

Final Report

By the grace of Allah, the Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization held its Twenty-Third Session in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 7-10 Shawal, 1423 A.H., corresponding to 12-15 December 2002 A.D. The proceedings of this Session were attended by all Executive Council Members and their companions, except for the representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of the Gambia and the Republic of the Sudan.

*(Annex 1 : List of attending members of
the Executive Council or their representatives and companions)*

Opening session : Thursday 7 Shawal 1423 A.H., corresponding to 12 December 2002 A.D.

Morning :

1. The opening session was held in the presence of His Excellency Dr. Abbas Jirari, Counsellor to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco; His Excellency Mr. Khalid Alioua, Minister of Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research in the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, President of the Organization's 7th General Conference; Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Ahmed Fares , Secretary General of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Teacher's Prize and Chairman of ISESCO's Executive Council; His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; Dr. Mohamed Yssef, President of the Supreme Council of the Ulema in the Kingdom of Morocco, Their Excellencies the ambassadors of Islamic countries, a number of representatives of regional and international organizations and a host of outstanding Moroccan personalities, intellectuals and culture and information figures.
2. After recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, H.E. Khalid Alioua, Minister of Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research in the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and President of the Organization's 7th General Conference, welcomed the Executive Council members and underlined the tremendous responsibility shouldered by the Islamic Organization in a juncture marked by economic, social and cultural imbalances in international relations, as a result of the globalization phenomenon. He regretted that the Islamic world was embarking upon this new phase with scientific and educational structures that are unable to face the major civilizational challenges. He stressed that the Islamic civilizational legacy could be a source of moral strength for the Islamic Ummah, stimulating it to achieve a comprehensive, scientific and educational development

likely to enhance the living reality of the Ummah and raise it up to a level tallying with its glory.

His Excellency expressed his appreciation for the report of the Director General on the activities of the Organization during the year under review. He commended the efforts exerted by the General Directorate under the leadership of His Excellency Dr. Abdoulaziz Othman Altwajri to accomplish these achievements, stressing the need for evaluation to take into account, along with the positive aspects, all elements that should have been avoided and those that could have been improved. He also lauded the contents and orientations of the Broad Lines of the Draft Action Plan 2004-2006 in the sense that they were in line with international changes. He expressed his hope that the General Directorate, the Executive Council and the Member States join efforts to achieve the strategic objectives of this Plan, in particular redressing the image of Islam and Muslims in the world, through the development of the Islamic world capacities in the fields of education, sciences, culture and communication.

*(Annex 2 : Address by His Excellency, Mr. Khalid Alioua,
Minister of Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research
in the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco,
President of the 7th General Conference of the Islamic Organization)*

3. Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Salem Ahmed Fares, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization delivered an address in which he first welcomed the participants, then recalled the achievements of the previous Session of the Council, which laid down the basis for a new take-off. He presented the objectives of the present Session, consisting of the evaluation of achievements and activities implemented and working out the new methodology of action for the coming phase. He commended the Organization's endeavour to implement its activities as well as its opening up onto the world, to the extent that it became a recognized partner in many international events. He pointed out that the Organization had worked towards the achievement of a scientific renaissance built on sturdy foundations, intended to modernize scientific research for the benefit of sustainable development, as well as the promotion of cultural action in its broader sense. He expressed his appreciation for the role played by the Organization in affirming the Islamic perception of global issues and universal questions of concern to the international public opinion, giving thereby ISESCO a privileged stand as an established partner in international action.

At the end of his address, he stressed the growing need for this Islamic Organization under the present international juncture, marked by the cultural hegemony

threatening the specificities of peoples and nations. He commended the efforts of His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Organization and his assistants to enhance the performance of the Organization in discharging its mission and achieving such a laudable level of quality and expertise.

*(Annex 3: Address by Mr. Muhammed Abdullah Salem Ahmed Fares,
Chairman of ISESCO Executive Council)*

4. The floor was then taken by Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, who welcomed the participants and underlined the special importance of this Session given the international juncture at which it was convened, for being the Session before last of the Triennial Plan (2001-2003), and the one paving the way for the forthcoming Three Year Action Plan (2004-2006) by means of examining its draft prior to its submission to the 8th General Conference of the Islamic Organization, due to be held the following year in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Director General pointed out that the Islamic world, which the Islamic Organization is proud to represent, stood at its wits' end and in a situation totally inconsistent with the divine creed holding it together and with the civilization to which it belonged. This has rendered the responsibilities of the Islamic Organization even weightier and the tasks it undertook in its fields of competence greater. This momentous action required the Islamic world to pool its efforts, complement stances, expand cooperation areas within the framework of joint Islamic action, and consolidate the faith and trust placed in the Islamic Organization and its General Conference, Executive Council and General Directorate.

The Director General then reviewed the achievements of the Organization for the current year, focusing on its efforts to consolidate the culture of dialogue among civilizations and foster the interaction of cultures. In this respect, he referred to the important document, to be submitted to the esteemed Council, drawn up by the Islamic Organization on its perception of the ways of interacting with the world changes. He concluded by commending the progress achieved in redressing the image of Islam and Muslims in the eyes of the world.

*(Annex 4 : Address by Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri,
Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)*

5. At the conclusion of the opening session, the Director General offered a reception in honor of the members of the Executive Council and the guests invited.

Firstworkingsession : Thursday, 7 Shawal 1423 A.H./12 December 2002 A.D.

Afternoon :

**Item 1.1 of the Draft Agenda :
Adoption of the Draft Agenda
(Document C.E. 23/2002/1.1 Provisional)**

6. The Chairman of the Council presented the Draft Agenda (Document CE 23/2002/1.1 Provisional) and the Council members adopted it in the version proposed.

Then, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 1.1 of the Draft Agenda
(Adoption of the Draft Agenda)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Articles (23-25) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having considered the Draft Agenda of its 23rd Session contained in document (CE 23/2002/1.1 Provisional),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- Adopts the Agenda of its current 23rd Session as contained in the document (CE 23/2002/1.1 Adopted) annexed to the Final Report of the said Session.

(Annex 5 : Adopted Agenda)

**Item 1.2 of the Agenda :
Adoption of the Draft Programme
(Document C.E. 23/2002/1.2 Provisional)**

7. The Council examined the Draft Programme (Document CE 23/2002/1.2 Provisional) and proposed that the financial reports be discussed, in the future, in one working session. It also proposed that a larger span of time be allocated to the examination of the Draft Plan and Budget which shall be discussed by ad hoc teams. After discussing the Programme, the Council adopted it in the version proposed.

Then, the Council took the following decision :

Decision on Item 1.2 of the Agenda (Adoption of the Draft Programme)

The Executive Council,

- Recalling Decision (CE 22/2001/D.4.1) adopted by the Executive Council at its 22nd Session (Sharjah, 22-26 December 2001), whereby the Council decided to hold its 23rd Session in December 2002, at ISESCO's headquarters in Rabat,
- Considering Decision (CE 23/2002/D.1.1) adopted by the Council in connection with the Agenda of its current 23rd Session,
- Having considered the Draft Programme of this Session contained in document (CE 23/2002/1.2 Provisional),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- Adopts the Programme of its current 23rd Session as contained in the document (CE 23/2002/1.2 Adopted) annexed to the Final Report of this Session.

Item 2.1 of the Agenda : Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities between the 22nd and 23rd Council Sessions (Document C.E. 23/2002/2.1 Addendum)

8. In the beginning of his presentation of the report on the Organization's activities between the two Council Sessions, the Director General welcomed the new members of the Executive Council, namely the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, the State of Qatar, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Republic of Togo and the Republic of Lebanon. He then made a succinct presentation on the achievements accomplished by the Organization in the period between the 22nd and 23rd Council Sessions, in which he indicated that the General Directorate had adopted the same methodology followed in the preparation of the Director General's report on the Organization's activities for the previous year, consisting in the supply of analysis and evaluation results along with the information and data on implementation of activities, the purpose being to secure optimal accuracy and transparency.

In this connection, the Director General pointed out that the second year of the Action Plan 2001-2003 was marked by the implementation of 367 activities out of 496 scheduled in the different educational, scientific, cultural and communication fields, of which 86 national and regional training sessions, 48 meetings, seminars and

specialized symposia, 28 activities were geared to promoting the values of dialogue, coexistence, peace and civilizational interaction and to redress the image of Islam and Muslims. A special attention was also assigned to support educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine, which benefitted from 26 activities, and to Muslim minorities and communities in the West whose educational institutions and cultural centers benefitted from 27 activities. The Director General, likewise, indicated that the Organization carried out 86 activities in the field of preparation, translation and publication of books, curricula and studies. It also supplied 87 technical and material support to a number of research centers and institutions and awarded 96 scholarships to students from the Member States and Muslim communities in the West.

The Director General concluded his presentation by stressing that the Islamic Organization had stepped up its efforts, during the year under review, to enlarge partnership with Arab, Islamic and international organizations, as well as charitable institutions and donors, thereby enabling the Organization to implement 189 joint cooperation activities and secure extra-budgetary funds totalling US\$ 1,692,476. The Director General noted that, as at 31 October 2002, the total payments of contributions and arrears received this year stood at US\$ 5,128,497.

9. During their discussion, the Council members expressed profound thanks and appreciation for the Director General and his assistants for the steady efforts exerted to implement programmes and activities. The observations of the Council members focused on the following :
 - a. Inviting the General Directorate to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the achievements realized over the past years with a view to inducing a qualitative change in its action to help cope with the formidable challenges facing the Muslim world in the present juncture.
 - b. Increasing technical and material support to the National Commissions to help them discharge efficiently their mission.
 - c. Pursuing ahead with the implementation of activities pertaining to dialogue among civilizations and cultures and redressing the image of Islam and Muslims all over the world.
 - d. Further analyzing and assessing the results arrived at by the workshops and training sessions organized, to tune them to the needs of the Member States in those fields.
 - e- Alloting further attention to the training of trainers in ISESCO's fields of competence.

- f- Energizing the follow-up mechanisms concerning the utilization by the Member States of the guide-books and curricula designed by ISESCO for the benefit of those countries.
- g- Gearing more programmes and activities to literacy, basic universal education, the development of higher education and distance learning.
- h- Making use of the Council members' expertise by associating them in the implementation of ISESCO's activities bearing an academic character.
- i- Allocating a period of time prior to the working sessions to allow the Council members to present brief statements to the Council on the main educational, scientific and cultural issues in their respective countries.
- j- Revising the Executive Council's working method in order to improve its work and place an item about this question on the agenda of the following Council Session.
- k- Implementing more programmes and activities for the benefit of the talented and gifted.
- l- Addressing letters of thanks and appreciation to the Executive Council members whose mandates have come to an end, in recognition of the laudable services they have rendered to ISESCO.
- m- Inviting the General Directorate of ISESCO to pursue the training of its staff involved in programme and activity evaluation, in order to enhance their skills and improve their performance.

10- Thereupon, the Director General thanked the Council members for the invaluable observations and proposals and their deep and thorough examination of the Director General's report on ISESCO's activities. He also indicated that the General Directorate would take into consideration those observations when implementing the programmes of the Action Plan the following year. ISESCO will also take inspiration from the views of the Council members to further improve its work. He, likewise, stressed the need for a critical review of ISESCO's work, in order to stimulate its role in meeting the international challenges and developments that constitute dangers threatening the Muslim world. **He also called for strengthening the joint Islamic action and establishing links with well-intentioned Western cultural bodies and institutions, in order to stand up to aggression and injustice and act collectively to promote and spread brotherhood, love and peace in the world.** He also gave account of the contacts underway in this respect intended to establish an Islamic-Christian forum for love and peace within the Islamic Organization.

Upon deliberations, the Council took the following decision:

**Decision on Item 2.1 of the Agenda
(Report of the Director General on the Organization's
Activities between the 22nd and 23rd Council Sessions)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 21, paragraph (a), of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having considered the Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities between the 22nd and 23rd Council Sessions, contained in documents (CE 23/2002/2.1) and (CE 23/2002/2.1 Addendum),
- Having heard the presentation made by the Director General of the Islamic Organization in this connection,
- Thanking the Islamic States, organizations and personalities which support ISESCO's programmes and activities;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the observations made by the Council members,

Decides the following :

- 1-** Adopts the Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities between the 22nd and 23rd Council Sessions as contained in documents (CE 23/2002/2.1) and (CE 23/2002/2.1 Addendum), taking into account the observations and proposals made by the Executive Council members;
- 2-** Thanks to the Director General and his assistants for their outstanding efforts in pursuing the implementation of programmes and rationalizing expenditure thereon, while taking into account the fulfilment of the pressing needs of the Member States and the Muslim communities and minorities in non-Member States;
- 3-** Thanks the Director General for the steady efforts he expends to broaden the areas of cooperation with international and regional organizations as well as Islamic and Arab institutions within the framework of programme implementation;
- 4-** Agrees to submit this report to the forthcoming General Conference Session, and recommends its adoption by the General Conference.

Item 2.4 of the Agenda :
Report of the Director General on the Status of Member
States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget
and on Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization
(Document CE 23/2002/2.4 and Document CE 23/2002/2.4 Addendum)

- 11- The Director General presented an exhaustive report on the Member States' contributions to ISESCO's budget from 1st January 2001 to 31st December 2001 and the situation of the contributions of the previous financial years. He indicated that the financial contributions collected in the course of 2001 totalled US\$ 9,725,325, including US\$ 5,111,181 accounting for the contributions of the previous financial years and US\$ 4,614,138, under financial year 2001, being only 36% of the overall contributions expected for that year and which amount to US\$ 12,861,722. This is a modest rate in view of the volume of programmes, activities and projects that need to be implemented. He also pointed out that the Member States' contributions collected since the establishment of ISESCO up to 31st December, 2001 reached US\$ 86,638,716, i.e. 36% of the estimated budgets which totalled US\$ 188,174,815; something which led ISESCO to work with far less than half of its scheduled budget and to pursue a policy of austerity and expenditure rationalization affecting all the expenditure headings.

The Director General brought up the question of arrears and the non payment by some Member States of their contributions in time or their questioning the shares that have been set for them. He also recalled that the arrears reached US\$ 72,199,340 that is 38% of the estimated budgets, of which the 2001 arrears account for US\$ 7,990,349, i.e., 62% of the budget of that year. He, then renewed his call for the Executive Council to consider this matter in order to find appropriate solutions.

12. During discussions, **the Council approved the proposal of the Director General to consider the possibility of cancelling the totality of the arrears of countries unable to settle their arrears and cut down 50% of the arrears of countries in a position to settle their arrears, provided that the States commit to settle the totality of their contributions as from the coming 2004-2006 Action Plan.** A committee will be constituted of the Chairman of the Council, the representatives of the Republic of Cameroon and the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Council and the Director General of the Organization to decide on the criteria that will be used to determine the States that will benefit from the measures and submit their report to the following Sessions of the Council and General Conference.

The Council called upon the Director General to pursue his contacts with the Member States to collect a maximum of contributions and arrears and consider the implementation of the following proposals :

- a. Deduct the expenses of some activities implemented by the Organization in Member States unable to settle their contributions to the budget from their annual contributions to the Organization.
- b. Consider in the long term the possibility of securing a self-funding mechanism for the Organization, such as the allocation by some Member States of a permanent waqf to the Organization.
- c. Invest the collected arrears in the implementation of some of the Organization's activities in the Member States affected by natural disasters or the like.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 2.4 of the Agenda
(Director General's Report on the Status of Member
States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget
and on Redressing the Organization's Financial Situation)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article (6) of the Financial Regulations,
- Recalling the decisions adopted by the previous sessions of the Executive Council and the resolutions of the General Conference of ISESCO in this connection, in particular the following :
 - * Decision C.E. 21/2000/D.2.5 adopted by the Executive Council at its 21st Session (Rabat, 16-20/11/2000), whereby it invited, in the fifth operative paragraph, the Director General to arrange for special visits to the Member States with arrears in order to meet with officials therein, and to intensify efforts with a view to urging Member States to settle their contributions and pay up their arrears,
 - * Resolution CG 6/97/R 2.5 of the 6th General Conference (Riyadh 6-9/12/1997) affirming the provisions of the Resolution of the 5th General Conference and the necessity for the Member States to settle their contributions and pay up their arrears in order to help the Organization fulfill its civilizational mission,
 - * Resolution CG 7/2000/R 2.5 adopted by the 7th General Conference (Rabat 22-24/11/2000) ,
- Having heard the presentation made by the Director General in this respect,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Adopts the Report of the Director General on the Status of Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization, as contained in Document C.E. 23/2002/2.4 and its addendum;
- 2- Affirms the previous resolutions and decisions taken by the General Conference and the Executive Council in this connection;
- 3- Expresses thanks and appreciation for the Director General in consideration of his efforts to intensify contacts with the Member States in order to collect a maximum of contributions, as well as for his efforts to promote cooperation with international and regional organizations to secure further support to the Organization's activities and programmes and invites him to carry on his efforts in this connection;
- 4- Adopts the proposal put forth by the Director General to look into the possibility of writing off the total outstanding arrears of the Member States unable to settle their arrears and cutting down 50% of the arrears of the Member States in a position to pay their arrears;
- 5- Establishes a committee made up of the Chairman of the Executive Council, the representatives of the Republic of Cameroon and the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Executive Council and the Director General to work out the criteria and modalities for effective implementation of the proposal and submit a report thereon to the forthcoming Council Session, to take the appropriate decision thereon;
- 6- Agrees to submit this Report to the following Session of the General Conference, and recommends adoption thereof.

Second working session : Friday 8 Shawal 1423 A.H., corresponding to 13 December 2002 A.D.

Morning :

Item 2.2 of the Agenda :

The Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts of Financial Year 2001, and General Statements of Accounts and Expenditure up to the end of September 2002

(Document CE 23/2002/2.2 and Document C.E 23/2002/2.2 Addendum)

13. The Director General made a detailed presentation on the financial report of the closing accounts for the period from January 1 to 31 December 2001, representing

the accounts of the first financial year of the Action Plan for 2001-2003. In this presentation, the Director General stated that the Islamic Organization collected the equivalent of US\$ 9,725,325, of which US\$ 4,614,138 made up the contributions of Member States for the 2001 financial year, and represented 35% of the Organization's expected budget income of US\$ 12,861,722. This percentage remains modest in comparison with the volume of activities, programmes and projects that require implementation. **He pointed out that the Islamic Organization managed to collect extra-budgetary funds from various proceeds and from donations granted by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Aviation and General Inspector of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Muhammad Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council, Governor of Sharjah, and by the World Islamic Call Society in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.** He underlined that obtaining these additional resources was only made possible through the intensive contacts conducted by the Director General.

The Director General indicated that the total expenditure for 2001 amounted to US\$ 6,121,268 of which 14% were allocated for covering the expenses of general policy, 66% for the implementation of programmes and activities, and 20% for joint expenses. He also pointed out that the total amount of arrears accumulated since the creation of the Organization up to the end of December 2001 reached US\$ 72,199,340, i.e. 38% of the total successive budgets.

14. The Council discussed the Financial Report of the Director General, the Closing Accounts for the Financial Year 2001, and the General Statements of Accounts and Expenditure up to the end of September 2002. After listening to the clarifications of the Director General on the Council's queries on these items, the Council called upon the Director General to persevere in his efforts to collect more donations and contributions for the Organization, and to address messages of thanks on behalf of the Council to all the parties and personalities who made donations to the Organization.

**Decision on Item 2.2 of the Agenda
(Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts
for Financial Year 2001 and General Statements of Accounts
and Expenditure up to the end of September 2002)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article (16) of the Charter,
- In compliance with Articles (19) and (29) of the Financial Regulations,

- In compliance with Article (21), paragraph “d” of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Pursuant to Resolution CG 7/2000/R.2.3 of the 7th General Conference and considering Decision CE 21/2000/D 2.3 adopted by the Executive Council at its 21st Session (Rabat, 16-20/11/2000),
- Having considered the Financial Report of the Director General and the Closing Accounts for Financial Year 2001 as well as the General Statements of Accounts and Expenditure up to the end of September 2002, contained respectively in documents (CE 23/2002/2.2) and (CE 23/2002/2.2 Addendum),
- Having heard the clarifications provided by the Director General and his assistants in this connection,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the observations made,

Decides the following :

- 1- Adopts the Financial Report of the Director General and the Closing Accounts for Financial Year 2001 and the General Statements of Accounts and Expenditure up to the end of September 2002, as contained respectively in documents (CE 23/2002/2.2) and (CE 23/2002/2.2 Addendum);
- 2- Extends thanks to all the personalities and institutions that made donations in support of the Organization;
- 3- Invites the Director General to continue his moves and efforts to contact donors with a view to obtaining maximum support for the Organization’s activities;
- 4- Thanks the Director General and his assistants for the efforts they exerted to gear the bulk of the Organization’s funds to programme implementation and to rationalize expenditure and improve its methods;
- 5- Agrees to submit this report to the forthcoming General Conference Session, and recommends its adoption by the General Conference.

Item 2.3 of the Agenda :
Reports of the Financial Control Committee
and the Audit Company for Financial Year 2001
 (Document CE 23/2002/2.3)

15. The Chairman of the Financial Control Committee presented the report of the Committee on the Financial Year 2001 and expressed the appreciation of the Committee’s members for the General Directorate’s implementation of the

recommendations adopted by the Committee in its previous meeting and for its cooperation in making available all data needed for controlling the 2001 financial year's closing accounts. He also expressed the Committee's appreciation for the countries that have settled their arrears in the Organization's budget and for the membership of new countries in the Organization, a fact likely to boost the rate of contributions collection. He reviewed the observations of the Committee on the following points :

- Avoiding the accumulation of office supplies stocks and purchasing them on a regular basis according to the Organization's needs.
- Regular accountancy registration in the "End-of-Service Allowance Fund" and in the "Medical-Insurance Fund" for the Organization staff.
- The necessity to maintain the present audit company for an additional year, pending its replacement with another company.
- The soundness of procedures adopted in the tender for the construction of the Organization's headquarters.

The Committee chairman concluded by noting the members' appreciation for the method followed by the General Directorate in the administrative and financial management, which made the Organization free of any debts that would hinder the implementation of its projects and programmes.

16. The representative of the Audit company presented a detailed report on the Organization's accounts for the financial year 2001, taking into account the relevant remarks made by the Financial Control Committee. He underlined that the closing account for this period reflected in an accurate and sound manner the Organization's financial situation, in conformity with the decisions and regulations that govern its work.
17. Having heard the answers of the chairman of the Financial Control Committee on the queries by the Council members on the report, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 2.3 of the Agenda
(Reports of the Financial Control Committee and
the Audit Company for Financial Year 2001)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the following:
 - * Article 19 of the Charter,
 - * Article 20 and Articles 24 through 29 of the Financial Regulations,
 - * Article 21, paragraphs "b" and "c" of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,

- Taking note of the meeting held by the Financial Control Committee at ISESCO's headquarters, at the invitation of the General Directorate, on 1 - 4 July 2002, wherein it took stock of the financial, administrative and accountancy procedures in force at the Organization and examined the Director General's Financial Report for the year 2001, in addition to the report of the Audit Company as submitted by the Company's representative with whom the Committee looked into all contents thereof,
- Recalling Decision (CE 19/98/D.2.3) adopted by the 19th Executive Council Session (Rabat, 19-24 November 1998) whereby the Council approved the nomination of "Audit International" group as auditor of the Organization's accounts,
- Having considered document (CE 23/2002/2.3) which contains the Reports of the Financial Control Committee and the Audit Company for Financial Year 2001,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Adopts the Report of the Financial Control Committee and the Report of the Audit Company for Financial Year 2001, as contained in document (CE 23/2002/2.3), taking into account the observations made by the Executive Council members;
- 2- Thanks the Chairman and members of the Financial Control Committee for their efforts;
- 3- Commends the unstinting efforts exerted by the Director General to ensure the rationalization of expenditures, as well as his commitment to the recommendations of the Financial Control Committee endorsed by the Council;
- 4- Agrees to submit these two reports as contained in document (CE 23/2002/2.3) to the forthcoming General Conference and recommends their adoption by the General Conference.

Third working session : Friday, 8 Shawal 1423 A.H./13 December 2002 A.D.

Afternoon :

**Item 3.1 of the Agenda :
Broad Lines of the Organization's
Three-Year Action Plan 2004-2006
(Document CE 23/2002/3.1)**

18. The Director General gave a detailed presentation of the Broad Lines of the Draft Three-Year Action Plan (2004-2006), in which he explained that the consolidation of the assets acquired within the framework of the previous Action Plan 2001-2003 and proceeding with the implementation of the contents and orientations of the

Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009 stood among the main bases of this Plan. He pointed out the strategic goals of the new plan, with the hostile campaign on Islam and Muslims coming top on the list, along with the three following subsidiary strategic goals :

- 1- Reducing illiteracy in its broadest sense and combating poverty
- 2- Promoting the culture of peace and justice
- 3- Gearing the efforts of Member States towards the utilization of the information and communication technologies in the fields of action of the Organization.

He also highlighted to the sectorial goals set up for each of the fields of action of the Organization, on the basis of which the expected results will be determined, expounding the financial and practical details of the implementation of activities and programmes while preparing the Draft Plan and Budget.

The Director General pointed out that the new Plan (2004-2006) will maintain the overall structure of the previous Plan in its three chapters, except for few modifications such as shifting the items relating to the Islamic ministerial conferences to the article dealing with the programmes and support activities, transferring all communication programmes to the Directorate of Culture, and replacing the interdisciplinary programmes with the programmes shared between the Directorates, such as redressing the image of Islam and Muslims in the West, promoting the culture of peace and justice, and harnessing communication technologies in the service of development. Regarding the contents of the Plan, the Director General indicated that they might seem similar to those of the previous Plan, although they part company at the focus and the mechanisms of implementation given the international developments and in view of the magnitude of the challenges levelled at the Islamic world.

At the end of his presentation, the Director General called for the need to increase the budget of the three coming years to enable the Organization to achieve the strategic goals of the new plan and to develop implementation mechanisms that would be conducive to achieving the benefit sought.

- 19.** During discussions, the Council members expressed their thanks to the Director General and his assistants for the care and accuracy shown in formulating the Broad Lines of the 2004-2006 Action Plan, and made the following remarks :

- a- Allowing more time for Member States to convey their remarks and put forward their proposals on the Action Plan Broad Lines, so that these can be taken into account when the Organization maps out the detailed Draft Plan and Budget;
- b- Stressing the new orientations contained in the Plan regarding the adoption of a new methodology in addressing education issues, especially the achievement of “Education for All” by 2015 and the fight against illiteracy. This requires the mobilization of all role-players from the governmental and private sectors as well as civil society organizations to form a **coalition** to reach the targeted objectives;
- c- Granting priority in the Plan programmes to activities that serve culture and Islamic civilization, in order to face up to the tendentious campaigns against Islam and Muslims;
- d- Implementing additional educational and cultural activities and programmes for the benefit of Palestine, and increasing the financial allocations earmarked thereto;
- e- Focussing attention on information education in order to create an informed opinion capable of adopting a critical and perspicacious attitude towards news reports, especially those that besmirch Islam and Muslims;
- f- Setting up merit awards for young scientists conducting practical research in bio-technology and water resources management;
- g- Examining the possibility of creating an Islamic early-warning network on natural disasters, and set up an emergency fund to help Member States face up to the effects of these disasters;
- h- Enlarging the Islamic education and Arabic language teaching programmes to cover Muslim minorities living in countries where the presence of Muslims is minimal compared to the numbers of their inhabitants;
- i- Taking advantage of modern technologies in consolidating cooperation and partnership among Member States, devising joint programmes, and creating communication networks to facilitate the exchange of expertise and experience and to develop the educational sector;
- j- Assigning further attention to literacy and education for all programmes, in such a way as to fulfil the needs of Member States and the requirements of global development;
- k- Promoting pre-school education and extending support to Member States to enable them to secure the prerequisites for this type of education;

- l- Identifying mechanisms of developing the teaching of the Arabic language and Islamic education in Islamic non-Arabic-speaking countries, and benefiting from studies and research centers in this respect;
- m- Granting further importance to special education and conducting a comprehensive review of the reality of educational curricula and teaching methods, with special emphasis on the development of the education of gifted students and centers for excellence in the Islamic world;
- n- Laying emphasis on the development of new information technologies, taking advantage from them in the field of education, integrating them in the educational equation in general, and benefiting from the modern information revolution.

20. In his response, the Director General first thanked the Council Members for their valuable remarks and proposals, stressing the intention of the General Directorate to take these remarks into consideration upon elaboration of the detailed Action Plan 2004-2006, as well as the proposals that will reach it in this respect by end of January 2003.

After deliberation, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 3.1 of the Agenda
(Broad lines of the Organization's
Three-Year Action Plan 2004-2006)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of Article (21) paragraph “e” of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having examined the Broad lines of the Organization's Draft Three-Year Action Plan 2004-2006, contained in document CE 23/2002/3.1,
- Having heard the presentation made by the Director General in this respect,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the observations made by the Council members,

Decides the following :

- 1-** Adopts the Broad Lines of the Organization's Draft Three-Year Action Plan 2004-2006, as contained in document CE 23/2002/3.1, taking into account the observations made by the Executive Council members as well as the proposals and observations to be communicated by the Member States no later than the end of January 2003;

- 2- Thanks the Director General and his assistants for the preparation of this document, and for the novel ideas it featured, as well as the efforts expended;
- 3- Mandates the Director General to take every action necessary to prepare the Draft Three-Year Action Plan 2004-2006, based on the Broad Lines of the Draft Three-Year Action Plan 2004-2006, taking into account the Council members and the Member States' observations and keeping in line with the Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009 and the Organization's strategies of reference.
- 4- Refers the Draft Three-Year Action Plan and Budget for the years 2004-2006 to the 24th Executive Council Session.

Item 3.2 of the Agenda :
Construction of the Organization's Headquarters
(Document C.E 23/2002/3.2)

21. The Director General gave a concise report on the measures taken by the General Directorate between the Twenty-second and the Twenty-third Sessions of the Council in connection with the construction of the new permanent headquarters of the Organization. In his report, he reviewed the various phases preceding the launching of the construction works in mid-June of 2002. He expressed his thanks and gratitude to the government of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Monarch of the Kingdom of Morocco for facilitating the tasks of the General Directorate when carrying out the first phases of the project. He also recalled that all the measures have been inspected by the Financial Control Committee, which confirmed their soundness.

The Council also took cognizance of the contacts made with senior officials and personalities with a view to securing additional financial assistance to complete the project which, God willing, will operate a distinct linchpin in the march of the Organization to achieve its noble goals. He concluded his presentation by extending his heartfelt thanks to the President of the General Conference and the Chairman of the Executive Council for their relentless support, to realize this momentous project.

22. At the end of the second working session, the Council members paid a field visit to the Organization headquarters' construction site in Rabat. They were able to view the progress of the construction works of this important civilizational project that will enable the Organization to develop its structures and improve its working conditions. On site, they were briefed by the experts and technicians, supervising the realization of this project. The Council member praised the efforts exerted by the Director General to meet the aspirations of Member States and realize a permanent headquarters living up to the prestige of the Islamic Organization.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 3.2 of the Agenda
(Construction of the Organization's Headquarters)**

The Executive Council,

- Recalling the previous resolutions and decisions taken by the General Conference and the Executive Council in this respect, notably Decision CE 22/2001/D 3.1 adopted by the Executive Council at its 22nd Session,
- Having considered the report of the Director General on the construction of ISESCO's headquarters contained in document CE 23/2002/3.2,
- Having taken stock of the status of construction works achieved so far,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Thanks the eminent personalities pledging donation to the construction of the permanent headquarters for the fulfilment of their commitments;
- 2- Thanks the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for the procedural facilitations offered to the Organization to start the construction works of the permanent headquarters.
- 3- Thanks the Director General and his assistants for the efforts they exerted to launch the construction works of the permanent headquarters and to follow them up.
- 4- Places this item on the agenda of the 24th Session of the Council;
- 5- Agrees to submit the matter to the forthcoming General Conference for consideration and action.

**Item 3.3 of the Agenda :
Setting up ISESCO's Regional Offices in the Member States
(Document C.E 23/2002/3.3)**

23. The Director General presented document C.E 23/2002/3.3 on setting up regional offices of the Organization in the Member States, in line with the resolution of the 7th General Conference and the decision of the 22nd Session of the Council on setting up a Regional Office for ISESCO in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, and inviting its competent authorities to approve the draft Seat Agreement and meet the requirements for opening regional offices of the Organization. He informed the Council that the final formulation of this Agreement was initialled and that the official signing of the Agreement and the inauguration of the headquarters of the regional office is scheduled for the beginning of the new year with the help of God.

The Director General also gave clarifications on the activities of ISESCO's Office in Sharjah. He pointed out that the Office required more time to take cognizance of the nature of the activities and working method of work of the Organization and bolstering it with the necessary expertise, prior to starting the implementation of these activities. He stated that the same applied to ISESCO's Regional Office in Tehran, expressing hope that those offices would reach the level of performance and efficiency required.

After deliberation, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 3.3 of the Agenda
(Setting up ISESCO's Regional Offices in the Member States)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of Article (2) of ISESCO's Charter,
- Recalling Decision CE 21/2000/D 4.1 taken by the Executive Council at its 21st Session, notably operative paragraph 1, which stipulates the adoption of the first part of the document concerning the study on opening ISESCO's regional Offices in Member States, as an organizational framework that would guide the action of the General Directorate in this respect,
- Recalling the General Conference Resolutions CG7/2000/R.3.4 (a) and (b) concerning the adoption of the study on the setting up of ISESCO regional offices and the conditions for opening the Regional Office in Tehran,
- Having considered the report contained in document CE 23/2002/3.3,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1-** Affirms the decisions of the Executive Council and the resolutions of the General Conference in connection with the conditions of opening ISESCO's Regional Offices in the Member States.
- 2-** Thanks the Islamic Republic of Iran for approving of the seat agreement for the Regional Office in Tehran, in accordance with the standard conditions adopted by the Executive Council and the General Conference.
- 3-** Invites the Islamic Republic of Iran to allocate independent, fully equipped premises to host the Regional Office, in accordance with the study adopted by the Council.

- 4- Invites the Director General to keep close contacts with the competent authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran to render the Regional Office operational as early as possible and in the best possible conditions.
- 5- Thanks the Director General and his assistants for their efforts in this respect.
- 6- Places this item on the agenda of the 24th Council Session.
- 7- Refers the matter to the forthcoming General Conference for consideration and action.

Fourth working session : Sunday, 9 Shawal 1423 A.H./14 December 2002 A.D.

Item 3.4 of the Agenda :
Project of establishing an Islamic satellite channel
(Document CE 23/2002/3.4)

24. The Director General made a brief presentation on the progress achieved in the project of creation of an Islamic satellite channel. He stated in this presentation that the Project had been submitted to the 3rd Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers held in Doha in December 2001, which adopted it and appealed to Member States to provide support for its implementation.

Subsequently, the Islamic Organization pursued its contacts with the State of Qatar to activate coordination and consultation in this regard, and addressed correspondence to all Member States inviting proposals for support to the creation of a satellite channel. The Islamic Organization then received notification of the formal decision by the State of Qatar to play host to the project and allocate a piece of land for the construction of the premises of the Islamic satellite channel.

He further indicated that the Organization intended to set up a joint commission with the relevant authorities in the State of Qatar, to be charged with studying and evaluating the proposals of Member States with regard to the forms of support to the creation of the channel, and of drawing up a report on these points to be submitted to the 24th Session of the Executive Council and the 8th General Conference of the Organization.

25. During discussions, the members of the Council reaffirmed the importance of the creation of a satellite channel, and made the following remarks and proposals :
- a- Securing the necessary financial support for the implementation of this project, and devising a clear-cut mechanism for the follow-up of its implementation, particularly in reference to the determination of the contribution of each state to its financing.

- b- Searching for sources of funding among charity institutions, civil society organizations, private sector institutions and Islamic banks and through the investment of Islamic waqf.
- c- Setting up a committee of experts to prepare an economic, technical and commercial feasibility study on the self-financing of the satellite channel.
- d- Guaranteeing the total independence of this channel by placing it under the supervision of the Organization to ensure that this channel would serve as an effective tool in achieving harmony and rapprochement among Muslims, away from any narrow political considerations.
- e- Broadcasting constructive programmes from channels in the Member States to foil the smear campaign against Islam and Muslims, pending the creation of this channel.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 3.4 of the Agenda
(Project of establishing an Islamic satellite channel)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Considering the proposal tabled by the State of Qatar concerning the examination by the Council of the project of establishing an Islamic satellite channel, and the ensuing contacts engaged between the competent Qatari authorities and the Islamic Organization,
- Having considered the report of the Director General on establishing an Islamic satellite channel,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Adopts the Document (CE23/2002/3.4) concerning the Project of establishing an Islamic satellite channel and invites the Director General to commission an expert committee to conduct a detailed study on the Channel, specifying its installation and operating costs, as well as the proposed shares of Member States in the funding of the project. The study should also explore the feasibility of collecting charitable and Islamic Waqf funds to support the project.

- 2- Invites the Director General to pursue cooperation with the competent parties in the State of Qatar and the other Member States with a view to implementing this project.
- 3- Thanks the State of Qatar for its support to the implementation of the Project of establishing the channel.
- 4- Places this item on the agenda of the 24th Session of the Executive Council.
- 5- Agrees to submit this project to the forthcoming General Conference Session.

Item 3.5 of the Agenda :
ISESCO's Perception of the Ways of Interacting with
the World Changes under its Action Plan for the Years 2001-2003
(Document CE 23/2002/3.5)

26. In his presentation of the document on ISESCO's perception of ways of interacting with the world changes, the Director General highlighted the general principles of the Islamic Organization's perception of the challenges facing the Islamic world and the ways to meet them within the framework of the scope of its competence, pursuant to the decision taken by the Executive Council at its 22nd Session in this connection and in line with the Charter of the Organization, the Medium-Term Plan for the year 2001-2009, the Three-Year Plan 2001-2003, the general orientations of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, the Strategy for Islamic Cultural Action in the West, and the Strategy for benefiting from Muslim Migrant Brains in the West, as this will prevent from going astray from the scopes of competence and from the principles set forth by the constitutional bodies of the Organization.

The Director General underlined in his presentation the current changes in the international order and their effects on Islamic societies and their cultures. He stressed the importance of positive self-criticism and its role in counteracting these campaigns and facing their outcome. He stated that this required the use of new working tools that would be more effective and appropriate to the Western institutional system, in order to bear influence on and bring it to serve the Ummah issues and accept more objective and just positions. This also requires the creative investment of the Islamic presence in the West and the mobilization of Muslims' large community abroad, through coordination with the cultural institutions in the West.

At implementation level, the Director General stated that the interaction with the international changes required sound and comprehensive planning, complementarity of the scopes, of action of the Organization's strategies and plans as well as the reinforcement of cooperation and partnership with international and regional

organizations. He underscored that the Organization will pursue its efforts to correct the image of Islam, promote dialogue between cultures and reinforce the culture of justice and peace, stating that it will present its visions, programmes and project to the honourable Council to be approved before submitting them to the General Conference for adoption.

27. During the discussions, the Council members expressed thanks to the Director General and to his assistants for the quality of the document presented, praising its deep and perspicacious vision on ways that the Organization projects to follow in interacting with the world changes. They made the following remarks :

- a- Expanding the campaigns to raise awareness of the Islamic values and of the greatness of the Islamic civilization to the African, Asian and South American people targeting, more particularly, the young generations, using the modern communication networks.
- b- Endeavouring, within the Islamic world itself, to exchange information, correct the image that Muslim people have about each other and deepen knowledge among States :
- c- Parting company with the defensive attitude and substituting it with the approach of revealing weaknesses in the other's culture and behavior tinged with double standards when it comes to issues of concern to the Islamic world.
- d- Consolidating the programmes of cultural, civilizational and religious dialogue between Muslims and the others.
- e- Making use of university and higher education institutions in the West as tributes to defend Islam and Muslims.
- f- Utilizing the media inside and outside the Islamic world to counteract hostile propaganda by some biased media and earmark financial resources thereto.
- g- Reversing the trend of identity globalization by spreading accurate knowledge about Islam and avoiding to yield to the West in its attempts to impose its terminology and tendentious propaganda.
- h- Issuing a communiqué on the Islamic world stand vis-à-vis the issues of justice, peace and terrorism.

28. The Director General stressed that the General Directorate shall endeavour to enrich the document on the perspective of the Organization as to the ways of interacting with International changes with suggestions and valuable ideas set forth by Members of the Council in this regard. He also underscored the need to convince

officials to take a strong and unified decision expressing the stance and the interests of Muslims to collectively operationalize its interaction with the international changes.

After deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 3.5 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's perception of ways of interacting with the world
changes under its Action Plan for the years 2001-2003)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Articles 23, 24 and 25 of the Charter,
- Recalling Decision CE 22/2001/D 3.7 taken by the Executive Council at its 22nd Session, notably operative paragraph 2, provides for special activities and programmes to be allocated by the Organization to this effect within its current Action Plan and Budget, and its future action plans,
- Having considered the document CE 23/2002/3.5 on ISESCO's perception of ways of interacting with the world changes under its Action Plan for the years 2001-2003,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Adopts the Document (CE23/2002/3.5) concerning ISESCO's perception of ways of interacting with the world changes under its Action Plan for the years 2001-2003, subject to introducing the observations, proposals and opinions expressed by the Executive Council members.
- 2- Invites the Director General to implement annual activities pertaining to the ways of interacting with the world changes within the framework of the current and future action plans.
- 3- Thanks the Director General and his assistants for preparing this document.

Item 3.6 of the Agenda :

**Modifying the designation of the Directorate of Planning, Follow-up and
Evaluation to the Directorate of Planning, Studies and Evaluation**

(Document CE 23/2002/3.6)

29. The Director General explained the reasons that drove the General Directorate to propose the Amendment to the Demonimation of the Planning, Follow-up and

Evaluation Directorate, in order to include the strategic studies within its competences and to enable the rational utilization of the results of these studies in upgrading the programmes and activities of the action plans, and the transferring of the mission of follow of the implementation of programmes to the Office of the Deputy Director General.

**Decision on Item 3.6 of the Agenda
(Modifying the designation of the Directorate of Planning, Follow-up
and Evaluation to the Directorate of Planning, Studies and Evaluation)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the following:
 - * Article 12 of the Charter,
 - * Article 21, paragraph “j” of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having considered the document (CE23/2002/3.6) presented by the Director General in this respect,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Approves of the amendment to the denomination of the Directorate of Planning, Follow-up and Evaluation to the Directorate of Planning, Studies and Evaluation as contained in Document (CE23/2002/3.6).
- 2- Thanks the Director General and his assistants for preparing this document.

**Item 4.1 of the Agenda :
Date and Venue of the Twenty-fourth
Session of the Executive Council**

30. The Chairman of the Council presented the document on setting the time and venue of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Council, then the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 4.1 of the Agenda
(Date and Venue of the Twenty-fourth
Session of the Executive Council)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of Article (10) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, whereby the Council shall set, during each one of its Sessions, the date and venue of the following session,

- In compliance with Article (21) of the Executive Council Rules of Procedure, stipulating that the Executive Council shall prepare for the meetings of the General Conference,
- Recalling Resolution (CG7/2000/R.6.1), adopted by the 7th General Conference (Rabat, 22-24/11/2000), regarding the venue and date of the 8th General Conference Session,
- Having considered document CE 23/2002/4.1,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- Convenes its Twenty-fourth Session of the Executive Council on the days preceding the 8th General Conference Session, in the second half of December 2003 in Tehran, capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Closing session : Sunday, 10 Shawal 1423 A.H./15 December 2002 A.D.

31. Having reviewed and examined the Draft Final Report, the Executive Council adopted the final report of its proceedings as contained in Document CE23/2002/F.R.
32. The floor was taken by Mr. Ibrahim Rabou, representative of the World Islamic Call Society in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. He conveyed to the Executive Council the greetings of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Sharif, Secretary of the World Islamic Call Society, commending by the same token the fruitful cooperation existing between the Organization and the Society, as well as the commitment of both sides to promote that cooperation for the general well-being of the Muslim Ummah.
33. The Council issued a communiqué on the Islamic world stand vis-à-vis the issues of peace, security and terrorism, in which it affirmed that the entire Muslim Ummah rejected jointly and severally terrorism, violence and extremism under all their forms, methods and formula and considered them as a mischief on earth, banned and incriminated by Islam.

(Annex 7: Communiqué on the Islamic world stand vis-à-vis the issues of peace, security and terrorism)

34. The Council also issued a communiqué on solidarity with the Palestinian people, in which it strongly condemned the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces in the Palestinian territories, and appealed to the international community, in general, and the international and regional organizations, in particular, to urgently move to reaffirm their collective condemnation of the settlement policy and criminal acts carried out by Israel against the Palestinian people.

(Annex 8 : Communiqué on solidarity with the Palestinian people)

35. As part of appreciation for the efforts exerted by both the Chairman of the Executive Council and the Director General of the Organization to promote peace culture, the representative of the Republic of Niger in the Council offered a symbolic present to them, in her capacity as Secretary General of a national association for the dissemination of justice and peace culture.
36. The representative of the Republic of Yemen in the Council offered a gift from Yeminite educationists to the Director General of the Organization, in recognition to the role he played in defence of the causes of the Muslim Ummah.
37. The Executive Council then addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco for his generous care and unstinting support to the Organization

*(Annex 9 : Text of the message addressed to His Majesty King
Mohammed VI Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco)*

38. H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, delivered an address at the close of the Session, in which he commended the successful efforts exerted by the Council members, as a single, complementary team. He thanked them for their unfailing support to the Organization and praised the positive results arrived at by the Council meetings.

He pointed out that the Muslim world was looking forward to its future with great concern and was in dire need for an organization in a position to advance the living standards of Muslim societies. He stressed that the Islamic Organization, owing to the renewed confidence and unstinting support of the Member States, would be able to shoulder the burden and carry on the march launched twenty years ago.

The Director General focussed on two documents, being the most instrumental in achieving a qualitative move towards a better future, with the grace of Allah, namely ISESCO's perception of the ways of interacting with the world changes, and the Broad lines of the prospective Three-Year Action Plan.

*(Annex 10 : Address by Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General
of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,
at the close of the proceedings of the 23rd Executive Council Session)*

39. At the close of the Session, the floor was taken by Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Ahmed Fares, Chairman of the Executive Council, who delivered an address in which he praised the positive results achieved by the 23rd Session of the Executive Council, reiterating his thanks to the Council members for their constructive contribution to the realization of those results, and wishing them a happy return back home.

List of annexes

- Annex 1 :** List of attending Executive Council members or their substitutes
- Annex 2 :** Address by H.E Mr. Khalid Alioua, Minister of Higher Education, Executive staff Training and Scientific Research in the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, President of ISESCO's Seventh General Conference.
- Annex 3 :** Opening address by Mr. Mohammad Abdullah Ahmad Fares, Secretary Geneal of The Board of Trustees of Khalifa bin Zayed Teacher's Award, Chairman of ISESCO's Executive Council.
- Annex 4 :** Opening address by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajjri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- Annex 5 :** Agenda of the Twenty-Third Session of the Executive Council.
- Annex 6 :** Programme of the Twenty-Third Session of the Executive Council.
- Annex 7 :** Communiqué on the Islamic world stand vis-à-vis the issues of peace, security and terrorism
- Annex 8 :** Communiqué on solidarity with the Palestinian people.
- Annex 9 :** Text of the message addressed to His Majesty King Mohammed VI Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco.
- Annex 10 :** Address by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajjri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at the close of the 23rd Council Session.