



الهيئة العامة للأرصاد وحماية البيئة
The General Authority Of Meteorology and Environmental Protection

FIFTH MEETING OF THE ISLAMIC EXECUTIVE BUREAU FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTERIAL LEVEL

FINAL REPORT

14 SHA'BAN 1440 A.H/20 APRIL 2019
ISESCO HEADQUARTERS, RABAT, KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

Final Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment

- 1.** The Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment (IEBE) held its fifth meeting, at the ministerial level, on 14 Sha'aban 1440A.H. / 20 April 2019, at the headquarters of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in Rabat.
- 2.** The opening session was chaired by H.E. Dr. Khalil bin Mosleh Al-Thaqafi, President of the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (GAMEP), Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment (IEBE); with the attendance of H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General; H.E. Dr. Irfan Shawket, Director General of Science and Technology at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and Their Excellencies the members of the IEBE; and a host of Islamic countries' ambassadors to Rabat.
- 3.** The meeting opened with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by an address by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, wherein he welcomed Their Excellencies the members of the IEBE and expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and His Highness Crown Prince for the constant support they extend to ISESCO and especially to the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, and to IEBE, hailing the efforts exerted by H.E. Dr. Khalil bin Mosleh Al-Thaqafi, GAMEP President, IEBE Chairman, towards enhancing joint Islamic action in the fields of environment and sustainable development. In addition, he highlighted the diversity and importance of the issues to be discussed by IEBE's fifth meeting which will contribute to the promotion of the efforts exerted by Member States in protecting the environment and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), wishing full success to the meeting to attain its desired goals.
- 4.** Then, H.E. Dr Khalil bin Mosleh Al-Thaqafi, GAMEP President, IEBE Chairman, delivered an address in which he expressed his delight at the convening of the 5th IEBE meeting at ISESCO headquarters, commending the dedicated efforts exerted by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, in invigorating IEBE's role as well as the cooperation and support provided for joint Islamic action in the field of the

environment. He also underscored the importance of IEBE's role in stepping up Islamic countries' efforts in addressing environmental issues, achieving sustainable development and preparing the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, while inviting the IEBE members to come up with recommendations that respond to the requirements of the current and forthcoming stages of joint Islamic action in the areas of the environment and sustainable development.

5. Afterwards, H.E. Dr. Irfan Shaukat, OIC Director General for Science and Technology, delivered an address in which he conveyed the greetings of His Excellency the OIC Secretary General to the Bureau, expressing his appreciation of the efforts put by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, in the excellent arrangements for this meeting as part of the preparations for the 8th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers. He also stressed the need to step up the international community's efforts to combat all forms of pollution, protect the environment with all scientific possible ways, mitigate the impact of climate change and the effects of natural disasters on the efforts of comprehensive sustainable development both in the economically, scientifically and technologically developed countries, and in developing countries which suffer from various problems in the field of environmental protection, including the Muslim countries, while praising the role played by ISESCO in promoting cooperation between Member States and OIC bodies in this field.
6. At the beginning of the main working session, the Vice-chairpersons of the IEBE and the Rapporteur of the meeting were elected as follows:
 - **Vice-chairpersons: Republic of Maldives and Federal Republic of Nigeria**
 - **Rapporteur: Islamic Republic of Mauritania**

The draft agenda and draft programme of the meeting were also adopted in their annexed versions.

7. Having listened to and discussed the presentations on the documents submitted to IEBE and the recommendations of the Senior Experts' Meeting on the said documents, IEBE members adopted the following decisions:
8. **Adopting the report of the Director General on ISESCO's Efforts in the Fields of Environment and Sustainable Development since the 7th Session of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers**, taking into consideration the observations of IEBE members; **thanking** ISESCO Director General for his efforts in the fields of

environment protection and sustainable development and **inviting** him to coordinate and consult with the competent parties in the Member States and national, regional and international competent bodies, in such a way as to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promote joint Islamic environmental action; **inviting** Member States, specialized organizations, partners and donors to support ISESCO's efforts in this area in such a way as to meet the needs of Member States and fulfill their commitments regarding the goals of Agenda 2030 and in line with the relevant international instruments, **thanking** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the generous support it provides for convening ICEM and IEBE sessions, thus significantly contributing to their success; **and recommending** the adoption of this document by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

9. Calls upon IEBE Secretariat to revise the **“Draft Strategy for the Activation of the Roles of Cultural and Religious Factors in Protecting the Environment and Achieving Sustainable Development in the Islamic World”** and send the amended draft to IEBE members to express their opinion thereon and approve it prior to its submission to the upcoming session of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers (October 2019); **inviting** Member States to give much more importance to the religious and cultural factors in making national policies and strategies to address the economic, social and environmental challenges in such a way as to meet their needs and keep in line with their priorities; **and recommending** the adoption of this document by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

10. Adopting the **“Draft Guidance Document on Strengthening the Role of Youth and Civil Society in the Protection of the Environment and Achievement of Sustainable Development”**; taking into consideration the observations of IEBE members; **inviting** Member States to promote the roles of youth and civil society in the implementation of the national policies and strategies of sustainable development and legislations relating to the protection of the environment in a way that respects the specificities of Member States and meets their needs; **recommending** involving civil society institutions in preparing programmes and activities that raise awareness about environmental issues, and encourage and provide support for youth development initiatives in such a way as to achieve sustainable development goals; **and recommending** the adoption of this document by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

11. Adopting the **“Project of the Establishment of the Islamic Network for Environmental Action and Sustainable Development”**; taking into consideration the observations of IEBE members; **inviting** Member States' relevant public institutions and authorities, and

parallel international and regional organizations to cooperate with the Network to promote the joint Islamic environmental action and facilitate the exchange of expertise and best practices in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development; **and recommending** the adoption of this document by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

12. Adopting the “Progress Report on the Creation of the Islamic Academy for the Environment and Sustainable Development”; taking into consideration the observations of IEBC members; **thanking** the Kingdom of Morocco, represented by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, for doubling the size of the plot reserved to building the Academy headquarters and for the commitment of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco to take the necessary technical measures and cooperate with ISESCO in this regard; **and recommending** the adoption of this document by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

13. Adopting the Report on the “Award of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for Environmental Management in the Islamic World”; **reiterating** thanks and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for creating this Award, his wholehearted approval to expand its scope to cover the entire Islamic world, and entrusting ISESCO with its General Secretariat so as to anchor the wider concept of environmental management and promote sustainable development in the Islamic countries; **praising** the efforts exerted by both ISESCO and GAMEP for the good preparation for the Award’s first edition and congratulating its winners, **extending** gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Award’s Higher Committee and jury, the two work teams of its General Secretariat, and GAMEP for the efforts they deploy to upgrade the award; **lauding** the efforts of ISESCO and GAMEP in supervising this Award at the level of the Islamic World in its current edition 2018-2019; **acknowledging** ISESCO’s role in assuming the Award’s General Secretariat and making the technical and organizational arrangements for the implementation of the Award’s information plan and undertaking the administrative and academic supervision of the jury deliberation in cooperation with GAMEP; **and recommending** the adoption of this document by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

14. Adopting the “Report on the Programme of the Celebration of the Environmentally Friendly Islamic Capitals”; taking into consideration the observations of IEBC members; **calling again** upon Member States to join this Programme and take the necessary measures to make their cities green in a way that is consistent with the international best practices and to keep up with the fast growth of cities over the next decades; **and recommending** the adoption of this document by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

- 15. Adopting “ISESCO Report on the Executive Work Plan for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Member States”;** taking into consideration the observations of IEBE members; **taking cognizance of** the achievements made as part of the Pilot Project of Capacity-building in the Field of Management and Mitigation of the Risks of Natural Disasters in Member States, the meetings and activities held in this respect since the 7th session of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and the results achieved; **calling upon** Member States to activate the measures and actions intended to reduce the risks of natural disasters and cooperate with the relevant international and regional institutions; **and recommending** the adoption of this document by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.
- 16. Adopting “the Draft Agenda of the 8th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers”** in its attached version; **agreeing** that the Conference be convened at ISESCO headquarters, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 02-03 October 2019; and **inviting** ISESCO to take all necessary arrangements for holding the Conference, in cooperation with the GAMEP/KSA and in coordination with the OIC and the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Morocco.
- 17. Recommends** preparing a special session during the 8th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers to pay tribute to His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, in recognition for his outstanding and great efforts in the service of joint Islamic action especially in the field the environment and sustainable development.
- 18.** At the close of its meeting, IEBE addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, expressing appreciation for his unfailing support to the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, IEBE and ISESCO in their efforts to foster joint Islamic action for the environment. The message also commended His Majesty’s support for the creation of the Islamic Academy for the Environment and Sustainable Development, the civilizational project initiated by Morocco with the purpose of boosting joint Islamic action and Islamic solidarity in all fields.
- 19.** Another message of gratitude and appreciation was addressed by IEBE to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, in recognition of the continued support given by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and to IEBE and for his approval to expand the scope of the KSA Award for Environmental Management to cover the Islamic world and entrusting ISESCO with its General Secretariat to help boost research in the sciences, studies and management of the environment and foster joint Islamic environmental action.