scientific Research of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, as

President of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference, and proceeded with the constitution of its Bureau as specified in the following Resolution:

**Resolution on Item 1.4 of the Agenda  
(Composition of the Conference Bureau)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with the following:
  - Article 10, paragraph 2 of the Charter;
  - Article 8 and 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference;
- Having considered Document CG7/2000/1.4 on the composition of the Bureau of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference;
- Taking into account Resolution CG 7/2000/R.1.3 whereby it adopted the programme and approve the proposed committees;
- Paying tribute to the host country, the Kingdom of Morocco;
- Abiding by the principle of geographical distribution;
- Considering the unanimity of opinions;

**Decides the following:**

Approves the composition of the Bureau of the 7<sup>th</sup> General Conference as follows:

***President of the Conference:*** Kingdom of Morocco

***Vice-Presidents:***

1. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
2. Republic of Benin
3. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

***General Rapporteur:***

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

***Chairman of the Programmes' Committee:***

State of Bahrain

***Chairman of the Administrative, Financial and Legal Affairs Committee:***

Republic of Kyrgyzstan

- 13.** H.E. Dr. Khaled Bin Mohammed Al-Ankary, President of the 6<sup>th</sup> General Conference, took the floor and pointed out that the Session was distinct in many respects. He commended the genuine cooperation and utmost diligence noted in the Executive Council's proceedings, expressing his thanks to ISESCO's General Directorate for the outstanding action and rigorous follow-up achieved during the period of his presidency of the General Conference, and extending thanks to the Director General and his aides for the excellent work they had performed in ensuring the management and implementation of the Organization's activities. He invited H.E. Dr. Najib Zerouali Ouariti to take over the presidency of the Conference's proceedings.
- 14.** H.E. Dr. Najib Zerouali Ouariti, Minister of Higher Education, Executive Training and Scientific Research in the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, took over the Conference presidency, and welcomed Their Excellencies, the heads of delegation, thanking them for the trust they had placed in his person. He highlighted that the Muslim Ummah was going through particular circumstances and facing up to major challenges, such as globalization and its ensuing consequences for peoples' cultural and civilizational identity. He stressed that the Islamic Organization was shouldering a heavy responsibility in that field, pointing out that, since its creation, ISESCO had been keen on carrying out activities and projects that consolidated the presence of Islamic thought and culture in the international arena. He recalled that there could be no development without promoting science and technology and that there would be no existence for a people without the preservation of its cultural components, indicating that we were all called upon to contrive a formula that could reconcile both requirements. He lauded the Medium-Term Plan which, he said, was marked by complementarity and coherence, while keeping abreast of new developments in the fields of education, science and culture. He underlined that the 2001-2003 Three-Year Action Plan enshrined rich and diversified programmes marked by continuity of the preceding Action Plan and innovation in vision and implementation. Concluding his address, he called upon the Member States to secure material and moral support to the Organization.

*(Annex 8: Address by H.E. Dr. Najib Zerouali Ouariti on  
the occasion of his taking over the Presidency  
of the Seventh Session of the General Conference)*

**Item 2.1 of the Agenda: Report of the Executive Council**

**(Document CG 7/2000/2.1)**

15. His Excellency the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council presented a report containing a summary of the proceedings of the Council between the Sixth and the Seventh Sessions of the General Conference, particularly in terms of revising the regulations and rules of procedure, such as the election of the Financial Control Committee, the renewal of the appointment of the Deputy Director General for a second three-year term, the purchase of staff accommodation, in addition to other actions like ISESCO's project on the setting up of a regional office in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, the agreement in principle on opening of a regional office in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the project of setting up the Islamic Federation of Parents' and Teachers' Associations, the project of setting up regional offices of ISESCO in the Member States, the Draft Medium-Term Plan for the Years (2001-2003) as well as the Three-Year Action Plan 2001-2003, prepared within the framework of the Medium-Term Action Plan. He underlined that the Council had examined the reports of the Director General on the activities and achievements of the Organization and the document relevant to the purchase of staff accommodation and to the amendment of the Organization Chart for the creation of a Directorate for planning, follow-up and evaluation, and studied the document relevant to the construction of the headquarters of the Organization. At Its Twentieth Session, the Council issued a statement on the cause of the people of Chechnya, wherein it appealed to the Islamic world to take positive initiatives to express its solidarity with Muslim people of Chechnya and to provide it with assistance. The Council also issued a special statement, at its Twenty-First Session, on solidarity with the Palestinian people in the blessed Intifada of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, wherein it urged all the Member States to provide full support to the struggling Palestinian people, and commended the efforts exerted by the General Directorate of ISESCO to implement as many activities as possible and enlarge the scope of cooperation with international

organizations and Arab-Islamic institutions. The Council also adopted the financial reports and recommended their approval by the Conference.

After deliberation, the General Conference passed the following Resolution:

**Resolution on Item 2.1 of the Agenda  
(Report of the Executive Council)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with Article 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference;
- Having considered the Report of the Executive Council contained in Document CG7/2000/2.1;
- Having heard the presentation made by the Chairman of the Executive Council;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Takes note of the Report of the Executive Council contained in Document CG7/2000/2.1;
2. Commends the efforts exerted by the Chairman of the Executive Council and by the distinguished Council members to provide sustained support to the Organization and to its Director General, within the framework of implementation of the Three-Year Action Plan 1998-2000.
  16. In the light of the presentation made by its President, the General Conference unanimously approved the Director General's proposal to consider the lofty Royal Message read at the opening of the conference as a basic document for the Conference's proceedings.
  17. The Conference also unanimously approved the recommendation of the Executive Council to name the present Conference Session: "Al-Quds Intifada Session".

## **Second Working Session: Wednesday, 25 Shaaban 1421 A.H/22 November 2000**

### **Afternoon**

#### **Item 2.2 of the Agenda:**

**Report of the Director General on the Organization's  
Activities between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the General Conference and  
addresses by Heads of Delegation in that connection  
Documents (CG7/2000/2.2, Part1) (CG7/2000/2.2, Part 2)  
(CE 21/2000/2.1) (CG7/2000/2.2, Part 2, Addendum)  
(CE 21/2000/2.1, Addendum)**

18. In the report he presented on the activities of the Organization between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the General Conference, the Director General first pointed out that the period between those two sessions had witnessed a real takeoff, marked by a qualitative improvement in the Organization's performance, a high output of its activities, effectiveness of its programmes and a consolidated presence on the international and Islamic scenes.

He indicated that the report featured an exhaustive account of achievement, as the Islamic Organization had implemented 84% of the activities scheduled under the ending Action plan, which was a high percentage considering the volume of financial resources emanating from Member States' contributions. He recalled that the expansion of the Organization's cooperation network with Islamic, Arab, international and regional organizations had a direct impact on alleviation of the burden of the Islamic Organization.

Dr. Abdelaziz Othman Altwaijri pointed out that in compliance with the recommendations of the General Conference, emphasis was put on activities geared to the development of human resources and staff training. Special attention was equally given to activities relating to the preparation and updating of books and curricula, in addition to enriching the contents of the educational process with comprehensive development issues such as environment, health, population, human rights, tolerance and peace, which presenting the Islamic viewpoint thereon. Similarly, special importance was attached to the provision of financial, technical and academic support to educational, scientific, cultural and communication institutions in the neediest Member States and Muslim communities and minorities. Other support activities included the granting of scholarships in various educational and scientific specialities.

During this period, the Organization was keen on giving priority to international activities in which it participated at the organizational or academic level, the underlying purpose being to rationalize expenditure and enlarge the scope of its presence in international intellectual fora.

19. The heads of delegation representing the following countries took the floor: Republic of Senegal, Tunisian Republic, Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Republic of Yemen, Malaysia, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Gabon, the Gambia Guinea, Syrian Arab Republic, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of Bahrain, Somalian Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Chad and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

### **Third Working Session: Thursday, 26 Shaaban 1421 A.H./23 November 2000**

20. The heads of delegation resumed their interventions as speeches were delivered by the heads of delegation of the following Member States: Mali, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso and the United Arab Emirates. They all expressed their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the King, government and people of the Kingdom of Morocco for the warm welcome as well as the lavish care bestowed on the Organization. They also congratulated His Excellency Dr. Najib Zerouali Ouarithi on his election as President of the 7<sup>th</sup> General Conference. They also thanked the Director General and his assistants for their outstanding efforts to implement the bulk of activities and programmes under the ending Action Plan, lauding the excellent results achieved during the three-year period in spite of the shortage of financial resources. The heads of delegation also commended the Medium-Term Plan for the Years 2001-2009, and the Three-Year Action for the Years 2001-2003, expressing their profound satisfaction with the successive qualitative improvement in the Organization's preparation of its Action Plans. They also praised the new methodology followed in drawing up the Medium-Term and Three-Year Plans, which reflected an ambitious vision based on a strategic, comprehensive and flexible approach that involved all disciplines and responded to the hopes and expectations of the Member States.

Their Excellencies the heads of delegation put forward the following suggestions:

- Attach importance to activities and programmes implemented in favour of Al-Quds Al-Sharif in particular, and of Palestine in general, in view of the critical situation prevailing in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Palestine, and in support of the

brave Intifada of the Palestinian People until the establishment of its legitimate State, with AL-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

- Consider the setting up of new mechanisms to recover the contributions and arrears of Member States, taking into consideration the difficult circumstances experienced by some Member States.
- Focus on highlighting the positive aspects and the human dimensions of the Islamic civilization, particularly in the context of globalization which calls for caution. Efforts should likewise be exerted to refute misconceptions about Islam, and reinforce the capacities of the data-bank to better serve this objective.
- Increase interest in teaching Arabic to non-Arabic speakers and to children of Muslim communities and minorities.
- Support education and employment projects, provide training to Muslim young people to master technology, with emphasis on information technologies, computer science and internet, and draw up strategies for remedying the negative effects of technology.
- Draw inspiration from the teachings of Islam when tackling issues relating to human rights, peace and intercultural consultation and dialogue.
- Attach importance to planning and implementation of educational systems and activities in consultation with all competent parties, particularly the civil society.
- Maximize interaction among Member States, exchange of experts and expertise, and benefit from Muslim expatriate experts.
- Adopt mechanisms and structures for a better crisis management, and carry out the reforms necessary for achieving stability and exploring the future.
- Continue and focus more on literacy activities and solving poverty, disease and dispersion problems.
- Increase interest in our values, harness rigorous scientific thought, focus on scientific culture projects and cultural industries, take interest in education for the gifted, and promote creativity and intelligence-building.
- Promote strategic studies and the experimental approach.

- Increase coordination with similar organizations, particularly the Arab Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, with a special focus on Arabic teaching programmes and participation in translation.
- Continue efforts to enable ISESCO to become center of excellence in the field of education, increase its popularity among Member States and promote its status as centre of expertise and a comprehensive databank.

After deliberations, the Conference took the following resolution:

**Resolution on Item 2.2 of the Agenda  
(Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities)  
Between the Sixth and Seventh Sessions of the General Conference)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with:
  - Article 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference;
  - Article 21, paragraph (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council;
- Recalling Resolution CG 6/97/R.3.1 adopted by the General Conference at its Sixth Session on the Plan and Budget for the Years 1998-2000;
- Having considered the Report of the Director General on the Organization's activities between the Sixth and Seventh sessions of the General Conference, in its two parts, contained in documents CG 7/2000/2.2 P 1 and document CG 7/2000/2.2 P 2 and addendum;
- Considering the decisions adopted by the Executive Council at its previous three sessions on this report, whereby it approved all its parts, agreed to submit it to the Seventh General Conference and recommended its adoption;
- Having heard the presentation of the Director General on this matter;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the report of the Director General on the Organization's activities between the Sixth and Seventh General Conference Sessions, in its two parts,

contained in document CG 7/2000/2.2 P.1, and document CG 7/2000/2.2 P.2 and addendum;

2. Thanks the Director General and his assistants for the efforts exerted in the implementation of the major part of the plan's programmes and budget for Financial Years 1998-2000 and for rationalizing expenditures;
3. Pays tribute to the Director General's initiatives to hold the related Islamic conferences and his eagerness for the participation of ISESCO in sponsoring and organizing regional and international conferences in its fields of competence, in cooperation with similar organizations;
4. Requests the Member States to consolidate the Organization by settling their contributions and arrears to ISESCO's budget.

21. The representative of the International Organization of Francophony took the floor and conveyed to the participants the greetings of the Secretary General of the Organization. He also thanked Morocco, its King, government and people, and expressed his appreciation for the Director General and his assistants, commending the fruitful cooperation between the Islamic Organization and the Organization of Francophony. He pointed out that the approach adopted by Francophony was built on a global perception of politics and culture. He indicated that there were unlimited areas for cooperation whether in language, in literature or culture. He stressed the need for equal opportunities and dialogue among cultures, stating that the Summit Conference of the French-speaking countries would convene in Beirut, and that Arab and Islamic countries showed interest in that meeting, including those which were not members in the Organization of Francophony. The representative of the Organization of Francophony stated that his organization was closely following the critical situation in Al-Quds, maintaining that it longed for a just and permanent peace and full implementation of the agreements concluded between the concerned partners.

**Item 3.3 of the Agenda: Construction of the Organization's Headquarters**  
**(Document CG 7/2000/3.3)**  
**(CE 21/2000/4.2)**

22. The Director General made a concise presentation on the subject, recalling that in accordance with the resolution of the Sixth General Conference, he pursued contacts with the competent parties in the Kingdom of Morocco, and that a new plot of land was consequently granted in an excellent area, in addition to exemption from land registration fees. The Director General expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Moroccan Government

and informed the General Conference of his contacts with the United Arab Emirates Officials, on the forefront of whom was His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, who donated one million dollars for the construction of the headquarters. He extended his sincere thanks to His Highness Sheikh Zayed, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates.

The Director General announced that the Executive Council had approved the use of the amount donated by His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahyan, in addition to a loan from the Reserve Fund for the construction of the new headquarters, on the understanding that the Organization would repay the loan after the sale of the current headquarters.

After deliberations, the Conference adopted the following Resolution:

**Resolution on Item 3.3 of the Agenda  
(Construction of the Organization's Headquarters)**

**The General Conference,**

- Recalling the deliberations which have taken place at the General Conference's previous sessions in connection with the "Construction of the Organization's Headquarters", particularly Resolution CG 6/97/R.3.2 adopted by the Sixth General Conference Session, in which the Conference called upon the Executive Council to support the Director General's efforts regarding the construction of a permanent headquarters for the Organization and to follow up the matter at each of its sessions;
- Considering the decisions adopted by the Executive Council at its previous sessions;
- Considering the decisions adopted by the Executive Council at its previous sessions;
- Having examined the Director General's Report on the Construction of the Organization's Headquarters contained in Doc. CG 7/2000/3.3 and taking note of the generous donation of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates as a contribution to financing the construction of a permanent Headquarters of ISESCO;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Approves decision of the Council on mandating the Director General to start the construction of the permanent headquarters by using the amount of money donated by His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, and a loan of US\$ one million from ISESCO's Reserve Fund, to be reimbursed to the Fund after selling the current headquarters;
2. thanks His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, for his donation of US\$ one million for the construction of the permanent Headquarters of ISESCO;
3. Thanks the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for having facilitated the procedures of exchanging the piece of land for the construction of the permanent headquarters;
4. Places this item on the agenda of the Organization's 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference.

**Item 3.4 of the Agenda: Opening a Regional Office  
in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
(Document CG 7/2000/3.4)**

23. The Director General made a presentation on the study prepared by the General Directorate regarding the setting up of regional offices and talked briefly on the measures taken in this connection. He stated that the Emirate of Sharjah had proposed to set up a regional office for ISESCO, and that the Executive Council had agreed, in its 19<sup>th</sup> Session, on the principle of opening the said office, and reaffirmed its approval at its 20<sup>th</sup> Session, and inviting the Director General to carry on his contacts until presentation of the subject before the General Conference in its current Session. The Director General had visited Sharjah, met with H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan Ibn Muhammad Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Governor of Sharjah, and was satisfied with the completion of installation and equipment of the new building assigned for the Office, which was handed over to ISESCO. The Director General appealed to the General Conference to approve the opening of the said regional office in Sharjah in accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Council which was approved unanimously, so as to make the Office operational by the beginning of the coming year.

After deliberations, the General Conference took the following two resolutions:

**Resolution (a) on Item 3.4 of the Agenda  
(Opening of ISESCO's Regional Office in Sharjah,  
State of the United Arab Emirates)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with the provisions of Article 2 of the Charter of the Islamic Organization;
- Recalling the decisions adopted by the Executive Council at its previous sessions, notably Decision CE 19/98/D.5.6 adopted by the 19<sup>th</sup> Executive Council Session in this connection;
- Having considered the study contained in Document CG7/2000/3.4;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the study on the setting up of ISESCO regional offices as an organizational framework, taking into account the observations of the Conference in this connection;
2. Thanks the Director General for preparing the above-mentioned study.

**Resolution (b) on Item 3.4 of the Agenda  
(Opening of ISESCO's Regional Office in Sharjah,  
State of the United Arab Emirates)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with the provisions of Article 2 of the Charter of the Islamic Organization;
- Recalling the decisions adopted by the Executive Council at its previous sessions, notably Decision CE 19/98/D.5.6 adopted by the 19<sup>th</sup> Executive Council Session in this connection;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Approves the opening of ISESCO's Regional Office in Sharjah, State of the United Arab Emirates, and mandates the Director General to sign the seat agreement with the competent parties in the State of the United Arab Emirates;
2. Thanks His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Ibn Mohammed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the Federation of the United Arab Emirates, Governor of Sharjah for the supply of furnished and equipped premises for the Regional Office and for his allocation of a generous annual budget to the Office;
3. Places this item on the agenda of the Eighth Session of the General Conference.

**Item 3.5 of the Agenda: Setting up an ISESCO's  
Regional Office in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
(Document CG7/2000/3.5)**

24. The Director General made a presentation on the subject, stating that a request had been put forward by Iran to set up a regional office of the Organization in Tehran. The Executive Council had previously discussed the issue at its 20<sup>th</sup> Session and requested the General Directorate to examine the matter with the Iranian Government. He indicated that the Iranian Government provided some benefits and advantages, and expressed the desire of the General Directorate that Iran would provide some more benefits (furnished accommodation for the Director and transportation means). The Director General reported that after discussion of the matter with the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he was convinced that Iran would exert all efforts to support the Office and provide it with the necessary means to enable it to discharge its tremendous task in the Asian region. He accordingly requested the Conference to approve the setting up of a regional office in Iran.

After deliberation, the General Conference took the following resolution:

**Resolution on Item 3.5 of the Agenda  
(Opening ISESCO's Regional Office in  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with the provisions of article 2 of ISESCO's Charter;
- Recalling the decision of the previous session of the Executive Council CE 20/99/D4.1, adopted by the Executive Council at its twentieth session;
- Having considered the study contained in document CG 7/2000/3.4 which reviews the objectives of the proposed office, the scope of its action and its ways of financing;
- Considering the deliberations that have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Approves in principle the opening of a regional office of ISESCO in Tehran and invites the competent parties in the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the Office with the necessary facilities and services according to the specifications stipulated in the related study;

2. Mandates the Director General to complete the implementation procedures for opening the Regional office in the Islamic Republic of Iran;
3. Places this item on the agenda of the eighth Session of the General Conference.

25. His Excellency the Head of the Senegalese delegation made a request for the setting up of an office, in Africa, as referred to in the study prepared by the Organization on the setting up of offices. He said that the General Directorate was willing to study any official request for the setting up of an office in Africa, aware as it was of the importance of educational, scientific and cultural needs of the African Member States.

### **Programmes and Activities earmarked for Palestine**

#### **Item 4.1 of the Agenda: Report of the Director General on the Activities allocated to Al-Quds Al-Sharif to protect its Islamic identity from obliteration and judaization (Document CG 7/2000/4.1)**

26. The Director General stated that Al-Quds had always been an overriding preoccupation of the Organization since it constituted the cornerstone of the joint Islamic action. Hence ISESCO's endeavour to step up the number of activities and programmes in favour of educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif. The Organization also attached a special importance to making appeals and issuing communiqués to condemn the aggressions perpetrated. The Director General presented an account of the activities carried out for the benefit of Al-Quds Al-Sharif during the three years spanning the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the General Conference.

27. His Excellency the Head of the Palestinian delegation took the floor and thanked the Conference for the unlimited support to Al-Quds Al-Sharif Intifada, which would bear a positive impact on the Palestinian people's resistance. He praised the proclamation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference as the "Conference of Al-Quds Al-Sharif Intifida", and thanked the Director General for his report, adding that the requirements of the current and future needs differed radically from the type of activities implemented under the previous plan. He stated that the Palestinian delegation would present the programmes proposed for implementation and called for the confirmation of the Resolution of the 4<sup>th</sup> General Conference on the creation of Al-Quds Unit, urging for its activation through setting up implementation mechanisms.

After deliberation, the Conference took the following Resolution:

**Resolution on Item 4.1 of the Agenda  
(Director General's Report on the programmes  
and activities designed for the benefit of Al-Quds Al-Sharif  
to preserve its Islamic identity against obliteration and judaization)**

**The General Conference,**

- Recalling the previous resolutions and decisions of the General Conference and the Executive Council about "the Preservation of the Islamic identity of Al-Quds Al-Sharif against obliteration and Judaization", notably Resolution CG6/97/R.4.1 adopted by the Sixth General Conference Session,
- Having considered document CG 7/2000/4.1 concerning "the Director General's report on the programmes and activities designed for the benefit of Al-Quds Al-Sharif in order to preserve its Islamic identity against obliteration and judaization", and noted that the Director General had attached to the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif the special attention it deserved,
- Having taken stock of the difficult situation being experienced by the Palestinian citizens in Al-Quds Al-Sharif under the criminal aggressions perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people in the holy city and their attempts to obliterated and judaize the Islamic identity of Al-Quds Al-Sharif;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

**Decides the following:**

1. Pays tribute to Al-Aqsa Intifada of the Palestinian people and calls for a stronger solidarity of Member States with them;
2. Condemns the Israeli aggressions, their desecration of Islamic sanctities and the havoc they wreaked on educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif;
3. Reaffirms that Al-Quds is the capital of the Independent State of Palestine, rejects any attempt at reducing the Palestinian sovereignty over it, and affirms that all the settlement measures and practices therein are null and void in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy as well as the international conventions and accords which consider all the legislative and administrative arrangements and measures of the Israeli settlements designed to

alter the legal, demographic, architectural, historical and civilizational status of the holy city to be null and void and inconsistent with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the international conventions and accords;

4. Adopts the Document (CG 7/2000/4.1) on the preservation of the Islamic identity of Al-Quds Al-Sharif against obliteration and judaization;
5. Invites the Director General to pursue implementation of the programmes and activities designed for the benefit of educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif in order to protect its cultural identity and civilizational hallmarks;
6. Reaffirms its previous resolutions on the status of the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif;
7. Urges activation of Al-Quds Unit within the General Directorate and attaching priority to its programmes under the Action Plan 2001-2003;
8. Invites the Member States to give an overriding priority to Al-Quds Al-Sharif in international meetings in defense of its belonging and to protect its identity and support its national Palestinian institutions;
9. Thanks the Director General for the good implementation of the previous decisions concerning Al-Quds Al-Sharif as well as for his efforts and initiatives in this respect.

**28.** H.E. the President of the Conference and the Director General welcomed H.E. Dr. Mufid Shihab, Minister of Higher Education, Minister of State for Scientific Research in the Arab Republic of Egypt, as well as H.E. Mr. Fareh Sheikh Abdulkader, Adviser to the Minister of Education in Somalia, for joining the Conference proceedings. Taking the floor, H.E. the head of the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt conveyed thanks to the Kingdom of Morocco, its Sovereign, government and people, to H.E. the President of the Conference, and to the Director General and his assistants. He stated that his high consideration and recognition of the Organization's role prompted him to attend the proceedings even though he was forced to delay his arrival, stressing the importance and the quality of both the Medium-Term Plan and the Three-Year Plan as they would usher the Organization into the third millennium. In this regard, he stressed the need for cooperation in the implementation of the Organization's activities, solidarity in the settlement of contributions, emphasis on the sciences of memorizing the Holy Qur'an, and accomplishment of yet more achievements in all fields of education, science and culture.

**Item 4.2 of the Agenda: ISESCO's role in supporting  
educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine  
(Document CG7/2000/4.2)**

**29.** The Director General made a succinct presentation on the programmes and activities implemented by ISESCO during the period between the two Sessions in support of the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine. The Director General called for adding a new item in the resolution to condemn the savage Israeli aggression.

**30.** Taking the floor, H.E. the Head of the delegation of Palestine made two observations: First, the current and future circumstances dictate new requirements that necessitate a new vision as to future projects; and secondly, the two documents concerning Al-Quds and Palestine should be merged.

Following deliberations, the Conference took the following Resolution:

**Resolution on Item 4.2 of the Agenda  
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Palestine)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with the provisions of ISESCO's Charter,
- Recalling the resolutions of the successive General Conference sessions pertaining to the support of educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine,
- Having considered the report presented by the Director General on ISESCO's role in supporting educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine as per document CG 7/2000/4.2, and having taken note of the fact that the Islamic Organization has pursued implementation of Palestine-oriented programmes under its 1998-2000 Action Plan,
- Having taken cognizance of the severe conditions that the Palestinian people is going through, compounded by the criminal aggressions perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities and the blockade imposed on the Palestinian towns and their educational, scientific and cultural institutions,
- Having heard the presentation made by the representative of the State of Palestine,

- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

**Decides the following:**

1. Hails the *Intifada* of the Palestinian people and calls for stronger solidarity of Member States with the Intifada;
2. Condemns the savage Israeli aggressions against the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine, the Palestinian cities and villages, and the besiege and harassment of their innocent populations;
3. Emphasizes the necessity to act in such a way as to halt the settlement activities, curb the Israeli measures and practices which run counter to the international legitimacy resolutions, and endeavour to put an end to those measures and remove the Israeli settlements in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 465;
4. Adopts the Document CG 7/2000/4.2 on "ISESCO's role in supporting educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine";
5. Reaffirms the previous decisions and resolutions of the Executive Council and the General Conference in this connection;
6. Adopts Decision CE 21/2000/D.5.2 taken by the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Executive Council;
7. Invites the General Directorate to step up its its efforts to support the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine and give them priority under the programmes of the 2001-2003 Action Plan;
8. Thanks the Director General for his unflagging efforts to support educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine.

**Item 4.3 of the Agenda: ISESCO's role in supporting  
the educational, scientific and cultural institutions  
in Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(Document CG 7/2000/4.3)**

31. The Director General presented a report on the activities and programmes implemented by the Islamic Organization in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the previous three years.

The Conference took the following Resolution:

**Resolution on Item 4.3 of the Agenda  
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with the Organization's Charter;
- Considering the previous decisions taken by the Executive Council on ISESCO's Role in supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and also resolution CG6/97/R.4.2 adopted by the 6<sup>th</sup> General Conference in this connection;
- Having considered the Director General's Report on ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina as contained in Document CG7/2000/4.3, and taking note of the fact that the Islamic Organization has pursued implementation of the programmes for the benefit of Bosnia and Herzegovina under its 1998-2000 Action Plan;
- Having heard the presentation made by the Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the document CG7/2000/4.3 on ISESCO's Role in supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
2. Reaffirms the previous decisions and resolutions taken by the Executive Council and the General Conference Sessions in this connection;
3. Adopts Decision CE 21/2000/D.5.3 taken by the 21<sup>st</sup> Executive Council Session;
4. Thanks the Director General for his sound implementation of the aforementioned resolutions and decisions.

**Item 4.4 of the Agenda:  
Role of ISESCO in supporting Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Institutions in Somalia  
(Document CG 7/2000/4.4)**

32. The Director General presented a report on the activities and programmes implemented by the Organization for the benefit of Somalia under the ending Three-Year Action Plan.
33. The head of the Somali delegation took the floor and conveyed the greetings of the new President of the Republic of Somalia to the King, Government and

People of Morocco, expressing thanks also to the Member States which had supported Somalia during its period of crisis, and insisting on the implementation of special programmes in his country, including educational curricula, books and teacher's training.

After deliberations, the Conference took the following resolution:

**Resolution on Item 4.4 of the Agenda  
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with the Organization's Charter;
- Considering the previous decisions taken by the Executive Council on ISESCO's Role in supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia and resolution CG 6/97/R.4.4 adopted by the 6<sup>th</sup> General Conference in this connection;
- Considering the Director General's Report on ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia as contained in Document CG7/2000/4.4, and taking note of the fact that the Islamic Organization has pursued implementation of the programmes benefiting to Somalia under its 1998-2000 Action Plan,
- Having heard the presentation made by the Representative of Somalia;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Adopts the document CG7/2000/4.4 on ISESCO's Role in supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia;
2. Reaffirms the previous decisions and resolutions taken by the Executive Council and the General Conference Sessions in this connection;
3. Adopts Decision CE 21/2000/D.5.4 taken by the 21<sup>st</sup> Executive Council Session.
4. Thanks the Director General for his sound implementation of the aforementioned resolutions and decisions.

**Item 4.5 of the Agenda:  
Role of ISESCO in supporting Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Institutions in Azerbaijan  
(Document CG 7/2000/4.5)**

**34.** The Director General made a presentation on the Organization's stance vis-à-vis Azerbaijan, saying that the situation in that Member State was then stable, as it suffered no disasters or special conditions making it necessary to devote a special programme for the time being. The Organization had proposed the implementation of several activities in Azerbaijan during the ending Action Plan, but received no reply. The Organization lately received a number of suggestions from Azerbaijan, which would be taken into account in the implementation of the future plan. The Director General proposed that Azerbaijan should benefit, like the other Member States, from the activities scheduled in the regular Action Plan of the Organization.

After deliberations, the Conference took the following Resolution:

**Resolution on Item 4.5 of the Agenda  
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Azerbaijan)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with the Organization's Charter;
- Considering the previous decisions taken by the Executive Council on ISESCO's Role in supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Azerbaijan and resolution CG6/97/R.4.3 adopted by the 6<sup>th</sup> General Conference in this connection;
- Considering the Director General's Report on ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Azerbaijan as contained in Document CG7/2000/4.5 and taking note of the fact that the Islamic Organization has pursued implementation of the programmes benefiting Azerbaijan under its 1998-2000 Action Plan,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

- 1.** Adopts the document CG7/2000/4.5 on ISESCO's Role in supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Azerbaijan;
- 2.** Adopts Decision CE 21/2000/D.5.5 taken by the 21<sup>st</sup> Executive Council Session;

3. Thanks the Director General for earmarking some programmes for the benefit of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and invites him to ensure its participation in the activities of ISESCO under Action Plan 2001-2003 just like the other Member States.

**Item 4.6 of the Agenda: Project on setting up  
an Islamic satellite channel  
(Document CG 7/2000/4.6)**

35. The Director General informed the Conference members of the State of Qatar's proposal to set up an Islamic satellite channel and her eagerness to submit the proposal to the 7<sup>th</sup> General Conference.
36. His Excellency the head of the delegation of the State of Qatar took the floor and underlined the great importance of the media in disseminating ideas and culture, stating that the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference had adopted the proposal of His Excellency the Iranian President Mr. Mohammed Khatemi concerning the project of dialogue among civilizations, and emphasizing that the most effective means to implement the project was to set up an Islamic satellite channel which would address the world in a rational, civilizational way. Hence Qatar's initiative to make the proposal of setting up the channel and to offer to host it in cooperation with the Islamic Organization.

After deliberations, the Conference took the following Resolution:

**Resolution on Item 4.6 of the Agenda  
(Project of establishing an Islamic satellite channel)**

**The General Conference,**

- Considering the proposal put forward by the State of Qatar concerning the examination by the Executive Council, at its 21<sup>st</sup> Session, of the project of establishing an Islamic satellite channel;
- Having considered the document on establishing an Islamic satellite channel;
- Pursuant to the Executive Council's Decision CE21/2000/D.5.1;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

**Decides the following:**

1. Stresses the importance of establishing an Islamic satellite channel, in the modern languages, to introduce the Islamic culture and civilization and to highlight the image of Islam worldwide;

2. Entrusts the Director General with following up the examination of this matter with the parties concerned and the competent bodies in the State of Qatar with a view to enriching the study and submitting it to the Executive Council for action.

37. His Excellency the President of the Conference welcomed H.E. Prof. Asslam Ibn Sayed Al-Mostafa, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, who had joined the Conference. His Excellency the head of the Mauritanian delegation took the floor and thanked the King, Government and People of the Kingdom of Morocco for their warm welcome and generous hospitality, expressing also thanks to the Director General and his assistants for their constructive efforts which gave the Organization international credibility. He reiterated Mauritania's determination to support ISESCO.

**Item 5.1 of the Agenda:  
Accreditation of the Executive Council Members  
(Document CG7/2000/5.1)**

38. The Director General presented a document containing the list of the members of the Council. The Conference adopted the document after taking cognizance thereof, and took the following resolution:

**Resolution on Item 5.1 of the Agenda  
(Accreditation of the Executive Council's Members)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 11, and Article 12 (I), paragraph 1 and 2 of the Charter;
- Having considered the list of the Organization's Council members contained in Document CG7/2000/5.1;

**Decides the following:**

1. Accredits the Council member as per Document CG7/2000/5.1 adopted;
2. Invites the Member States to nominate their representatives to the Executive Council in compliance with the provisions of Article 12(I), paragraph (1 and 2) of the Charter, and to provide the Director General with the official curriculum vitae of each representative;

3. Invites the Director General to follow up this matter with the Member States and amend this list according to responses from the relevant authorities in the Member States.

**Item 6.1 of the Agenda: Date and venue of  
the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference**

39. Following examination of the document by the General Conference, His Excellency the head of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference.

The Conference took the following resolutions:

**Resolution on Item 6.1 of the Agenda  
(Date and Venue of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference)**

**The General Conference,**

- In accordance with Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference;
- Considering the Islamic Republic of Iran's offer to host the Eighth Session of the General Conference;

**Decides the following:**

1. Thanks the Islamic Republic of Iran for kindly offering to host the Eighth Session of the General Conference;
2. Convenes its 8<sup>th</sup> Session in the second half of November in the year 2003 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

**Fourth Working Session: Friday, 27 Shaaban 1421 A.H./24 November 2000**

**Morning**

**Adoption of the Report of the Programmes Committee  
(Document CG7/2000/DFRC 1)**

40. The Chairman of the Programmes Committee took the floor, and presented the Report of the Committee. After examination, the Conference decided to adopt the Report as per the appended document after introducing the General Conference's observations.

*(Annex 9: Final Report)*  
*(Document CG7/2000/DFRC 1)*

**Adoption of the Report of the Administrative, Financial  
and Legal Affairs Committee**  
**(Document CG 7/2000/DFRC 2)**

41. The Chairman of the Administrative, Financial and Legal Affairs Committee presented the Final Report of the Committee. After deliberations , the Conference adopted the report as per the appended document.
42. The members of the Conference paid afterwards a visit to Mohammed V Mausoleum, wherein they prayed Almighty Allah to bestow his blessings and mercy upon the late Moroccan Monarchs Mohammed V and Hassan II.

**Fifth and Closing Session: Friday, 27 Shaaban 1421 A.H./24 November 2000**

43. After examination, discussion and amendment of the Draft Final Report (Document CG7/2000/D.F.R.), the Seventh General Conference adopted the Final Report of its proceedings as per document (CG7/2000/F.R.).

*Annex 10: Final Report of the Administrative,  
Financial and Legal Affairs Committee*  
*(Document CG7/2000/DFRC2)*

44. H.E. Dr. Mohammed Munthir Saleh, Minister of Higher Education, head of the Delegation of the State of Palestine, took the floor and thanked the members of the General Conference and the Director General for their firm positions in favour of the Palestinian people. He pointed out that Al-Quds was a red line that must not be trespassed and that giving the name of "Al-Quds Intifada Session" to the Seventh General Conference underscored the fact that Al-Quds was vivid in the conscience and psyche of all the conferees. He also indicated that the Conference had risen to the level of responsibility with its resolutions on Palestine in general and Al-Quds in particular and expressed his confidence that H.E. the Director General and his assistants will be particularly keen to implement all that concerns Palestine and Al-Quds. He, then, addressed thanks to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Chairman of Al-Quds Committee for the support and backing he has been extending to the Palestinian cause. He also

thanked H.E. Dr. Najib Zerouali, President of the Conference for the facilities he has provided to ensure the success of the Conference.

***(Annex n° 11: Address by H.E. Dr. Mohammed Munthir Salah,  
Minister of Higher Education of the State of Palestine)***

45. On the occasion of the closing of the seventh General Conference, the Conference addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to the Moroccan Sovereign, King Mohammed VI for the inflagging support he has been extending to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization reflected in the lofty royal message addressed to the Conference by His Majesty and which was adopted as a background document of the Conference proceedings.

***(Annex n° 12: Message of thanks and gratitude  
to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco)***

46. The Conference also addressed a message to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates to congratulate His Highness on his return to his country after he had recovered and to thank him for the lavish support he has extended to ISESCO to build its headquarters.

***Annex n° 13: Message of congratulations and thanks to  
His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan,  
President of the State of the United Arab Emirates)***

47. Thereupon, H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization delivered an address in which he first said that he was thankful to Almighty Allah for the success of the Conference in achieving its objectives. He, then, expressed thanks and appreciation to His Majesty, King Mohammed VI for the lofty royal message he has addressed to the Conference and for the sound directives and constructive ideas it contains, something which prompted the Conference to adopt it as a background document. He also thanked their excellencies the heads of delegation for the efforts they had expended to ensure the success of the Conference and indicated that the remarkable feature of that Session was that it has laid the foundations which will enable the Organization to enter the third millennium, by adopting the three-year Action Plan (2001-2003) and the

Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009). He also mentioned with recognition the appreciation by their excellencies the heads of delegation of ISESCO's qualitative development and great achievements, something which prompts the General Directorate to accomplish yet greater development, enhance performance and improve the productivity of programmes and activities. He also indicated that the wise expression contained in the lofty message addressed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco and which says that: "ISESCO is the living cultural conscience of the Muslim World" is the best motto of this Organization. He then thanked H.E. Dr. Najib Zerouali Ouarithi, Minister of Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, President of the Seventh Session of the General Conference for his excellent steering of the Conference, for his wisdom, far sightedness and great patience. In conclusion, he thanked the preparatory committee and the translation team and all those who have contributed to the proceedings of this Session.

***Annex n° 14: Address by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri,  
Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organizations at the closing session)***

48. Thereafter, H.E. Dr. Najib Zerouali Ouarithi, Minister of Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, President of the Seventh Session of the General Conference, took the floor and expressed happiness and pride for the lofty patronage bestowed upon the Conference by His Majesty King Mohammed VI and for the deep appreciation for the lofty directives contained in the lofty royal message addressed to the Conference by His Majesty. He, then, pointed out the seriousness, clarity, insight and objectivity that have marked the deliberations and which have been instrumental in the success of the Conference. He also expressed appreciation to the Islamic Organization which has demonstrated since its inception that it is most worthy of the trust placed in it by the officials of all the Member States. He, then, paid tribute to the Director General who has led ISESCO towards yet greater success and prosperity. He mentioned the works of the Conference which are all aimed at reasserting the presence of the Islamic Organization, backing up its role and strengthening its radiance in its fields of competence. He also thanked their Excellencies the heads of delegation for facilitating his task through serene and constructive dialogue, eloquent and purposeful expression and mutual respect. He then reiterates his commitment to be the trustee of the resolutions adopted by the Conference, very much keen to follow up to their implementation with determination and faithfulness,

endeaving to remove the obstacles that might stand in the way of implementation. He concluded by renewing thanks to the Director General and all the staff of ISESCO, to the translation team and to all those who have helped to ensure the success of the Conference.

***Annex n° 15: Address by H.E. Dr. Najib Zerouali Ouarithi,  
President of the Seventh General Conference at the closing session)***

The Conference was closed with the recitation of Al Fatiha Surat in memory of the martyrs of Al-Quds Intifada. Thereupon, the President of the Conference adjourned the closing session.

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