

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## *Final Communiqué*

At the invitation of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization- ISESCO- and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, with generous hosting by the latter, and in coordination with the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Islamic Conference of Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministers convened -with the grace of Allah- its second session in Tripoli, on 9-12 Rajab 1424 A.H / 6-9 September 2003. The Conference was attended by representatives of a number of Arab, Islamic and international organizations, in addition to a host of senior officials from the Great Jamahiriya and leading information and cultural figures.

H.E. Dr. Shukri Ghanem, Secretary of the General People's Committee, honoured the Conference by chairing the opening session and addressing a lofty message to the participants, in which he ,first, welcomed the participating delegations and expressed thanks to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the excellent preparation of the Conference and for its invaluable efforts exerted to elaborate the projects and reports under review.

He, then, stressed the importance of the subjects and items included in the agenda of the Conference session, inviting the Conference members to take every measure and agree on all appropriate arrangements liable to help promote science and technology in the Islamic world. He, further, urged the Conference members to foster coordination and mutual counselling among higher education and scientific research institutions to gear their policies and priority action to developmental applications of scientific research, thereby securing linkage between apex centers and the basic needs of Muslim countries and communities, keeping in line with the precepts of the righteous religion of Islam. He concluded by reviewing the mainstays of the Great Jamahiriya's policies and action in the field of higher education and scientific research, especially in terms of support to scientific institutions, human resource development and encouragement of research, publication and exchange of expertise among institutions and bodies inside and outside the Islamic world. His Excellency the Secretary of the General People's Committee, finally, praised the efforts exerted by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in its various fields of competence, notably in terms of promoting education and scientific research in the Islamic world.

His Excellency the Secretary of the General People's Committee concluded by reiterating his thanks to the Islamic Organization and to the Conference members, wishing them full success.

The floor was then taken by His Excellency Dr. Khaled Mohamed Al- Ankary, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the First Islamic Conference of Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministers. He conveyed to the Conference the greetings of the Custodian of the Two

Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al- Saud and his best wishes of success. He also conveyed the greetings of H.R.H Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and First Deputy Premier, Commander of the National Guard, along with the greetings of the Second Deputy Premier, Aviation and defense Minister, Inspector General H.R.H Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz. Further still, he addressed his thanks to the Great Jamahiriya and to the Islamic Organization-ISESCO- for the efforts exerted to ensure perfect preparation of the Conference and its relevant documents.

H.E. the Minister also noted the importance of the results achieved by the First Islamic Conference of Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministers, held in Riyadh, capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in Rajab 1421 A.H/ October 2000, being an additional building block supporting the edifice of joint Islamic action in terms of education and science, and further being a natural springboard for the activities of an integrated system of specialized Islamic bodies in the field of higher education and scientific research, intended to promote the cultural, scientific and social aspects of life in the Member States . Dr. Al-Ankary also highlighted the cardinal link between this event and the First Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers convened in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in Rabia II 1423 A.H/ June 2002, affirming the role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the service of the supreme interests of the Muslim Ummah.

The Saudi Minister of Higher Education lauded the efforts expended by the Organization to implement the resolutions of the First Islamic Conference and convene the successive sessions of the Consultative Council with a view to implementing the Strategy for Development of Science and Technology in Islamic Countries, and consolidating coordination and consultation between the Member States and the specialized organizations, the purpose being to promote scientific and technological standards in the Islamic world.

In conclusion, he reiterated his appreciation for the Jamahiriya and for the Islamic Organization, and wished the new Chairman of the Conference all success in discharging his mission.

The floor was then taken by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO-. He first expressed his gratitude to the Great Jamahiriya for playing host to the Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and then addressed his heartfelt thanks to the Leader of the 1<sup>st</sup> September Revolution, Brother Muammar Kaddafi, for his generous care of the Organization and his lavish, unstinting support to its programmes and projects. The Director General also thanked H.E. Dr. Khaled Mohamed Al- Ankary, Minister of Higher Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the First Islamic Conference, for the support extended to the Organization and for the untiring efforts exerted during his chairmanship of the Conference in a bid to implement the resolutions and recommendations of the said Conference and to follow up the preparation for convening the Second Conference Session. He further expressed his gratitude to the General Secretariat of the OIC, headed by H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz and represented at the Conference by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ghazali, Assistant Secretary General for Cultural and Information Affairs, for their availability to cooperate with ISESCO in line with the instructions of H.E. the Secretary General.

The Director General pointed out that the second session of the Islamic Conference of Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministers was held at a very critical juncture characterised by international circumstances and mutations when the brutal attack on the Islamic religion and civilization, and on Moslem individuals has been assuming alarming proportions, so much so that terrorism, condemned by all of us and incriminated by our munificent religion, has become a pretence for hostile parties to hold as a culprit the whole of our nation and civilization, seeking to undermine the solidarity of the Islamic Ummah, rive it apart and take over its capabilities.

He added that the countries of the Islamic world have been used to investigating, during their conferences and encounters, the conditions in such countries as Palestine, Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, and Kashmir, but now they faced a new tragedy, that is the foreign occupation of Iraq, the corollary deteriorating situation of its people and the tribulation they were going through. We are, therefore, looking forward, with great concern, that Iraq would, with the evacuation of the foreign occupation forces, recover its integral freedom and independence, yoke in joint Islamic action with its brethren and resume its endeavours in the service of the major interests of the Islamic world. Our expectation is also that the international community will take a hard-line stance towards Israel's blatant breach of international law, its continuous occupation of the Arab lands of Palestine, Syria and Lebanon, the injustice and appalling brutality with which it treats the Palestinian people, the siege it levies on the Palestinian cities and villages, the racist wall it erected rendering the Palestinian cities and villages sheer patchwork where Palestinians were imprisoned and deprived from their very basic human rights in their own spoiled land. Indeed, a firm attitude should be taken as regards the non-commitment of the State of Israel to the United Nations Resolutions, and its reluctance, as if it were exempted from abiding by international law.

He stressed that if we openly recognised the huge disparities between us and the developed world as regards science and technology, it was because the plain truth was a prerequisite for a transparent and sound approach to address modern times' issues in general, a fact which compelled us to step up efforts - within the framework of the strong Islamic solidarity pinned on mutual understanding and convergence of opinion - and to brace ourselves to take up the major challenges that involved serious risks putting our present and future, as well as the future of coming generations at stake.

His Excellency the Director General concluded by reiterating his thanks to each of the Great Jamahiriya, the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Chairman of the First Conference Session and the participants, wishing them full success.

The OIC Assistant Secretary General in charge of Cultural and Information Affairs, representing the Secretary General, took the floor and conveyed to the participants the greetings of the Secretary General before expressing his thanks and gratitude to the leadership, government and people of the Great Jamahiriya for the generous hosting and warm welcome. He, likewise, expressed his thanks to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the excellent preparation of the Conference and its scientific papers and documents, thanking all the while the Member States and organizations which kindly responded to the invitation and attended the Conference.

The Assistant Secretary General also highlighted the critical importance of convening this conference session at this very juncture, given the formidable challenges levelled at humanity and the negative repercussions of current world events on the development process, at large, and on higher education and scientific research in particular.

He affirmed the responsibilities devolved on the governments of Member States and Arab, Islamic and international organizations, in terms of taking up these challenges and fostering cooperation and partnership within the framework of Islamic solidarity and mutual international support, in a bid to give substance to the implementation mechanisms of the Strategy for Development of Science and Technology in the Islamic Countries and to bring to fruition the projects adopted by the Consultative Council on this Strategy.

The OIC official also commended the projects on the agenda of the conference, pointing out that, once adopted, these projects will build up the linchpin of the scientific and technological resurgence of the Islamic world. They will also offer a strong base of joint scientific and technological Islamic action geared to promoting the generous contribution of the Muslim Ummah and to cope with present and future requirements.

He concluded by reiterating his thanks to the Great Jamahiriya, to the Islamic Organization and to the participating delegations, wishing the conference every success.

The floor was then taken by H.E. Dr. Mounji Bousneina, Director General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO). In the outset of his address, he conveyed his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to both the Great Jamahiriya for its generous hosting of the Conference and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the kind invitation addressed to him to attend the Conference and for the perfect preparation of the Conference's documents and projects. He praised the efforts expended by the Great Jamahiriya to step up joint Arab and Islamic action and to promote higher education and scientific research, highlighting, by the same token, the contribution of scientific research to development and to the achievement of progress and prosperity of peoples and nations.

The Director General of ALECSO reviewed the major axes of joint cooperation between his Organization and ISESCO in the field of higher education and scientific research, materializing in the organization of a number of seminars and specialized symposia, as well as publication of guidebooks in the fields of energy applications in the Arab and Islamic world and development-oriented technological applications. Dr. Bousneina also made a presentation of the guidelines and major programmes and projects of ALECSO in the field of higher education and scientific research, reviewing the activities and action of the Organization in this area.

In the close of his address, the Director General of ALECSO reiterated his thanks to the Great Jamahiriya and to the Islamic Organization (ISESCO), wishing the Conference every success.

After the opening session, the Conference elected its bureau as follows :

- **Chairman** : Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,
- **Vice-chairmen** :
  - Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, representing the Asian region,
  - Republic of the Gambia, representing the African region,
  - State of Palestine, representing the Arab region,
- **Rapporteur** : Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Then, Dr. Ali Essayegh, Director General of the World Renewable Energy Network, delivered the key scientific lecture of the conference on "*World Renewable Energy Scenarios and its Sustainable Development*".

In the outset of the working sessions, and upon adoption of the draft agenda of the conference and its draft programme, the floor was successively taken by the ministers as well as representatives of the Member States and the Arab, Islamic and international organizations, who expressed their appreciation for the Great Jamahiriya and the Leader of its Revolution, brother Muammar Kaddafi. They also commended the invitation extended to them by the Islamic Organization to attend the conference, and affirmed that it was an auspicious occasion for the Member States and the competent organizations to promote fruitful co-operation and constructive partnership, with a view to promoting science and technology in the Islamic world, within the framework of the Strategy for Development of Science and Technology in the Islamic Countries and its implementation mechanisms.

The members of the conference also examined the reports, strategic projects and issues placed on the agenda, being judiciously conscious of the necessity to master science, and to have under control new technology mechanisms, systems and applications, gearing them to developmental uses while observing Islamic precepts and acting in accordance with the ethical and human principles.

The conference also noted with satisfaction the efforts directed by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- towards following up implementation of the resolutions and recommendations issued at the previous session of the conference, and commended the achievements obtained in this respect. It also affirmed the necessity to pursue these efforts and promote co-ordination and mutual counselling with a view to consolidating these achievements and fulfilling the growing requirements of the countries of the Islamic world as regards science and technology, and to confront the formidable challenges facing the Islamic world, taking into consideration the special juncture through which science is wading at the present time.

The conference also discussed the reports submitted by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- on the implementation of the activities between the first and second sessions, in the areas of higher education and scientific research. Further still, it discussed the project of the Islamic Centre for Promotion of Scientific Research recommended to be set up by the First Conference and entrusted by the Islamic Organization to take every necessary measure in this connection. It also considered the project of the Islamic Body on Ethics of Science and Technology, the Draft Strategy for Water Resources Management in the Islamic Countries, the Draft Strategy for Development of Biotechnology in the Islamic Countries, and the report of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World.

In this regard, the Islamic Conference **adopted** the Report of the Director General of the Islamic Organization on the implementation of activities between the first and second sessions of the conference, commending the achievements of the Organization in fields of higher education and scientific research during this period, and calling upon it to further its efforts in this respect. It also stressed the necessity to activate the role of the institutions of higher education and scientific research in promoting society, improving performance of the educational system, enhancing the quality of educational

institutions in the Islamic countries and upgrading the skills of human resources involved. The Islamic Conference, likewise, exhorted the governments of Member States to draw up comprehensive policies geared to reforming higher education systems and updating their theoretical foundations, modernizing their strategic orientations, promoting the conditions for scientific research and developing institutions and structures, in order to keep abreast of the structural developments and the ever-accelerating technical mutations, taking advantage of the expertise of the Islamic Organization, and other specialized organizations and institutions.

Further still, the Conference **urged** Member States to integrate higher education, as well as scientific research and its findings in the production process, ensure linkage of the institutions of higher education and scientific research with the industrial sectors, benefit from the academic and scientific expertise concerning economic and social development, and work towards the utilization of information and communication technology, in order to infuse the overall development process with a fresh impetus. It also stressed the promotion of renewable and environmentally safe energy resources, utilizing all possible sources like solar, hydraulic, bio-mass, wind, etc. Moreover, the Conference recommended the Member States to encourage youth and women role in promotion of science and technology, and draft necessary policies for women resource development suitable for knowledge based society.

Besides, the Islamic Conference **condemned** Israeli aggressions and criminal acts against Palestinian universities, higher education and scientific research institutions. It also invited Member States, Arab, Islamic and international organizations to support the efforts directed by the State of Afghanistan towards promoting its higher education, scientific research institutions and human resources. On the other hand, it urged Iraq to finalize the establishment of its constitutional and executive institutions, in order to enable universities, higher institutes and scientific research bodies to discharge their mission most properly under national sovereignty and independence.

Moreover, the Conference **approved** the establishment of ISESCO's Centre for Promotion of Scientific Research, as part of the organizational chart of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO-, urging Member States to extend all forms of financial and technical support to ISESCO's Centre for Promotion of Scientific Research, and appealing to their universities and scientific institutions to collaborate and maintain contacts with the Centre, in order to help it discharge its mission and properly achieve its desired objectives.

Moreover, the Islamic Conference **endorsed** the creation of the Islamic Body on Ethics of Science and Technology, which will work within the framework of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO-, emphasizing the importance of highlighting the Islamic perspective of ethics in the fields of science and technology, and publicizing the sound Islamic concepts in this connection, as well as the contribution of Islamic culture and ancient and contemporary Muslim scholars to the consecration of the ethical rules and principles in the fields of science and technology, and further stressed the importance of promoting the role of concerned and interested specialized institutions in the Islamic world, with a view to raising awareness about the importance of this issue.

The Conference also **invited** the Member States to establish a comprehensive and integrated legislative and legal system, liable to ensure respect for the rules of ethics and good demeanor in the field of science and technology along with their applications, promoting and updating this system, and securing follow-up of its enforcement, while monitoring the various forms of relevant practices and experiences in accordance with the Islamic precepts and international laws and customs.

The Conference also **adopted** the Strategy for Management of Water Resources in Islamic Countries, taking into account the observations of the members of the Conference, and invited the Islamic Organization to work out implementation mechanisms of the Strategy for Management of Water Resources in Islamic Countries and to submit them to the following Conference.

Moreover, it **assigned further attention** to the reinforcement of the institutional and human capacities in the scientific, research-related, cultural and legislative spheres, with a view to promoting the development of mechanisms for water management and integrating the information technology into the preservation of water, maintaining its quality, and improving techniques for its distribution, exploitation, discharging and recycling, with a view to taking up the common challenges facing all Islamic States, as regards the deterioration of natural resources. Emphasis was put on the necessity to take into account the environmental specificities, priorities and requirements of the regions of the Islamic world, seeing to it that their efforts be complementary and that their endeavours be coordinated.

The Conference also **adopted** the Strategy for Development of Biotechnology in the Islamic Countries, taking into account the observations made by members of the Conference. In this respect, it invited the Islamic Organization to elaborate the implementation mechanisms of the Strategy for Development of Biotechnology in the Islamic Countries, and submit them to the forthcoming conference session, and called for improvement of bio-safety protocol and establishment of bio-safety information networks and advisory services, in order to control misuse of technology and keep people and environment safe from harmful effects.

The Conference also **called upon** Member States to attach due attention to upgrading human capacities in the field of biotechnology, through working towards setting up research centres and training laboratories, and by way of granting scholarships and conducting training sessions and elaborating qualification-oriented programmes, in order to benefit researchers, experts and officials, as well as partners from concerned sectors. The Conference also emphasized the importance to highlight the Islamic perception of biotechnology-related issues and to draw up reference studies, and convene encounters of experts in this field, with the objective of controlling scientific orientations and applications, in accordance with the Islamic precepts and relevant jurisprudence developed by the scholars of the Ummah.

The Conference also **adopted** the Report of the Secretary General of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW) on implemented activities, commending the efforts directed by the Federation's Secretary General and his assistants towards developing the Federation's action, increasing the number of its Member Universities, and implementing the Federation's activities between the first and second sessions of the Conference. It also underlined the pioneering role of the FUIW,

as a specialized body supporting universities and assimilated higher education institutions in the Islamic world, and called upon the Federation to establish closer relations with the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its bodies involved in higher education and scientific research, as well as the Islamic universities affiliated to it, with a view to promoting cooperation and partnership in priority fields.

Thereafter, the Conference **called upon** the national institutions mandated in the fields of higher education and scientific research in the Member States to provide material and technical support for the FUIW, urging them to encourage universities, higher institutes and scientific research bodies to promote cooperation and partnership with the Federation.

**Commending** the two projects of the virtual Islamic University and the FUIW's Chairs in Member Universities, the Islamic Conference called upon the Federation to continue its efforts to carry out these two pioneering projects, thanking, on the same occasion, the universities that agreed to host them and urging universities, higher institutes and scientific research bodies to support these two projects and shore up relevant efforts exerted by the Secretariat of the Federation.

In this connection, the Conference approved the project of issuing an ID card for students in the Islamic world's universities and urged the specialized national bodies in Member States to facilitate its adoption and recognition, calling, at the same time, upon the universities in the Islamic countries to consider it valid and publicize it so that it would be widely used, and entrusting the Secretariat of the FUIW with the follow-up of the implementation of this project.

Being thankful to the previous members of the Consultative Council for implementation of the Strategy for Development of Science and Technology in the Islamic Countries for the efforts they extended during their mandate, the Islamic Conference **elected** the new members of the Consultative Council and called upon the Islamic Organization to pursue follow-up of the proceedings of the Council, providing it with necessary support, in order to help it effectively assume its responsibilities, in coordination with the Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Finally, the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research **decided** to entitle the Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to coordinating with the Member States for the holding of the third session of the Conference in 2006.

Upon conclusion of its proceedings, the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research **addressed** a message of thanks and consideration to brother Muammar Kadhafi, Leader of the Great Al-Fateh Revolution.