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

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

Jeddah - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 4-5 Ramadan 1440 A.H./9-10 May 2019
In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful
All praise be to Allah, peace and blessings upon Prophet Mohamed,
his family and his companions

Excellency ……………………, Patron of the Extraordinary General Conference of ISESCO

Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General,

Excellency Dr Boubacar Doukouré, Chairman of ISESCO Executive Council,

Excellencies Heads of the Delegations of ISESCO Member States,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh,

From Palestine, land of human civilizations and cradle of monotheistic religions, and from Al-Quds Al-Sharif, I convey to you all the greetings of the determined resistant Palestinian people and their national leadership. I wish you a blessed Ramadan. Indeed, Allah blessed us with fasting its first days in this blessed land nearby the Holy Mosque. I present my wishes and greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, wishing them, the Saudi government and the dignified Saudi people health, progress and prosperity. I thank them both for the good reception and kind hospitality.

I am pleased to convey to you the greetings of His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), President of Palestine, and his wishes for the success of this Conference and achievement of its desired objectives.

I am also delighted to express my thanks and gratitude to Their Excellencies heads of the delegations of ISESCO Member States, who accepted the invitation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to take part in this Extraordinary Session of ISESCO General
Conference out of their belief in the importance of this invitation and in our appreciation of the position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in our Islamic world and its special and valuable role in supporting joint Islamic action, and promoting its organizations and specialized bodies, particularly the OIC, to enable them to promote the causes of the Islamic Ummah, primarily the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

**Excellency Patron of the Conference,**

**Excellencies,**

More than ever before, the Islamic countries are facing great challenges, particularly the conspiracies against the Palestinian cause, notably the so-called ‘deal of the century’, which will put an end to the dream of establishing our independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital and liberating Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Islamic world is facing other challenges, such as the spread of the speech of extremism, hatred and fanaticism, international imbalances, and increase of poverty and unemployment among youth. All these difficulties undermined the comprehensive development projects in many Member States.

Today, we meet upon the kind invitation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, leader of joint Islamic action, to give a new impetus to ISESCO through revitalizing its General Directorate, as the executive body of its Member States’ policies in the educational, cultural and scientific fields. The General Directorate, the General Conference and the Executive Council of ISESCO are the three statutory bodies which are empowered to develop and implement the plans, programmes and projects that our peoples and Member States need.

Within this framework and as President of the 13th General Conference of ISESCO, Session of Al-Quds Al-Sharif in which you honored the State of Palestine with its presidency since October 2018 in Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, I reaffirm that ISESCO is considered among the most successful specialized regional organizations in our Islamic world. This position would not have been possible without your efforts and the support of the leaders of the Islamic world, Their Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses Kings, Presidents and Emirs of our Member States, and the sincerity and devotion of its staff, particularly the Director General, Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri.
Today, we meet to appoint his successor, Dr Salem bin Mohammed Al-Malik, nominated by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to the post of ISESCO Director General.

*Excellency Patron of the Conference,*

*Excellencies,*

At the close of my address, I reiterate my thanks and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, for providing care to joint Islamic action, and their sustained keenness to support and enable ISESCO to pursue its civilizational mission and development objectives. I also thank His Excellency Minister of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for his great efforts to host our Conference and take care of the participants.

Moreover, I express my recognition and gratefulness to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, President of Al-Quds Committee for his support to ISESCO in its seat in Rabat, as well as to the Kings, Presidents and Emirs of Member States without exception.

I also thank the efforts of the Ministry of Education in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the good preparation of this session which is certainly part of the success of its proceedings.

Thank you all, may Allah grant you success

*Wassalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuhu*