



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

Fourth Meeting **of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment** **& Senior Environmental Experts' Preparatory Meeting**

Final Report of the Ministerial Meeting



ISESCO Headquarters, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
13 Sha'aban 1438 A.H / 10 May 2017

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

- 1.** The Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment (IEBE) held its fourth meeting, at the ministerial level, on 13 Sha'aban 1438 A.H. / 10 May 2017, at the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in Rabat.
- 2.** The opening session was chaired by H.E. Dr Khalil bin Mosleh Al-Thaqafi, President of the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment; with the attendance of H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General; H.E. Mr Lahcen Daoudi, Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of General Affairs and Governance of the Kingdom of Morocco; H.E. Ambassador Muhammad Naeem Khan, Assistant Secretary General for Science and Technology of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC); their Excellencies the members of the IEBE; and a host of Islamic countries' ambassadors to Rabat.
- 3.** The meeting opened with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by an address by H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, wherein he welcomed their Excellencies the members of the IEBE, hailing the efforts exerted by H.E. Dr Khalil bin Mosleh Al-Thaqafi, President of the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, towards enhancing joint Islamic action in the environment and sustainable development. He also expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the sustained support it lends to the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and to the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment. In addition, Dr Altwaijri pointed to the significant progress made in joint Islamic action for the environment and sustainable development, fifteen years after the First Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers. He explained that this is clearly evidenced by the diverse and important items placed on the agenda of the 4th IEBE meeting, which would enhance Islamic solidarity, cooperation and coordination among the Member States

in a sector so vital for strengthening their operational, scientific and technological capacities in environmental protection and sustainable development, while hoping that the meeting would achieve its sought goals.

4. Then, H.E. Dr Khalil bin Mosleh Al-Thaqafi, President of the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, delivered an address in which he expressed his delight at the convening of the 4th IEBE meeting at ISESCO headquarters, commending the dedicated efforts exerted by H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, in invigorating the role of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment as well as the cooperation and support provided for joint Islamic action in the field of the environment. He also underscored the importance of the Executive Bureau's role in stepping up Islamic countries' efforts in addressing environmental issues, achieving sustainable development and preparing the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, while inviting the Bureau members to come up with recommendations that respond to the requirements of the present and forthcoming stages of joint Islamic action in the areas of the environment and sustainable development.
5. Afterwards, H.E. Ambassador Muhammad Naeem Khan, OIC Assistant Secretary General for Science and Technology, delivered an address in which he conveyed the greetings of His Excellency the OIC Secretary General to the Bureau, expressing his appreciation of the efforts put by H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, in the excellent arrangements for this meeting as part of preparations for the 7th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers. He also underlined the OIC Member States' growing concern for climate change and its effects such as floods, rise in sea levels, higher average temperatures and higher frequency of droughts. These threats, he explained, undermine Member States' ability to promote their peoples' sustainable development. In addition, Ambassador Khan stressed the need for Member States to step up their efforts to foster intra-OIC collaboration in order to implement the recommendations and commitments of the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change and carry out the OIC Plan of Action 2025 and the OIC Water Vision, while pointing to the role ISESCO can play in enhancing cooperation among Member States and OIC institutions in this connection, particularly in promoting sustainable development within green cities.

6. In his address to the IEBE, H.E. Mr Lahcen Daoudi, Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of General Affairs and Governance of the Kingdom of Morocco, welcomed the members of the IEBE and hailed the efforts of H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, in enhancing joint Islamic action for environment protection and sustainable development. He also underlined the importance of the environmental issues submitted to this meeting, on top of which is the project of the creation of the Islamic Academy for the Environment and Sustainable Development which the Moroccan competent ministry is intensifying its efforts to implement in cooperation and coordination with ISESCO General Directorate. In the same vein, Mr Daoudi expressed his hope that the meeting would come up with positive recommendations and decisions to achieve sustainable development for Islamic countries.
7. At the beginning of the main working session, the Vice-chairperson of the IEBE and the Rapporteur of the meeting were elected as follows:
 - **Vice-chairperson:** Republic of Cameroon.
 - **Rapporteur:** Malaysia.

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

8. Having listened to and discussed the presentations on the documents submitted to the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, including the report presented by the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco on the progress made in the establishment of the Islamic Academy for the Environment and Sustainable Development, and having taken stock of the recommendations of the Senior Experts' Meeting on the said documents, the Bureau members adopted the following decisions:
9. **Adopting the Report of the Director General on ISESCO's Efforts in the Fields of Environment and Sustainable Development between the 6th and 7th ICEM Sessions**, taking into consideration the observations of the Executive Bureau members; **inviting** ISESCO Director General to continue his efforts in the fields of environment protection and sustainable development, in coordination and consultation with the competent parties in the Member States and national, regional and international competent bodies, in such a way as to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); **inviting** Member States to benefit from the programmes and funding mechanisms of international competent institutions and

bodies; **commending** the role the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia plays in the implementation of the Islamic Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the generous financial support it provides for the convening of the respective sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, thus significantly contributing to their success; **and recommending** the adoption of this document by the Seventh Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

10. Calling for building on the “Draft Guidance Document on Green Cities and their Role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals” in the development of relevant national plans; **commending** the ongoing efforts in the Member States having opted for sustainable urban planning and development; **urging** the rest of Member States to prioritize sustainable urban development in their national policies and take the necessary legal measures to regulate green building projects, in line with the best international practices and in anticipation of the steady growth of cities in the decades to come; **recommending** greater cooperation and exchange of successful experiences in green urbanization with the aim of enhancing the capacity of existing cities to adapt to climate change; **inviting** Member States to adopt smart and sustainable city policies in construction, energy, transportation, waste recycling and water use, build the capacities of local governments in this field, protect forests and prevent their exploitation for urbanization purposes; **entrusting** ISESCO with devising a **“Programme for the Celebration of Islamic Capitals of the Environment and Sustainable Development”** to be placed under its supervision, and inviting it to prepare the Programme’s rationale and implementation mechanisms and to submit them to the forthcoming session of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, in coordination with the Chair of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment; **and recommending** the adoption of this document by the Seventh Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

11. Adopting the “Progress Report on the Creation of the OIC Water Council and its Terms of Reference”, taking into consideration the observations of the Executive Bureau members; **commending** the efforts devoted by the OIC General Secretariat and the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water to the creation of this Council, development of its statutes and definition of its terms of reference and working mechanisms; **inviting** Member States to support this Council in the implementation of water-related programmes in such a way as to enhance water resources management and climate change adaptation in the Islamic

world; **inviting** the OIC and ISESCO to coordinate water-focused joint Islamic action in order to uphold the Council's action in light of the “**Strategy for Integrated Management of Water Resources in the Islamic World**” and the “**OIC Water Vision 2025**”, in such a way as to contribute to ensuring water security for Islamic countries; **and recommending** the adoption of this report by the Seventh Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

12. Deeming the proposal of creating an “**OIC Joint Commission for Sustainable Development**” worthy of further reflection, and settling for the activation of the existing relevant mechanisms of the OIC and its affiliated institutions on top of which is the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment; **and recommending** the adoption of this proposal by the Seventh Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

13. Adopting the “**Report on ISESCO's Efforts in the 22nd Conference of the Parties on Climate Change and Preparation of the 23rd Session of the Conference**”, taking into consideration the observations of the Executive Bureau members; **commending** ISESCO's role in drafting and activating the “Islamic Declaration on Environment Protection and Sustainable Development” and publicizing it within the framework of the Islamic world's participation in the 21st Conference of the Parties in Paris; **lauding** ISESCO's efforts devoted to enforcing the resolutions of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, through the implementation of relevant programmes and activities for the benefit of Member States, and hailing its role in the preparations for the 22nd Conference of the Parties held in Marrakech; **urging** the Member States to engage in further joint action for activating the conventions on climate change and the mitigation of its effects and implementing the projects likely to ensure the necessary adaptation in this regard; **and recommending** the adoption of this report by the Seventh Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

14. Adopting the “**Progress Report on the Creation of the Islamic Academy for the Environment and Sustainable Development**”; **thanking** the Kingdom of Morocco for its sustained efforts towards the implementation of this major academic and developmental project, as well as for the logistic and technical measures taken, within the framework of the new vision of the Academy, towards providing its headquarters and developing its organizational structure and action programme; **inviting** the competent party in the Kingdom of Morocco to coordinate with ISESCO for pursuing the necessary practical measures for the creation of this Academy; **thanking** the

Director General for his follow-up to this subject with the competent parties in the Kingdom of Morocco; **and recommending** the adoption of this report by the Seventh Conference of Environment Ministers.

15. Adopting the “**Progress Report on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Award for Environmental Management in the Islamic World**”; **reiterating** thanks and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for the creation of the Award and for his kind consent as to expanding its scope to cover the Islamic world and entrusting its General Secretariat to ISESCO, in order to entrench the broad concept of environmental management and promote sustainable development in Islamic countries; **hailing** the efforts exerted by ISESCO and the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to effectively launch this Award in the Islamic world, starting from the current edition of 2016-2017; **commending** ISESCO’s role in assuming the General Secretariat of the Award, undertaking the organizational and technical arrangements for the implementation of its media plan, and ensuring the academic and technical supervision of the refereeing process, in cooperation and coordination with the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; **suggesting** creating a fifth category of the Award on “**Honoring the Best Environment-friendly Islamic City**”, in a bid to encourage the development of green cities in the Islamic world in line with the Guidance Document on Green Cities and their Role in Achieving Sustainable Development, and entrusting the Award’s General Secretariat with examining this proposal and developing a conceptual scenario in this regard to be submitted to the Award’s Higher Committee and to the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers for adoption; **and recommending** the adoption of this report by the Seventh Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

16. Adopting the “**Report on the Creation of the Joint Committee on the Executive Work Plan for Natural Disaster Risk Management in the Member States**”; **taking note of** the meetings held on the subject since the Sixth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, as well as of their outcomes; **and inviting** the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment to initiate further reflection on the creation of the Joint Committee on the Executive Work Plan for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in the Member States, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat and to submit a proposal on the subject to the Seventh Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

- 17. Adopting the Draft Amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment and the Draft Rules of Procedure of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers**, taking into consideration the observations of the Executive Bureau members; **and recommending** the adoption of both drafts by the Seventh Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.
- 18. Adopting the Draft Agenda of the 7th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers** in its attached version; **agreeing** that the Conference be convened at ISESCO headquarters, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 25-26 October 2017; **inviting** ISESCO to take all necessary arrangements for the convening of the Conference, in cooperation with the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and in coordination with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the competent parties in the Kingdom of Morocco; **and entrusting** the Director General of ISESCO and the Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, with submitting a request to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco seeking his consent to place the Conference under his high patronage and entrust Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa, President of the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, with chairing its opening session.
- 19.** At the close of its meeting, the Executive Bureau addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, expressing appreciation for his unfailing support to the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, the IEBE and ISESCO in their efforts to foster joint Islamic action for the environment. The message also commended His Majesty's support for the creation of the Islamic Academy for the Environment and Sustainable Development, the civilizational project initiated by Morocco with the purpose to boost joint Islamic action and Islamic solidarity in all fields.
- 20.** Another message of gratitude and appreciation was addressed by the Bureau to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, in recognition of the continued support given by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers and to the IEBE and for his approval to expand the scope of the KSA Award for Environmental Management to cover the Islamic world and entrust ISESCO with its general secretariat to help boost research on the environment and foster joint Islamic environmental action.