

Final Report of

**The 8th Session of the Consultative Council
in Charge of Implementing the
Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World**

ISESCO Headquarters, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco:
25-26 November, 2008

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Pursuant to the recommendations of the 7th Session of the Consultative Council in Charge of Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- held the 8th Meeting of the Consultative Council in Charge of Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World at its headquarters in Rabat on **26-27 Zul Qi'da 1429 A.H./25-26 November 2008**. The proceedings of this meeting were attended by the members of the Consultative Council representing the following countries: Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of Qatar, Republic of the Sudan, Republic of Côte D'Ivoire, Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, Republic of Afghanistan, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (President of the 5th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers), Republic of Senegal (President of the Standing Committee for Media and Cultural Affairs), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Seat Country of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), and Kingdom of Morocco (Seat Country of ISESCO).

Absent were the representatives of Sierra Leone, Benin, Kyrgyzstan, and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The Opening Session

The opening session was held on Tuesday morning 25 November 2008 under the chairmanship of H.E Dr Hadi Azizzadeh, ISESCO Deputy Director General. After recitation of verses from the Holy Koran, the Deputy Director General made an address wherein he first welcomed their Excellencies the Consultative Council members and thanked them on behalf of H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, the Director General of ISESCO, wishing them full success in their new mission. He also commended the Council for cooperating with the General Directorate of ISESCO to enhance joint Islamic action and to set into motion the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, and stressed the significant role assigned to the Consultative Council to follow up implementation of the contents of this strategy adopted by the 6th Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar in 1991. He also expressed his hope that this session would achieve its stated objective consisting in studying the key documents prepared by the General Directorate of ISESCO before submitting them, as falls within the scope of action of the Council, to the 6th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers.

The Bureau of the Council was elected during the procedural session as follows:

- **Chairperson:** Republic of the Sudan.
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Republic of Côte D'Ivoire and Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam.
- **Rapporteur:** State of Qatar.

The Council also approved the Programme of its meeting.

Speaking at the opening session was Libya's representative H.E. Mr Abdul Hamid Fathi Farahat, Chairman of the Follow-up Commission on the Resolutions of the 5th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers. He placed on record the satisfaction of the 5th Islamic Culture Ministers Conference Chair regarding the efforts and coordination displayed by ISESCO General Directorate to activate the Conference's resolutions.

During its working sessions, the Consultative Council examined a number of documents placed on its agenda: namely, the **Broad Lines of the Draft Strategy for the Promotion of Cultural Tourism in the Islamic World; the Project on the Routes of Cultural Communication among Peoples: the African Pilgrimage Route as A Case in Point; the Follow-up Report on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the 7th Meeting of the Consultative Council in Charge of Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World; the Reports of the Supreme Council of Education, Science and Culture for Muslims outside the Islamic world and of the meetings of the Heads of Cultural Centres in Asia and Latin America; the Report on the Implementation of the Programme of Islamic Culture Capitals; the Report on Setting up the Islamic Heritage Committee; and the Report on the Supreme Consultative Council for Bringing Muslim Madhahibs Closer Together.**

During discussions, the members of the Council raised observations as follows:

- To put as an item on the agenda of the 9th Consultative Council's meeting the amendment to the Rules of Procedure.
- To invite ISESCO to coordinate with Member States' competent authorities in proposing an alternative mechanism regarding those Islamic culture capitals that cannot afford the celebration festivities, and sustain its efforts in realising the stated objectives of the programme on publicising Islamic culture capitals.
- To dedicate more activities to the youth of the third generation of migrants, with the view to increase their sense of civilizational belonging and cultural identity, and immunise them from deviant attitudes.
- To invite ISESCO to take part in the 3rd session of the Negro Arts Festival to be held in Senegal in 2009.
- To expand ISESCO's direct media presence both in the Member States and on the international level. The aim is to publicise the Organisation's activities and programmes, especially among civil society associations and bodies, in such a way as may further its field action.
- To invite ISESCO to establish effective partnership with ALECSO and the competent authorities in Palestine to celebrate Al Quds as 2009 Capital of Arab Culture, given the city's Islamic civilizational dimension.

- To define some concepts contained in the document on the Broad Lines of the Draft Strategy for the Promotion of Cultural Tourism in the Islamic World; supplement this document with a detailed map of cultural tourist sites in the Member States; benefit from Member States' cultural tourism experience; further benefit from Muslim world experts on cultural tourism economics and geographic areas of strong tourist appeal; focus attention under this strategy on activities to introduce Muslim world intellectual figures (authenticating and translating their works, giving their names to public utilities, etc.); organise cultural trips and camps to introduce the Muslim world youth to major architectural monuments; and set up national registries for cultural architectural landmarks in each Member State.
- To thank the General Directorate for its efforts to organise this meeting, and highly commend the quality and value of the documents and reports presented.

At the end of its proceedings, the Consultative Council in Charge of Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World approved the said documents, taking into consideration the observations which have been made. The Council also called on the General Directorate of ISESCO to incorporate the proposed amendments and submit the documents in question in their amended versions to the upcoming 9th meeting.

The Council also approved the following recommendations:

1. To urge the Member States to enforce the contents and orientations of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World in their action plans and cultural programmes, and to put the cultural action among the priorities of comprehensive development, in view of its investment profits and its role in the cultural and social development of individuals and societies.
2. To urge the officials in charge of cultural policies in Member States to increase the budgets allocated to cultural action and to work towards more elaborate planning of cultural projects in accordance with the contents of the document prepared by ISESCO concerning the techniques of planning cultural projects, in order to ensure support of the financial institutions for these projects.
3. To call on ISESCO to redouble its efforts to widely publicize the amended version of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World among the competent authorities in the Member States, the civil society institutions and similar regional and international organizations.
4. To thank ISESCO for its efforts to develop mechanisms for implementing the contents and orientations of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, by supporting them with specialised studies and strategies and by incorporating relevant projects, programmes and activities in its cultural action plans.
5. To invite ISESCO to pursue its efforts towards rectifying information on the image of Islam and Islamic civilization in the West through such activities and programmes as symposia, meetings of the heads of Islamic cultural centres in South-eastern Asia and Latin America, conferences, workshops, forums, training sessions and book fairs, which all proved effective and worthwhile.

6. To commend ISESCO's Islamic cultural action efforts for Muslims outside the Member States, which consist in energizing the role of the Supreme Council for Education and Culture in the West and supporting the heads of cultural centres and Islamic associations in Europe, Asia and Latin America, and to invite the Organization to carry on these efforts for a more enhanced joint Islamic cultural action the world over.
7. To invite ISESCO to pursue its efforts in concretizing the contents of the Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity by implementing more relevant activities in the Member States and stimulating greater participation of the civil society and educational institutions.
8. To invite able Member States to help fund cultural projects carried out by other Member States, as part of activating the contents of the Strategy for Cultural Takaful.
9. To call upon the Member States whose cities are celebrated as capitals of Arab and Islamic culture to implement the cultural activities which can commemorate such event in a concrete way through artistic and museum works, document the festivities using publications and modern technological media and place them with ISESCO for the purpose of housing them at a specialized library to be established to this end, the aim being to make them accessible to all Member States.
10. To invite ISESCO to dedicate more publications, especially electronic books, on Islamic culture, in the most widely read languages in the world, inside and outside the Islamic world, the ultimate aim being to promote communication with the Other and present the true image of Islam and Islamic civilization via modern communication means.
11. To emphasize the importance of cooperation and coordination between ISESCO and the Consultative Council by contributing proposals and conceptions to develop joint Islamic cultural action and to determine its priorities within the framework of the Organization's action plans.
12. To extend gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, the Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, for his efforts in promoting joint Islamic action and energizing the role of the Consultative Council in Charge of Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World.

Done in Rabat, on 27 Zul Qi'da 1429 AH / 26 November 2008

**The members of the Consultative Council in Charge of
Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World**