



*Address by*

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Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

**At the opening of the  
7<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Environment  
Ministers**

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*All praise be to Allah, peace and blessings upon Prophet Mohamed,  
his family and his companions*

***Your Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa, President of the  
Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection,***

***Excellency Mrs Aminata Maiga Keita, the First Lady of Mali,***

***Excellency Eng. Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen Al-Fadhli,  
Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom  
of Saudi Arabia, Chair of the 6<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of  
Environment Ministers,***

***Excellency Dr Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen, Secretary  
General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC),***

***Excellency Dr Boubakar Doukouré, Chairman of ISESCO  
Executive Council,***

***Excellencies heads and members of delegations,***

***Excellencies the ambassadors and representatives of international  
organizations,***

***Ladies and gentlemen,***

***Assalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh,***

I am pleased to warmly welcome you to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) at the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers. It is indeed our distinct honor to hold this Conference under the patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may Allah preserve

him, and under the effective presidency of Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa, President of the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection. It is a matter of great pride for ISESCO to hold the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers for the third time at its headquarters under the high patronage of the Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco.

I therefore take this opportunity to extend to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may Allah preserve him, my sincere thanks and appreciation for his great solicitude towards this Conference and for his message to the participants to which we listened with great interest as it lavished words of praise on ISESCO, reaffirming his support for its development-oriented mission. Indeed, the royal message contained sound ideas, forward-looking vision and judicious directives regarding environmental issues which will, with the grace of Allah, be a tremendous boost for this Conference to achieve its noble objectives. This royal message will also serve as an official working document for the Conference to guide its orientations and to build on its contents.

I also have the honor to convey to His Majesty my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the unwavering and generous support the Kingdom of Morocco is extending to ISESCO, pursuant to His Majesty's directives, to enable it to carry out its human mission and fulfill its responsibilities

as part of the joint Islamic action geared to the promotion of the issues of educational, scientific and cultural development in the Islamic world.

On this occasion, I would like also to commend the great support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has extended to this Conference and its Executive Bureau as well as to ISESCO, following the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, may Allah preserve him, through the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture and the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It is such an exquisite honour for me to welcome on behalf of you all, and with great appreciation and respect, Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa, President of the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, and to thank her for honouring this Conference with her effective presidency; I would like to express my deep appreciation of her efforts at the head of this successful institution which is constantly asserting its presence at the international arena, considering its praiseworthy action in support of environmental protection and environmental education among all strata of society.

In addition, I am particularly glad to welcome Her Excellency Mrs Aminata Maiga Keita, the First Lady of

Mali, President of the NGO AGIR for the Environment and Quality of Life, thanking her for honouring us with her attendance at this Conference.

My grateful thanks are also due to His Excellency Dr Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, from whom ISESCO receives constant support and assistance and who demonstrates the keenness to strengthen the special relations linking ISESCO to the OIC.

*Your Royal Highness,  
Excellency the First Lady,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,*

The theme of the current session of the Conference reflects the basic task to be carried out by their Excellencies the heads and members of delegations to achieve the main objective of this Conference. Undoubtedly, “**Promotion of Effective Islamic Cooperation to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals**” should be at the forefront of our concerns, particularly at this juncture in which the world has turned greater attention to environmental issues in general and to climate change in particular. Next month, the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP 23) will take place in Bonn, Germany, after last year’s session (COP 22) which was held in Marrakech in November and to

which ISESCO contributed the documents issued by this Conference. COP 22 was a successful Conference that the Kingdom of Morocco has managed to turn into an international forum for dialogue and research on major global issues in order to preserve the environment and adequately address the climate changes affecting the planet's safety.

The theme of the sixth session of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers was “**Climate Change: Future Challenges for Sustainable Development**”. Indeed, it complements this session's theme. While the former one made an accurate diagnosis of this global phenomenon, the latter prescribes the scientific treatment of this ailment, through mobilizing efforts and promoting Islamic cooperation in this vital area. The ultimate goal is to achieve sustainable comprehensive development which cannot complete its full cycle unless it is supported by a well-preserved clean environment that provides the scientific means to effectively deal with climate change, as part of an intensified and fruitful international cooperation to address ensuing environmental risks.

Fifteen years have elapsed since the convening of the first session of this Conference in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The founding documents adopted by the Conference at its previous six sessions constituted an

integrated framework for joint Islamic action in the field of the environment, drawing up a roadmap for Member States to develop national policies on environmental protection.

The current session of the Conference will build on its record of achievement. In this regard, it review important reports on the creation of the **“OIC Water Council”** and an **“OIC Joint Commission for Sustainable Development (OIC-CSD)”**. It will also examine the draft guidance document on **“Green Cities and their Role in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals”** and discuss the progress report on the creation of the **“Islamic Academy for the Environment and Sustainable Development”** in the Kingdom of Morocco, the Draft **“Programme for the Celebration of Islamic Capitals of the Environment and Sustainable Development”** and the progress report on the **“Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Award for Environmental Management in the Islamic World”** in its updated version. Therefore, the Conference will continue to achieve its objectives and accumulate an extensive record of achievement that serves the supreme interests of the Islamic world and fulfills Member States’ aspirations towards building comprehensive sustainable development for present and future generations.

I reiterate my heartfelt expression of welcome to Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa and to our distinguished guests.

I implore Allah Almighty to help us in our deliberations and to inspire us wisdom and rectitude in words and deeds to achieve the lofty goals for which we are working.

**Wassalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh.**