



Address by

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At the

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*All praise be to Allah, peace and blessings be upon Prophet Mohamed,
his kith and kin*

Excellencies Ministers and Presidents of National Commissions,

Excellencies Heads of Delegations

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh, Ramadan Mubarak

At the start of my address, I am pleased to warmly welcome you in your second country, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and transmit to you the greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and the greetings of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, may Allah preserve them. I am also pleased to thank you for taking up our invitation to attend the Extraordinary Session of the General Conference of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).

ISESCO enjoys a rich history full of achievements while constantly being keen to attain the noble goals for which it was established. Thus, it has actively been seeking to entrench the notions of education, science and culture among the peoples of the Islamic world taking into consideration Goal 4 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2030.

At this meeting, I would like to greatly thank H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri for the enormous efforts he exerted during the period of his leadership of the Organization hoping that its programmes, projects and strategies intended for the peoples of the Islamic world in the forthcoming stage will contribute to building beacons of education, learning and culture; promoting the spirit of Islamic identity far from profiling, stereotyping and conventionalization; and building tracks that would allow Member States to lead in education, science and culture.

The construction of nations and achieving development and prosperity is largely based on the fundamentals of education, cultural diversity, developing thought, rejection of discord and embracement of meaningful dialogue. To this end, ISESCO should adopt these essential fundamentals and anchor them within its establishment through cooperation with the National Commissions and ministries within Member States.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nowadays, some Muslim countries are undergoing some conflicts and facing economic and social challenges that require us as Member States of this Organization to deploy maximum efforts to help them to overcome such challenges to affirm to the entire world that the notions of education and culture are firmly established and too strong to be wiped out by these mutual differences, challenges and transient epiphenomena. Therefore, we should at this stage keep pace and deal with the different developmental changes, and benefit from the rapid developments imposed by technology.

Finally, I implore Allah, to grant our brother Dr Salem bin Mohammed Al Malik every success, wishing him a career full of successive achievements to advance this Organization to allow it to become active and impactful in the development of man and place.

Once again, I thank you for your attendance and for taking up our invitation, beseeching Allah to bless your fasting and Umrah. I equally thank my colleagues in the Ministry and ISESCO's team for their active contribution to make the organization of this session a successful one.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh.