



Address by

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Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

**At the
Third Extraordinary Session of
ISESCO General Conference**

Jeddah - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 4-5 Ramadan 1440 A.H./9-10 May 2019

All praise be to Allah, peace and blessings be upon Prophet Mohamed,

his kith and kin

Excellency Dr Hamad bin Mohammed bin Hamad Al Shaikh, Minister of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Excellency Dr Ali Zeidan Abu Zuhri, President of the 13th General Conference of ISESCO, President of the Palestinian National Commission for Education, Science and Culture,

Excellency Dr Boubakar Doukouré, Chairman of ISESCO Executive Council, Presidential Advisor on Islamic Affairs, Burkina Faso,

Excellency Dr Yousef Bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC),

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh,

Close to the Sacred Mosque, at the opening of the Third Extraordinary Session of ISESCO General Conference, I address you while thanking Allah Almighty for granting great success to advancing and developing ISESCO and expanding its outreach and influence which unabatedly continued over three decades till we have, thanks to Allah Almighty, accomplished the noble mission entrusted to me by the Fourth ISESCO General Conference held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, the Seat Country.

During this period, we have thanks to Allah, made great achievements, which have accumulated and increased in results, thus transforming ISESCO from a regional organization with limited potentials and restricted functions with only twenty-four Member States, into a large international organization with active presence on the Islamic and international scene, and multidisciplinary actions and missions. With fifty four Member States today, ISESCO has a network of cooperation and partnership relationships with about 230 regional and international organizations with which it shares common interests; regional offices and educational and information centers in a

number of Member States; and ambassadors of goodwill. It has also developed seventeen sectorial strategies; supervises the organization of four specialized ministerial conferences, and the construction of its permanent headquarters in Rabat, which is a unique civilizational landmark that promotes joint Islamic action.

Benefiting from increased Member States' confidence, ISESCO seeks with firm determination and open vision, to contribute to the advancement of the Islamic world in the vital fields that fall within its areas of competence, promote, develop and strengthen joint Islamic action; deepen and consolidate its foundations and expand its fields; support international efforts aiming to achieve Sustainable Development Goals; spread the values of dialogue between civilizations and cultures, and among faiths; and disseminate the principles of justice, peace, harmony and coexistence between nations and peoples. All this has positioned this emerging Organization among the successful international organizations making it today an excellent model of Islamic solidarity in its strongest manifestations.

We thank Allah for his blessings and gifts. We also thank Him for opening the ways to us and providing us with the means to attain the highest level of our actions as a coherent and mutually supportive working team and as a mutually assisting, supporting and helping Muslim family. Accordingly, we have discharged our mission in a way that hopefully satisfies Allah Almighty, and delivered the message to the Islamic world while transmitting the human and civilizational vision of Islam to the whole world. All along the way, we have been messengers of peace, love and harmony; advocates of fraternity, construction and development until ISESCO has achieved the highest position it deserves.

With deep satisfaction and self-assurance, I tell you that, thanks to Allah, I have fulfilled the promise I made to the Fourth General Conference of ISESCO twenty seven years ago in these words: "I think I must express before you my full commitment to the goals of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and pledge to work faithfully to strengthen, develop and advance the Organization in the direction that embodies the will of the Islamic Ummah and gives body to the choices unanimously agreed by Member States, putting myself at its service and exerting sustained efforts to accomplish as many achievements as possible with the Will of Allah Almighty."

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I undertook with utmost dedication the responsibility conferred on me by the successive sessions of the General Conference. Besides, I spared no efforts to carry out my duties and missions as much as I could. As all beginnings have an end, I notified you on the letter I sent to you on 26 February 2019 of my excuse for not being able to complete my mandate of Director General which ends on 31 December 2021. Pursuant to the nomination of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of a successor, I will hand over my duties to him while wishing him every success in sustaining the advancement of ISESCO and achievement of its lofty objectives.

I ought to sincerely and adequately fulfill my duty towards my beloved country. I deeply express my thanks, gratitude and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, may Allah preserve him, and to his Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, for their sustained support and endorsement to me, beseeching Allah to help them achieve the good, progress and prosperity for this honorable country and the Islamic Ummah at large.

Besides, I ought to gratefully and sincerely remember the two late Custodians of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, may Allah have mercy on them and make Paradise their abode, who honored me with their support and were of great help to me to carry out my duties as the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud awarded me **King Abdulaziz Medal of Excellence**, which I am highly proud of.

Moreover, I express my deep gratitude to His Majesty late King Hassan II, may Allah have mercy on him, and His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may Allah grant him success, of the Kingdom of Morocco, Seat Country of ISESCO, for their sustained support to the Organization to fulfill its duties, their support and compliment for my efforts, their kind patronage of many conferences held in the Kingdom of Morocco, and for my decoration with the Order of Ouissam Alaouite of Commander by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may Allah protect him, which is another honor that I deeply

appreciate. I wish the Kingdom of Morocco further progress and prosperity under the leadership of His Majesty, may Allah support him.

I also seize this opportunity to express my wholehearted respect, gratitude and thanks to Their Majesties, Highnesses and Excellencies leaders of Member States for their unwavering support to the missions of ISESCO, out of their belief in its civilizational mission, and their highest medals and great compliments which are a source of pride for me.

Furthermore, thanks and gratitude are due to His Excellency President of the General Conference and his predecessors, members of the General Conference, His Excellency Chairman of the Executive Council and his predecessors, and to the Council members for their support and encouragement.

Gratitude would be incomplete without thanking ISESCO's family members, including its current staff and those who passed away, particularly Mr Abdelhadi Boutaleb, first Director General of ISESCO, may Allah have mercy on him, who exerted great efforts in the founding phase and at the first start for nine years which was rich in productive work that laid the bases and paved the way to the Organization. I also thank the staff of the General Directorate who were of great help to me to advance the Organization until it reached its current status of comprehensive, balanced and integrated development.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am confident of the continuity of ISESCO's remarkable march to stay as beacon of Islamic solidarity, and a locomotive of joint Islamic action in the fields of civilizational edification so as to make further achievements at all levels, either those related to the Organization's objectives, set in the Three-Year Action Plan and governed by the Charter and the regulations in force, or the interests of its staff to continue their work with team spirit.

I beseech Allah to make the work we have carried out throughout this long period in the service of joint Islamic action among the good deeds that we will bring with us

on the Day in which no wealth or children will benefit a person except for the one who comes with a sound heart.

May Allah help you achieve good, prosperity and development for Member States and grant success to joint Islamic action. All praise and thanks are only for Allah, the One who, by His blessing and favor, good works are accomplished.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatu allah wabarakatuh.