



Address by

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(ISESCO)**

At the close of

**The sixth session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of
Higher Education and Scientific Research**

Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan: 21 November 2012

*Praise be to Allah, prayer and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah, his family
and companions*

***Excellency the President of the Conference,
Excellencies Heads of Delegation,
Ladies and gentlemen,***

Assalamu alaikom warahmatu Allahw wabarakatuh,

I am pleased to address you at the close of the sixth session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and would first like to praise Allah the Almighty for the successful outcome of this Conference. We have come up with an important set of resolutions and recommendations which will have tremendous impact on joint Islamic action in the area of higher education and scientific research and within the framework of the Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation in Islamic Countries which constitutes the frame of reference for our action and resolutions.

***Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,***

The highly positive outcome of this successful session places on us a responsibility the extent of which we presume we are all aware of and resolved to assume its underlying assumptions. For success in our proceedings within the framework of this Conference presupposes that we duly honour a set of obligations to give it a practical value. Therefore, we ought to draw on this outcome and bring it to bear in stepping up the concerted efforts we are exerting to bring about more efficiency and achieve far-reaching impact.

Against this backdrop, being cognizant of the important civilizational mission advanced by this Conference, and being conscious of the collective responsibility devolving upon us, let me announce that the proceedings of this Conference have not concluded with the end of the fixed duration of this event. Rather, they will commence as of this day considering that the resolutions adopted at this session require more concerted

efforts to translate them into concrete terms both at the national level through the initiatives undertaken by the governments of Member States, and at the Islamic level through the action to be taken by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in cooperation and coordination with the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The **Khartoum Declaration**, unanimously adopted by the Conference, sets the path to the future on the basis of scientific and technological development. The adoption of this highly important document also reflects a collective commitment by the Conference to pursue action at many levels, on top of which is the extensive explanation of the significance of this Declaration to the competent authorities in Member States. This, indeed, is the prime mission of their excellencies the heads of delegation who should also give, to the concerned parties, accounts on the deliberations having taken place and the ideas and views put forward to present a clean-cut image of the Conference to decision makers in the fields of higher education and scientific research in Member States and to developers of national science and technology plans both at the government level and at the level of legislative bodies.

We are well aware of the urgency of these lofty tasks. We are also conscious of the underlying dimensions of the main mission of ISESCO to give substance to the resolutions of the Conference, in terms both of following up the implementation of these resolutions, and of activating the general trends of the Conference in developing action plans, programmes and activities for the benefit of the Member States.

In this way, the governments of the Member States could bear their share of responsibility in boosting scientific research, enhancing research capacities of existing excellence centers, and setting up new excellence centers in vital scientific research disciplines. Accordingly, we deem that the fulfillment of such a huge responsibility is of fundamental necessity to advance the mission of this Conference.

This will certainly foster partnership and cooperation with the higher education and scientific research community, help keep abreast of scientific and technological advancements at the international level, build the necessary capacities of higher education systems and broaden their scope in such a way as to meet the new relevant requirements, improve the quality of education and ensure accreditation standards.

We ought to follow on this clearly defined path, pursuing our serious and goal-oriented action to make of this Conference the starting point for achieving all the objectives which we have set for it since its first session, and which we have detailed in the Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation in the Islamic World.

This is a new stage in joint Islamic action on which we need to embark in order to implement all the resolutions adopted by the Conference's five sessions. These resolutions have endorsed a set of strategies, action plans and declarations which require tremendous efforts on our part to firmly establish the bases of scientific and technological resurgence.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our success in this conference has certainly placed increased responsibility upon us. The promising future prospects can only prompt us to continue working in these vital fields until we achieve our Ummah's objectives, on top of which comes comprehensive sustainable development.

Before concluding, I would like to express my deepest thanks to the President, government and people of the Republic of the Sudan for the kind support extended to us to ensure the success of our Conference. Equally, I would like to thank H.E. the President of the Conference, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Republic of the Sudan, for his wise conduct of the Conference, and congratulate him for its success and achievement of its lofty objectives. My thanks are also due to the translation team, the secretariat staff, the media and the local authorities in Khartoum.

I beseech Allah the Almighty to crown our work with success, grant us wisdom and help us serve our glorious Ummah from the positions we are holding.

Wassalamu alaikom warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh.