



Address by His Excellency
Dr Salem bin Mohammed Al Malik
New Director General of ISESCO

At the
Third Extraordinary Session of ISESCO
General Conference

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Praise be to Allah who has gathered us in this sacred month, the month of good and generosity. Allah Almighty says in His Noble Quran:
“And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided.”
Prayers be on His Messenger our Prophet Mohammed, Peace Be Upon Him

***Excellencies Ministers and Heads of Delegations,
Excellencies,
Dear Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Greetings of peace, love and solidarity,***

Assalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh,

I would like to express my warm thanks and deep gratitude to you for your goodwill and to ISESCO for honouring me and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for nominating me.

I thank you from the depth my heart wishing that our ambitions will come true by mutual cooperation and harmony.

I seize this opportunity to extend to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and to His Royal Highness Crown Prince my great thanks and recognition for the invaluable royal confidence they placed in me by nominating me to the post of Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to succeed our noble brother Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri who laid the foundations of this blessed Organization and outlined its path till it has become a strong and pioneering institution.

I am also glad to extend my heartfelt thanks to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may Allah preserve him, for his continuous care of ISESCO and for the facilitations the government of the Kingdom of Morocco grants to the Organization to enable it to carry out its missions in the best possible conditions, beseeching Allah Almighty to have mercy on late King Hassan II, and make his abode in eternal Paradise, for hosting the Organization and his keenness to establish it on firm and solid foundations. May Allah also bless the soul of late Abdelahdi Boutaleb, the first Director General of this Organization who initiated its edification and devoted his efforts to construction.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

As the world is changing, we should keep pace with its rapid developments. Growth and economy are stimulated by mechanisms and drivers of educational progress through its essential fundamentals: education, science and culture.

Since its inception, ISESCO has endeavoured to achieve its objectives and goals related to education, science and culture. Allah willing, we will continue the march taking into the consideration the aspects of social changes undergone by ISESCO Member States.

The march of construction is essentially based on cooperation and joint action between Member States through and with the Organization. Hence, ISESCO should be a house of expertise incubating Islamic thought and culture that formulates cultural visions, develops educational strategies and explores the future. Indeed, we live in a world of artificial intelligence, big data, modern technologies and horizons of virtual schools. ISESCO should deal with these changes and seek that ISESCO Member States benefit from these services through training, upgrading, research, innovation and invention.

Nowadays, it is very essential to build strategic partnerships with international and regional parallel organizations, most importantly with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) of which ISESCO is a specialized body, and with the private sector and civil society institutions in Member States, especially those which have experience and excellence in cooperation and action with international organizations. This is of key importance for advancing the goals of the Organization through pioneering initiatives and projects in its areas of competence.

Likewise, these institutions are also required today to become strategic partners. ISESCO, following the will of its Member States, is an Organization that is concerned with education, science and culture. As there is no way for practising politics or politicisation, we are full of confidence to care and focus on achieving its objectives and goals.

One of the projects that I beseech Allah in this sacred month to implement for the benefit of our Organization is a “waqf project” (Investment Fund), with rules and regulations, that shall be raised from the donations of governments, kings, presidents,

charities, business people and banks. The proceeds of this Fund will be earmarked for some projects created at ISESCO and for special programmes concerned with youth issues and building societies.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ISESCO will intensively endeavour to promote its role to protect the Islamic and Christian sanctities in Al-Quds Al-Sharif against continued attempts of Judaization and obliteration, and set up practical mechanisms for the preservation of Member States' tangible and intangible heritage.

Furthermore, ISESCO should play a leading role in cooperation between Member States to promote the Islamic identity; strengthen the Islamic culture; entrench the values of coexistence; counter extremism, violence and sectarianism. Moreover, we should raise intellectual awareness about the human and social issues affecting the development of communities and the building of their capacities.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You all know that a number of Member States face crises and wars, while others suffer from poverty. The result of this is instability and poor education to the extent that the education systems of some of them scored very low results and widespread illiteracy. Consequently, societies are disintegrated; poverty, disease and oppression spread. Actually, ignorance is the factor of destruction that triggers domestic conflicts and barbaric violent terrorism which undermines the foundations of education, literacy and adaptation. It is only through generalizing education and intellectual culture; promoting the Islamic identity; rejecting zealotry, extremism and sectarianism that we can fight ignorance. Immigration and displacement have contributed to the exacerbation of this situation and making the expected solutions more complicated for the social categories hit by this phenomenon and which live exceptional conditions preventing them from benefiting from basic educational and health services.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

ISESCO can never discharge its missions, implement its visions and attain the objectives set for it unless you, Excellencies Presidents of National Commissions, support and follow up the Organization at all scientific, intellectual, cultural and communication levels.

Last, I would like to extend my deep gratitude to the leadership, Government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the kind hospitality they offered to the participants of the Third Extraordinary Session of the General Conference.

Special thanks are due to H.E. Dr Hamad bin Mohammed Al Shaikh, Minister of Education.

I should also thank ISESCO's team who considerably contributed to the organization of this session.

Thanks are also extended to King Abdulaziz University for having ensured your reception and transport.

Thank you for your attention. May Allah accept your Umrah, forgive our sins and have mercy on us all.

Praise be to Allah and peace and blessing be upon Prophet Muhammad.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh.