

**Final communiqué  
of the Third Islamic Conference of  
the Ministers of Higher Education  
and Scientific Research**

*State of Kuwait - 19-21 November*

With the help of Allah, the Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research convened its third session, in Kuwait-city, over the period between 18 Shawal and 1 Zul Qida 1427, corresponding to 19-21 November 2006, under the high patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, may Allah preserve him. The Conference was held under the slogan "**Scientific and Technological Excellence-Key to Progress and Prosperity**", and was attended by all the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, except for the following States: Albania, Guyana, Suriname, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Iraq, the Maldives and Mozambique.

The opening session was presided over by His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, on behalf of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait who extended his patronage to the Conference. The session was attended by a number of Their Excellencies the Ministers of the Government of the State of Kuwait, His Excellency Dr Ali Akbar Salhi, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Their Excellencies the Ministers of the Kuwaiti Government, the representatives of Islamic, Arab and international organizations, the ambassadors of the Member States, and a number of prominent personalities.

His Excellency Dr Adel Tabtabae, Minister of Higher Education in the Government of the State of Kuwait and Chairman of the third session of the conference, delivered the opening address in which he welcomed the members of the conference and the representatives of participating organizations, pointing up the importance of the issues on the agenda. He stated that these issues, taken as a whole, constitute major concerns both to us and to developing societies in all world countries, in general, stressing that cooperation among the states of the Islamic world is one of the requisites for developing our societies in all fields, and that the promotion of scientific and technological research would provide a sound basis for success of an integrated, balanced sustainable development.

His Excellency also said that devising mechanisms for the implementation of the Strategy for Development of Biotechnology in the Islamic Countries, adopted by the conference in its previous session, constitutes a significant step forward. He added that the Draft Strategy on the Promotion of University Education in the Islamic World, submitted to this conference, is by all academic, artistic and scientific

standards an important achievement we have longed for since many years ago. This Strategy will be a support to the Strategy for Developing Education in the Islamic countries, which will be submitted to the upcoming General Conference of ISESCO to adopt its amended version.

The Chairman of the Conference underlined that the prevention of migration of scientific competencies from the countries of the Islamic world - the conference will debate a draft action plan on it - is an issue of major concern to developing countries. He added that it is also a subject that has many ramifications and inter-related components and causes that need to be considered from a wide angle, and not only from a merely scientific and academic one. The conference will undoubtedly devote a great interest to this action plan, considering the vital aspect of the issue and the pressing need to address it and to come out with a judicious resolution that takes in account these considerations.

Afterwards, His Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, the Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO-, made an address which he started by extending grateful thanks and appreciation to the Amir, Government and people of the State of Kuwait. He stated that the Islamic world is expecting a successful outcome of this conference, just as it looks forward to any Islamic common initiative or action. He also stated that we are keen that the conference would come out with positive results, which will consolidate the great action carried out by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, a specialized body of the Organization of the Islamic Conference -OIC- enjoying the confidence and support of all the Member States.

The Director General added in his address that promotion of science and technology is the only way conducive to comprehensive sustainable development, that scientific and technological excellence is key to progress and prosperity in all fields, and that cooperation and concerted efforts in this vital field constitute a collective duty and a fundamental necessity for upgrading the Islamic world and opening up to the good prospects offered by scientific and technological progress in the world.

The Director General stated that scientific research in the Islamic world is below the level required to set up firm foundations for scientific and technological progress in all areas of science. He noted that the rate of public expenditure on scientific research in most Member States does not exceed 1% of the Gross Domestic Product, and that this rate is sharply decreasing in some Member States to be at or below 0.5%. He warned that such a situation seriously affects the present and future of the Islamic world, and puts increased responsibility on us towards the peoples of our Ummah, who aspire to resume a new civilizational cycle, drawing on the scientific basis which is a prerequisite for the progress of any nation.

Furthermore, the Director General of ISESCO stated that our Ummah has the lowest levels of scientific and technological development among all nations and suffers from poor scientific infrastructure at all levels. He equally said that the Islamic Ummah lacks not only the solid scientific, civilizational foundations needed to form the general civilizational edifice, but the strong interest in keeping pace with the latest

scientific and technological developments, as well. In this regard, he called for rising to the great challenges we are facing, through strengthening and developing our universities quantitatively and qualitatively, enhancing scientific cooperation, and consolidating Islamic solidarity and elaborating it in action plans and strategies, which is part of the competence of this conference and one of the top priorities of the Islamic Organization -ISESCO-.

Then His Excellency Dr Ibrahim Zarrouk Sharif, Chairman of the Second Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Secretary of the General People's Committee for Higher Education in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, gave an address in which he highlighted that the overriding importance of higher education and scientific research has gained wide currency all over the world, especially after the great scientific revolution underwent by contemporary world since the second half of last century, and the ensuing breakthrough in communication and information technologies. He also underlined the special importance of the sector of higher education and scientific research in the countries of the Islamic world, considering that they face very sensitive and complicated scientific challenges, topped by the pressing need to acquire technology and the means of scientific and technological progress.

During the opening session, His Excellency Dr Ali Akbar Salhi, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, pointed up the challenges facing the States of the Islamic world in the field of education, and knowledge and information technology. He stressed the need to step up efforts to face these challenges through the enforcement of the mechanisms for cooperation and keeping pace with the latest developments in that field. By the same token, he highlighted the importance of the contribution being made by ISESCO and the Federation of the Universities of Islamic World to support the efforts of the OIC Member States, particularly in the field relating to the development of higher education and the promotion of scientific research.

His Excellency stated that the OIC Ten-Year Action Programme devotes special care to the issues pertaining to the promotion of education, higher education and scientific research in the Islamic world.

The floor was then given to Her Excellency Dr Rasha Al Sabah, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait, head of the conference organizing committee. She stated that the State of Kuwait takes pride in fulfilling its duty of hosting the Third Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research. She added that the conference is a case in point of the highest levels of coordination and cooperation ISESCO maintains in order to enforce the strategic working document defining the ways to promote applied sciences and to make the best use of high technology, in line with the Islamic values and principles; the ultimate aim is to ensure smooth access to the third millennium and face the technological and scientific challenges.

Thereafter, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti Prime Minister, awarded **ISESCO Prizes for Science** for the year 2006 to:

Sagyndykova Sofiya Zulkarnaevna from the Republic of Kazakhstan in Biology; Pr. Mojtaba Shamsipur from the Islamic Republic of Iran in Chemistry; Pr. Alaa El-din R. Mostafa from the Arab Republic of Egypt in Geology; Dr Hameed Ahmed Khan from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Physics; and Dr Fazilah Fazan from Malaysia in Technology, whereas Dr Mohamed Salou Diané from the Republic of Guinea was awarded a prize of excellence in Technology.

In appreciation of the efforts they have been making to support the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), His Excellency the Director General, Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, awarded **ISESCO Gold Medal** to His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti Prime Minister; and **ISESCO First Order Medal** to His Excellency Dr Adel Tabtabae, Minister of Higher Education; to His Excellency Dr Ibrahim Zarrouk Sharif, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Chairman of the Second Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research; and to Her Excellency Dr Rasha Al Sabah, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait.

Afterwards, a cooperation programme was signed among the following universities affiliated to the OIC: the Islamic University of Niger, the Islamic University of Uganda, the International Islamic University of Malaysia, and the Islamic University for Technology in Bangladesh.

Then a cooperation programme was signed between the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH).

Following the opening session, His Excellency Dr Adnan Badran, former Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, keynote speaker in the conference, gave a lecture on the subject: "**Science and Technology in the Islamic World: Reality and Prospects**".

Afterwards, an official ceremony was held to mark the opening of the Scientific Excellence Exposition in the presence of the members of conference and participating personalities.

After the official opening session and the key-note address, the conference convened a procedural session, during which the draft agenda and the draft programme were adopted, and the members of the bureau were elected as follows:

- **Chairman:** The State of Kuwait
- **Vice-chairmen:**
  - \* Republic of Guinea;
  - \* Malaysia;
  - \* Republic of Lebanon.
- **Rapporteur:** The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Thereafter, Dr Mongi Bousnina, Director General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization -ALECSO-; Dr Abdelkebir Alaoui Mdaghri, Director General of the Bait-mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency; Dr Eva Egron-Polak, Secretary General of the International Association of Universities; all delivered addresses on behalf of Arab, Islamic and international organizations.

During the general sessions, the members of the conference presented their reports on their Governments' efforts in the conference fields of competence, towards the promotion of higher education and scientific research, and the laying down of a solid basis for educational resurgence, in line with national policies and the vision of each country.

The conference took note of the statements and reports made by the Member States and the Arab, Islamic and international organisations, in relation to higher education and scientific research, and urged them to pursue their endeavours to promote higher education and scientific research, taking into consideration priority needs, general policies and available resources.

Furthermore, the Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- presented his report on ISESCO's efforts in the field of the promotion of higher education and scientific research, and reviewed the achievements made by the Islamic Organization and the projects and activities it implemented between the two sessions. He recalled that ISESCO accorded great attention to the field of promoting critical technologies in the Member States, and convened, to that end, a series of training sessions and workshops in the various fields of modern technologies, especially nanotechnologies, biotechnology and mechatronics. He stated that these activities benefited the staff of universities and the concerned institutions, and aimed at providing them with the necessary skills and developing their knowledge about new discoveries. Likewise, he referred to the pioneering initiatives taken by ISESCO to support scientific parks in the Member States, which assume a key role in developing scientific and technological capacities, signaling that these programmes focused on the ways to develop the management of science and technology parks, through addressing their managers and providing them with useful information on the structure, objectives, content and expected results of these parks. Similarly, His Excellency referred to the establishment of a network of science and technology parks, highlighting the action led by ISESCO to promote women's role in the field of science and technology, through offering women the opportunity to engage in science and technology programmes. In that respect, the Director General stated that ISESCO has developed special programmes destined to help women to have access to good education and vocational training, and encouraged the establishment of scientific associations for women as well as chairs for female scientists. In the same vein, he pointed out that ISESCO has taken a special interest in the promotion of social and human sciences, and allocated grants in the field of research, with the aim of finding sustainable, effective solutions to the social and human problems facing our societies.

The Director General of ISESCO, Secretary General of the Federation of Universities of Islamic World, presented his report on the implementation of the Federation activities between the two sessions.

In a convivial atmosphere marked by a deep sense of responsibility, the conference debated a set of studies, strategies and plans devised by the Islamic Organization, in the light of the changes witnessed by the world in the field of higher education and scientific research, and in response to the requirements of development and modernization needed to promote Islamic societies, and to achieve high levels of comprehensive sustainable development in the countries of the Islamic world.

**In addition, the Conference adopted the report of the Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and cultural Organization on ISESCO's efforts in the field of the promotion of higher education and scientific research, taking into account the observations made by the members of the conference. It further adopted the report of the Third Meeting of the Consultative Council for the Implementation of the Strategy for Development of Science and Technology in Islamic Countries,** and urged Member States to renew their commitments to scientific and technological development, to accord it a top priority in national development plans and to contribute at least 1% of their GDP to the promotion of science and technology; the Conference also recommended the Member States to take practical steps to ensure a speedy transformation of their economies into knowledge-based ones, to promote the integration of information and communication technologies in various fields, to bridge the digital divide and to better prepare themselves to meet international standards. Besides, it appealed to ISESCO to mobilize technological support from the industrialized countries through its links and agreements with international scientific bodies in order to enable the least developed countries to address current challenges.

Moreover, the Conference called upon the Member States to strengthen their national systems of innovation and devote special attention to gearing the results of scientific and technological research to the achievement of economic benefits through organizing trade fairs/exhibitions, publishing books on new research products and preparing software for introducing scientific research findings to attract entrepreneurs.

Further still, the Conference recommended Member States to intensify their efforts in the adoption of new technologies such as nanotechnologies, mechatronics, automation and photonics, through strengthening or creating centres of excellence and adopting appropriate education policies in order to meet the needs for human resources and keep up with recent developments. Moreover, it strongly urged the Member States to devote increased attention to developing the scientific career of the youth, especially girls, through providing appropriate training in socio-economic activities as well as career development and making for their active involvement in scientific and technological development. It also urged the Member States to strengthen their mutual cooperation to implement the Ten-Year Programme of Action of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and to provide the facilities necessary

to implement relevant programmes and activities, with a view to implementing the 1441 vision and providing the financial resources to that end.

**The Conference also adopted the Draft Study on the Ways to Enhance Scientific and Technological Cooperation among the Countries of the Islamic World** prepared in cooperation with by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO-, and COMSTECH, taking into consideration the observations made by the members of the conference. It equally urged the Member States as well as scientific and technological institutions and scientists to extend their expertise, support and cooperation to make the Web Portal a real forum for scientific interaction and coordination in the Muslim World. Furthermore, it calls upon Member States to coordinate with ISESCO in its efforts to update information on the roster of Muslim experts, directories of universities, scientific and technological institutions and academies, and to actively participate in the scientific groups of ICPSR Web Portal.

Moreover, the Conference invited ISESCO to coordinate and consult with the Member States to update their main national indicators and data on education, science and technology, on a regular basis, in order to facilitate the conducting of comparative studies and researches, as well as the evaluation, analysis and implementation of projects and programmes in the light of realistic data, and to publish, translate and distribute these indicators and data among the relevant and concerned parties. In addition, it urged Member States to cooperate with scientific and technological institutions as well as scientists and researchers to implement scientific activities, facilitate exchange of the staff working in the fields of higher education and experts in science and technology, promote joint research projects, and offer special scholarships, grants and awards, particularly to scientists within Islamic countries.

Besides, the Conference called upon ISESCO, COMSTECH, the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Development Bank, the OIC Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) and other concerned organizations to foster cooperation and coordination and to forge close bonds in order to utilize all existing data and make them available in a collective form for the benefit of the Member States.

The Conference also recommended strengthening North-South cooperation by linking scientists through the web portal for improved sharing of knowledge, experiences, opportunities and facilities, and emphasized the need to establish scientific and technological databases and scientific skills networks in various fields such as engineering group databases, technology group databases and hydrology databases etc.

**Moreover, the Conference adopted the Project on the Islamic Ethical Network on Science and Technology and agreed to launch that network** in close cooperation with the national ethical networks of ISESCO Member States, as well as with UNESCO and the relevant scientific institutions, in general. It emphasized the importance of coordinating, heightening awareness and building consensus among the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference over the various

important and sensitive ethical issues from the perspective of Islamic Sharia, considering that ISESCO is the vivid conscience of the Ummah and the competent party in that field. It also urged the ethical commissions/committees/bodies to work in close collaboration with the Islamic Body on Ethics of Science and Technology (IBEST) of ISESCO within the framework of the Islamic Ethical Network on Science and Technology in order to exchange experiences, knowledge and information, build consensus, strengthen standard setting and consolidate respect for ethical dimensions.

In addition, the Conference called upon Member States to promote the role of the existing national ethical commissions or bodies of science and technology or to create such institutions, enhance debate on the relevant issues, achieve concrete results and provide necessary guidelines to the scientific community as well as the general public from the perspective of Islamic Sharia. The Conference also appealed to the scientific associations, non-governmental organizations, research institutions and the international scientific community, Muslim scientists, decision makers and researchers to organize discussion forums, symposia, seminars and conferences to debate and analyze new technological developments, and to identify their ethical and religious dimensions in order to evolve an understanding towards a common code of conduct ensuring that the advancement of scientific knowledge is fully in consistence with the Islamic values. Furthermore, the Conference recommended the preparation of training material on establishing an ethical commission as well as the provision of appropriate training programmes for the members of the ethical bodies in the Member States while responding to their other professional needs. Besides, it emphasized the importance of integrating all aspects pertaining to ethics and bioethics, environmental code of conduct, ethics of renewable energy and ethics of information and communication technologies into the educational curricula of higher education institutions and into specialized research projects.

A fringe coordination meeting of experts from the members of delegations participating in the Conference was held at the invitation of the OIC General Secretariat and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - ISESCO-. The meeting was dedicated to developing and agreeing on quality and evaluation criteria, in order to choose the best twenty universities in the Islamic world that meet the requirements of quality, excellence and outstanding academic achievement.

**Moreover, the Conference adopted the Draft Strategy on the Promotion of University Education in the Islamic World**, taking into account the observations of the conference. It also invited the Director General to prepare executive programmes and field projects in cooperation with concerned organizations and bodies with a view to developing university education and scientific research in Member States in the light of this Strategy, the organization's action plans and available resources. Besides, the Conference invited Member States to draw on the contents and guidelines of this Strategy when preparing and implementing the national plans and strategies pertaining to the promotion of higher education and scientific research, taking into consideration the states' needs and priorities. Furthermore, the Conference urged the competent parties in Member States as well as university federations and Arab,

Islamic and international organizations and bodies to cooperate with ISESCO in funding and implementing activities, programmes and projects concerned with the promotion of higher education and scientific research while stressing the importance of highlighting the Islamic perspective on education and scientific research, particularly the fundamental values and ideals underlying the edification of the individual and society as well as ethics in scientific and technological applications and their social, cultural and economic implications.

**Furthermore, the Conference adopted the Project on the Implementation Mechanisms of the Strategy for Development of Biotechnology in the Islamic Countries**, taking into consideration the observations made by the members of the conference. Besides, it recommended forming an Islamic Biotechnology Advisory Committee (IBAC) consisting of biotechnology experts in order to contribute toward biotechnology progress, holding regular meetings to evaluate the progress made in the field of biotechnology under the relevant strategy and striving to support the implementation of national programmes of biotechnology in the Member States.

The Conference also emphasized the importance of coordination and cooperation with similar specialized bodies, and the need to enhance biotechnological education according to international standards through updating curricula and textbooks as per changing demands, to develop teaching facilities and to create biotechnology training centres and laboratories in the Member States with a view to developing trained manpower of international standards, taking into account the existing networks. In addition, the Conference urged the relevant parties in the Member States to facilitate the development of biotechnologies, prepare researches and programs responding to the needs and priorities of each country, create biotechnological centres with high level research and innovative capacities and develop necessary infrastructure to promote biotechnologies.

In the same vein, the Conference invited Member States to set up their own National Biotechnology Development Agencies (NBDA), if not existing, in order to act as a true task force commissioned with promoting and coordinating local biotechnology initiatives in alignment with national priorities and development programs. Furthermore, the Conference stressed the need to strengthen closer links between universities, the productive sector and the major corporations through setting up biotechnology parks and science cities, creating technology transfer centres and technology centres for support of business start-ups and devising technology plans to support small and medium enterprises.

The Conference also emphasized the need to enhance the teaching of biotechnology and create biotechnology training centres and laboratories in the Member States with a view to developing trained manpower of international standards. It equally encouraged gearing research to the adoption of biotechnologies in agriculture, food production and processing sector and extending its benefits to rural and remote areas with a view to meeting their own food requirements.

Besides, the Conference entrusted ISESCO with activating the implementation mechanisms of the Strategy for Development of Biotechnology in the Islamic

Countries, in cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat, the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, the Islamic Development Bank and specialized organizations and institutions.

**The Conference also adopted the Draft Action Plan on the Prevention of Migration of Scientific Competencies from the Countries of the Islamic World,** taking into consideration the observations of the conference members. It equally stressed the importance of establishing an international Islamic centre for scientific research with the objective of addressing brain migration as well as coordinating action with Muslim competencies abroad to utilize their abilities in promoting science and technology in the Member States, in coordination and consultation with the relevant scientific bodies and specialized national institutions. Further still, the Conference recommended conducting in-depth research and insightful comparative studies on the phenomenon of migration of Muslim competencies from the Member States and preparing studies and reports on Muslim competencies abroad.

Moreover, the Conference called upon the Member States to consolidate the action of the Islamic Centre for Science and Technology in research and training in the use of high technology, provide expatriate and resident scientists with incentive grants as well as research funding and facilities, support entrepreneurship and competitiveness and provide an overall environment on par with prestigious world-class centres.

Furthermore, the Conference recommended the Member States to compile and update data-bases on the competencies, their expertise and skills in and outside the Islamic world and support coordination between ISESCO and COMSTECH and other Islamic organizations with a view to building computerized data on these competencies.

The Conference equally urged the Member States to offer special incentives to the emigrated elites such as better salary packages, state-of-the-art laboratories and developed institutions, and recognize their work and achievements with a view to creating an environment conducive to re-immigration. It also called upon the Member States to extend increased support to ISESCO Centre for Promotion of Scientific Research (ICPSR) to discharge its responsibilities as concerns developing and enhancing scientific research capacities and providing emigrated competencies with incentives to serve their own societies and contribute to their economic development. It equally recommended setting up a database on Member States' expatriate competencies in the fields of science and technology.

**In addition, the Conference adopted the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the activities of the General Secretariat of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World,** taking into account the observations made in the Conference. In this regard, the Conference invited the Secretary General to continue his efforts to expand the fields of cooperation and partnership with parallel federations as well as specialized international, Islamic and Arab institutions, within the framework of programmes' implementation. Besides, it extended its thanks to the International Federation of Universities, the Federation of Arab Universities and the

Federation of African Universities for cooperating with the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World in implementing joint activities, and invited these Federations to continue and develop this cooperation. The Conference equally praised the efforts deployed by the Secretary General of the Federation and his assistants to develop the action of the Federation, increase the number of Member Universities and implement the Federation's activities. Moreover, it invited the FUIW to enhance contact with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, particularly Islamic universities operating within the Organization, in consultation and coordination with the General Directorate of ISESCO and the General Secretariat of the Federation. Further still, the Conference invited universities and higher institutes which haven't joined the Federation yet to do so, and urged Member Universities to actively contribute to the Federation's activities, programmes and projects and to settle their contributions and arrears. Still further, it invited Member Universities of the Federation and universities in Member States to grant scholarships in various subjects to students from Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Taking note of the tragic situation suffered by the Palestinian people under the Israeli occupation and blockade, the conference called, in one of its resolutions, the Member States and the international community to lend support to the Palestinian people, in general, and to their educational, scientific and cultural institutions, in particular. Likewise, it called for networking of Palestinian universities with other universities in the Islamic world. The conference also denounced the measures taken by Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people and institutions, and called for lifting the blockade and providing financial support to save the educational process. Similarly, it called for increased support to Al Qods Al-Sharif, through stepping up the efforts of reconstruction and development, as well as giving special care to its Islamic heritage, and cultural, educational and scientific institutions.

**Furthermore, the Conference elected the members of the Consultative Council for the Implementation of the Strategy for Development of Science and Technology in the Islamic Countries,** from the following countries:

- The State of Kuwait: Chair of the third session of the conference;
- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan: General Coordinator of the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation -COMSTECH- ;
- **The Arab region:**
  - \* Kingdom of Bahrain;
  - \* Syrian Arab Republic;
  - \* People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.
- **The Asian region:**
  - \* Republic of Azerbaijan;
  - \* Republic of Tajikistan;
  - \* Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam.

**- The African region:**

- \* Republic of Togo;
- \* Republic of Niger;
- \* Burkina Faso.

The OIC General Secretariat and the Islamic Development Bank shall be members of the Consultative Council. The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization shall assume the Consultative Council's General Secretariat.

The Conference also invited the Member States to nominate their representatives in the Council provided that these States bear the travel costs of their representatives to the meetings of the Consultative Council. It also invited the States who submit their scientific projects to the Council to attend the Council's meetings as observers, at their expense.

The Conference welcomed the Islamic Development Bank -IDB- as member in the Council, and lauded its pioneering role in the support of education, science and technology projects in the Islamic world, in addition to its scholarship programmes. The Conference called upon the IDB to pursue its financial support and technical assistance to specialized institutions active in the field of science and technology as well as to Islamic universities.

The Conference decided to convene its fourth session in September 2008, in Baku, capital city of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and extended its thanks to the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the forthcoming session.

The Conference also decided to hold its forthcoming sessions every two years, and insisted that the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - ISESCO- make all necessary arrangements in that respect.

The members of the Conference were honoured by the reception that His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, may Allah preserve him, offered them this morning at the Amiri Palace. During this reception, the Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, expressed his thanks, appreciation and gratitude to His Highness for the patronage extended to the Conference, and for the support provided by the Kuwaiti Government.

Her Excellency Dr Rasha Al Sabah, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait, made an address during the closing session. Then Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, delivered an address wherein he lauded the Conference and expressed his satisfaction with the tremendous success it achieved through a set of resolutions which he described as being extremely important.

At the close of the Conference, Dr Adel Tabtabae, Minister of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait, made an address wherein he thanked the members of the Conference for their outstanding performance, and reaffirmed his full readiness to assume his duty and to pursue action towards the implementation of the Conference

resolutions in coordination with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

During the closing session, a cooperation programme in the fields related to education and culture was signed between the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- and the Qatar Charitable Foundation.

Upon conclusion of the Conference proceedings, a message of thanks and appreciation was addressed to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, may Allah preserve him.