



First Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment

Final Report

Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco: 18-19 January 2010

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

1. The Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment held its first meeting at the headquarters of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 18 through 19 January 2010.
2. The meeting's opening ceremony was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, General President of Meteorology and Environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President of the Third Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment. In attendance were HE Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); HE Ambassador Mr Moez Boukhari, Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Representative of the OIC Secretary General; along with their Excellencies the members of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment; the representatives of a number of international, regional and Arab organizations operating in the field of the environment and sustainable development; Member States' ambassadors accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco; and other personalities.
3. The meeting was opened with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by an address by HRH Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, where he expressed delight at inaugurating the first meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, in preparation for the Fourth Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, which is scheduled for 5 through 7 October 2010 in Tunis, under the high patronage of His Excellency Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Tunisian Republic. Prince Turki pointed out that environment and sustainable development are becoming a major area of interest for the international community and, more particularly, the Muslim world countries. He also reaffirmed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's support for joint Islamic action, especially joint Islamic environmental action, and he expressed hope that the first meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment would come up with important decisions, and that collective efforts would be made to implement them. The Prince's opening speech was closed with a call for further cooperation between the Islamic and Arab Executive Bureaus for the Environment and, through them, between the Council of Arab Ministers for the Environment and the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, in order to achieve common objectives.

4. For his part, Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), made an address wherein he welcomed the members of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, and the representatives of participant international, regional and Arab organizations, and wished them success in their tasks. Dr Altwajri explained that the Executive Bureau's first meeting is especially significant in that it convenes only a few weeks after the Copenhagen World Summit on Climate Change, and at a time when ISESCO, in coordination with the OIC, is proceeding with preparations for the fourth Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, which will be held in Tunis, Tunisian Republic, from 5 to 7 October 2010, under the high patronage of Tunisian President Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He also explained that the review of the outcome of the previous sessions of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers will pave the way for drawing a new roadmap for environment action in the Member States. By the end of his speech, the Director General pointed out to the environment and sustainable development related activities and programmes which ISESCO has included in its three-year action plan (2010-2012), in light of the outcome and resolutions of the third Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers. He also expressed hope that the Executive Bureau's meeting would come to a successful conclusion.
5. There was also HE Ambassador Moez Boukhari, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Representative of the OIC Secretary General. In his speech, Mr Boukhari brought the greetings of HE Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC, to HRH Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, as well as to HE Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of ISESCO, and their excellencies the representatives of the Member States of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment. Ambassador Moez Boukhari also pointed out to the wide range of challenges facing the Islamic countries in the field of the environment and sustainable development, particularly in relation to water resources and climate change. He went on to express confidence in the ability of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment and its Secretariat and, through them, the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers to continue contributing significantly to resolving environmental issues in the Member States.
6. For his part, HE Ambassador Chedli Neffati, Assistant Secretary General of the League of Arab States, delivered an address on behalf of the League's Secretary General, Mr Amre Moussa, in which he conveyed the Secretary General's greetings to HRH Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, Chairman of the Islamic and Arab Executive Bureaus for the Environment, as well as to HE Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of ISESCO, and their Excellencies the representatives of the Bureau's Member States and the regional and international organizations and

institutions operating in the field of the environment. He also commended the good cooperation between ISESCO and the League, particularly on issues pertaining to the environment and sustainable development, and called for boosting such cooperation through the Arab and Islamic conferences of environment ministers.

7. The Executive Bureau commenced its first working session with the election of the Bureau's Vice Chairman and Rapporteur as follows:
 - The Republic of Gabon, Vice Chairman.
 - The Arab Republic of Egypt, Rapporteur.

Also, the meeting's draft agenda was adopted in its attached version.

8. The meeting also examined and discussed the draft recommendations and decisions reached by the meeting of senior environment officials who are members of the Executive Bureau, and the representatives of participant international and regional organizations and bodies. After deliberations, the meeting adopted the report on ISESCO's Mandate in the Area of Environment Protection, Water Resources Management and Renewable Energy Promotion, taking into consideration the Executive Bureau's observations. The meeting also requested the Executive Bureau's Chair and Secretariat to develop a conception about the setting up of a Technical Committee for the Environment and Development in the Islamic World, composed of senior environment officials representing the Member States of the Executive Bureau and specialized regional and international organizations, civil society institutions and local community associations operating in the fields of the environment, and to specify its areas of competence. The meeting also called on Member States to work out means to benefit from the programmes and funding mechanisms of international organizations, institutions and organs operating in the field of the environment and sustainable development. To this end, the meeting invited Member States to appoint Environment and Sustainable Development Focal Points to facilitate contact with the Secretariat of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment. The meeting also called on ISESCO Director General to continue his efforts in the fields of environment protection, water resources management, and renewable energy development, in coordination and consultation with Member States' competent authorities, as well as relevant regional and international organizations and bodies.
9. The meeting went on to adopt the Secretariat's evaluation report on the outcome of the previous sessions of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, taking into account the Executive Bureau's observations. It also called on Member States' competent authorities to redouble efforts and better coordinate actions to meet the new challenges posed by climate change and the deterioration of environmental situation, and formulate sound environmental policies. In this connection, it invited the Member States to provide the Executive Bureau's General Secretariat with regular reports on their achievements in sustainable development, in order to enable it to prepare the

evaluation report on the outcome of the sessions of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers. The meeting also commissioned ISESCO to continue coordinating with the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Morocco, with regard to the establishment of an Islamic Academy for the Environment and Sustainable Development in the Kingdom of Morocco, in keeping with the Royal Message addressed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco to the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers in its third session. It also thanked the kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting and sponsoring the first and second sessions of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, as well as for supporting the Conference's third session, and allocating a constant budget for organizing each of the sessions of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers and the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment. In the same vein, the meeting commended HRH Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, President of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, for his efforts in promoting environment and other related issues in the Muslim world. It also thanked ISESCO Director General for preparing the outcome assessment report, and invited him to submit, after every three-session period, an assessment report of the outcome of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers.

- 10.** The meeting adopted the Draft Islamic Environmental Action Programme, taking into account the Bureau's observations. In this regard, the Member States were called on to translate into action the core elements of the action programme through developing environment related programmes and projects, as well as coordinating and cooperating with relevant organizations and institutions. Also significant, the meeting called for setting up, under the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, a 'High-Level Task Force' comprising climate change experts from the Member States, which will be commissioned to closely monitor international developments in climate change and prepare for the next Climate Change Summit (Mexico, 2010). The meeting also called on ISESCO to undertake all necessary measures, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat, to consider establishment of the "Islamic Council for Water Resources", under the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, as approved by the 36th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, in May 2009 (Resolution No 4/36-S&T on Environment Matters). It also commissioned the Executive Bureau's Chair and Secretariat to prepare a plan for the protection and management of marine resources and development of marine ecosystems in the Member States. It further requested them to coordinate with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, with the view to prepare a strategy on disaster risk and impact reduction in the Islamic countries. The Bureau's Chair and Secretariat were also entrusted with preparing a report on environmental conditions in the Muslim world, increasing activities aiming to sensitise the youth to the environment and enhance their role in the field of environment protection and sustainable development, and drafting a strategy to develop renewable and clean energy sources in the Islamic countries, in line with the resolution of the third Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers. Also significant, the meeting invited

Islamic, Arab and international funding institutions, especially the Islamic Development Bank, to contribute to the implementation of the activities of the Islamic Environmental Action Programme.

- 11.** The Executive Bureau also adopted the draft agenda of the fourth Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, and welcomed the Tunisian Republic's generous invitation to play host to it in the period from 5 to 7 October 2010, with the support of the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It also called on ISESCO to make all necessary arrangements in this regard, in coordination with the OIC and the competent authorities in Tunisia.
- 12.** The Executive Bureau approved a proposal by the General Secretariat of the OIC to establish H.R.H Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz Special Chair for Environment Studies in universities of the most vulnerable OIC countries exposed to the adverse impacts of climate change.
- 13.** At the close of its proceedings, the Executive Bureau decided to address a message of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for steadily supporting the joint Islamic action in the fields of environment protection and sustainable development.

Decisions

Decision ICEM-IEBE-1/2010/D.1.1

Decision on the Election of the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur

The First Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, held under the presidency of His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz, President of the Third Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, at ISESCO's headquarters in Rabat, on 2nd-3rd Safar 1431 A.H., corresponding to 18th-19th January 2010:

- Based on the proposals put forward;

Decides the following:

- Elects:
 - * Republic of Gabon as Vice-chairman;
 - * Arab Republic of Egypt as Rapporteur.

Decision on the Draft Programme of the Meeting

The First Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, held under the presidency of His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz, President of the Third Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, at ISESCO's headquarters in Rabat, on 2nd-3rd Safar 1431 A.H., corresponding to 18th-19th January 2010:

- Having considered the Draft Programme of its First Meeting;
- Based on the discussions which have taken place;

Decides the following:

- **Adopts** the Draft Programme of the First Meeting of the Executive Bureau.

Decision on
the Report on ISESCO's Mandate in the Areas of Environment Protection,
Water Resources Management and Promotion of Renewable Energy

The First Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, held under the presidency of His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz, President of the Third Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, at ISESCO's headquarters in Rabat, on 2nd-3rd Safar 1431 A.H., corresponding to 18th-19th January 2010:

- Having considered the Report on ISESCO's Mandate in the Areas of Environment Protection, Water Resources Management and Promotion of Renewable Energy;
- Based on the discussions which have taken place;

Decides the following:

- **Adopts** the Report on ISESCO's Mandate in the Areas of Environment Protection, Water Resources Management and Promotion of Renewable Energy, taking into consideration the observations made by the Executive Bureau.
- **Requests** Asian and African Member States to give an account of the major environment organizations, organs and civil society institutions operating in them and supply ISESCO with the list and contacts thereof.
- **Requests** the Chair and Secretariat of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment to devise a conception about the setting up of the technical Committee for the Environment and Development in the Islamic World from the senior environment officials of the Member States represented in the Executive Bureau and the representatives of specialized regional and international organizations, civil society institutions and local community associations and to determine its competence.
- **Calls on** Member States to elaborate means to benefit from the programmes, funding mechanisms and financial resources provided by international institutions and organs.
- **Invites** Member States to appoint focal points for the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment to facilitate the follow-up of the implementation of the decisions, resolutions and recommendations of the Executive Bureau and the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers.

Decision ICEM-IEBE-1/2010/D.1.3

- **Calls on** ISESCO Director General to continue his efforts in the field of environment protection, water resources management and promotion of renewable energy in the Islamic world, in coordination and consultation with the competent parties in Member States and the national, regional and international specialized bodies.
- **Invites** ISESCO Director General to submit this report to the fourth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and **recommends** its adoption.
- **Thanks** ISESCO Director General and his assistants for preparing this report.

Decision ICEM-IEBE-1/2010/D.1.4

**Decision on
the Assessment Report on the Outcome
of the Previous Sessions of the Islamic Conference
of Environment Ministers**

The First Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, held under the presidency of His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz, President of the Third Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, at ISESCO's headquarters in Rabat, on 2nd-3rd Safar 1431 A.H., corresponding to 18th-19th January 2010:

- Having considered the document on the Assessment Report on the Outcome of the Previous Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers;
- Based on the discussions which have taken place;

Decides the following:

- **Adopts** the Assessment Report on the Outcome of the Previous Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, taking into consideration the observations made by the Executive Bureau.
- **Calls on** Member States' competent authorities to redouble their efforts, ensure greater coordination between them, and activate Islamic solidarity, in order to address challenges stemming from climate change and deteriorating environmental conditions, in addition to developing sound environmental policies, and allocating all necessary human, technological and economic resources to this end.
- **Requests** Member States' competent authorities, regional and international organizations as well as civil society institutions operating in the field of the environment to provide the Secretariat of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment with periodic reports on their achievements with regard to the implementation of the Islamic Action Programme for Sustainable Development, thus allowing the Bureau's Secretariat to prepare the Assessment Report on the Outcome of the Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.
- **Invites** the General Presidency of Meteorology and Environment Protection in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to supply ISESCO with the progress report on the establishment of the Islamic Network for the Environment.
- **Commends** the efforts made by the Member States' competent authorities in protecting the environment, and enhancing joint Islamic and international action, through cooperating with the concerned organs of the United Nations and other international organizations, as well as relevant NGOs and civil society institutions.

Decision ICEM-IEBE-1/2010/D.1.4

- **Commissions** ISESCO and the competent parties in the Kingdom of Morocco to continue coordination and consultation with regard to the setting up of an Islamic academy for the environment and sustainable development, in the Kingdom of Morocco, in accordance with the message His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, addressed to the third Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.
- **Extends** thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for sponsoring and hosting the first and second sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and for allocating a fixed budget for the convening of each of the sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment.
- **Commends** the efforts of His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, President of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, in fostering Islamic solidarity and promoting the Islamic vision on environment protection and sustainable development.
- **Thanks** ISESCO Director General for preparing this report, and **invites** him to submit an assessment report after every three sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.
- **Recommends** the adoption of the report by the Fourth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

Decision ICEM-IEBE-1/2010/D.1.5

Decision on the Draft Islamic Environment Action Programme

The First Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, held under the presidency of His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz, President of the Third Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, at ISESCO's headquarters in Rabat, on 2nd-3rd Safar 1431 A.H., corresponding to 18th-19th January 2010:

- Having examined the Draft Islamic Environment Action Programme;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place;

Decides the following:

- **Adopts** the Draft Islamic Environment Action Programme, taking into consideration the observations made by the Executive Bureau.
- **Urges** the Member States to further cooperation with each other to implement the Islamic Environment Action Programme through scheduling activities, programmes and projects to address relevant environment issues and taking all necessary measures to ensure their implementation in an effective manner.
- **Calls on** Arab and Islamic organizations concerned with the environment to contribute to the fulfilment of the goals contained in the Programme, through coordinating their activities and programmes among each other and with Member States in such a way as to ensure complementarity, prevent duplication of efforts and waste of resources, and accommodate the different visions and orientations.
- **Establishes** a high-level task force comprising climate change experts from the Member States, as part of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, and **entrusts** it with keeping abreast of the latest developments and international initiatives in the field of climate change, and with preparing for the presentation of the Member States' collective vision in the upcoming Climate Change Conference which will be held in Mexico, in November-December 2010.
- **Invites** Arab, Islamic and international funding institutions, especially the Islamic Development Bank, to contribute to funding the activities related to the implementation of the Islamic Environment Action Programme.
- **Requests** ISESCO to initiate necessary measures, in cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat, to consider the establishment of the "Islamic Council for Water Resources" within the framework of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, as provided in Resolution No 4/36 on Environment Matters which was approved by the Thirty-Sixth Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held in Damascus, in May 2009.

Decision ICEM-IEBE-1/2010/D.1.5

- **Commissions** the Executive Bureau's Chair and Secretariat to prepare a plan for the protection and management of marine resources and development of marine ecosystems in the Member States, in consultation with prominent marine scientists and researchers and in the light of existing successful models in other regions, and for working towards implementing this Plan after its adoption by the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.
- **Entrusts** the Executive Bureau's Chair and Secretariat with the preparation of a strategy for promotion of renewable and clean energy in the Islamic countries and its implementation mechanisms, in the light of the "Action Programme on the Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Islamic Countries", which was adopted by the Third Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers (Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, October 2008).
- **Undertakes** further necessary measures to lay down and update environmental legislation, in order to help Member States enhance their efforts in the area of environment, sustainable development and climate change impact reduction.
- **Encourages** Member States to devise necessary capacity-building mechanisms, with a view to taking advantage of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and **considers** setting up a carbon dioxide exchange scheme.
- **Requests** the Executive Bureau's Chair and Secretariat to coordinate with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, with the view to prepare a strategy on disaster risk and impact reduction in the Member States, building on relevant studies and statistical data available in the Member States.
- **Invites** the Bureau's Chair and Secretariat to prepare a report on environmental conditions in the Islamic world, in coordination with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), and other relevant parties.
- **Calls** for increasing environment sensitization activities devoted to the youth, and enhancing the youth's role in the process of sustainable development; and **welcomes** the Tunisian Republic's proposal to hold an environmental meeting of the Muslim world youth in 2010, as part of the UN Proclamation of 2010 as International Youth Year.
- **Thanks** ISESCO Director General and his assistants for preparing this document.
- **Recommends** endorsement of this decision by the fourth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

Decision ICEM-IEBE-1/2010/ D.1.6

Decision on
the Draft Agenda of the Fourth Islamic Conference of Environment
Ministers
(Tunis-Tunisian Republic, October 2010)

The First Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, held under the presidency of His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz, President of the Third Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, at ISESCO's headquarters in Rabat, on 2nd-3rd Safar 1431 A.H., corresponding to 18th-19th January 2010:

- Having considered the Draft Agenda of the Fourth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers (Tunis-Tunisian Republic, 5-7 October 2010);
- Based on the discussions which have taken place;

Decides the following:

- **Adopts** the Draft Agenda of the Fourth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers (Tunis-Tunisian Republic, 5-7 October 2010).
- **Extends** sincere thanks, appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Tunisian Republic, for giving his consent to host, under his high patronage, the fourth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers in the Tunisian Republic.
- **Invites** ISESCO to make all necessary preparatory arrangements for convening the Conference, in close coordination with the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the competent parties in the Tunisian Republic.

**Decision on
the Establishment of H.R.H. Turki bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz Special Chair
for Environment studies**

The First Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, held under the presidency of His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz, President of the Third Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, at ISESCO's headquarters in Rabat, on 2nd-3rd Safar 1431 A.H., corresponding to 18th-19th January 2010:

- Based on the proposal put forward by the OIC General Secretariat;

Decides the following:

- **Establishes** H.R.H. Turki bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz Special Chair for Environment studies in Universities of the most vulnerable OIC countries exposed to the adverse impacts of climate change.
- **Entrusts** ISESCO and the Presidency of Meteorology and Environment Protection, in coordination with OIC General Secretariat, to follow up the implementation of this project.