



**Address by**  
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At the opening of the  
**Eighth Islamic Conference of  
Environment Ministers**  
"The Role of Cultural and Religious Factors in the Protection of  
the Environment and Sustainable Development"

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*Praise be to Allah and peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad, his kith and kin*

**Your Royal Highness Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan;  
Excellencies heads of delegation;  
Distinguished guests,  
Assalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh,**

It is an honor to see this Conference being held under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may Allah preserve him;

It is also an honor that it is being held with the generous support of the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, may Allah preserve him;

It is a source of great honor and appreciation that Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan bin Talal attends as the guest of honor, on behalf of her father.

**Your Royal Highness,  
Excellencies,**

Allah (SWT) says: **[and do not do mischief on the earth, after it has been set in order].**

Our gravely damaged Earth is sobbing. It should cry over its present and yearn to its past. Our blue planet is not all right. It endures a massive destruction of its ecosystem. Successive warnings have been issued and many of them alert to a silent dispossession of the human race of the Earth! Natural resources have been polluted and the habitats of plant and animal species degraded. The people who have been displaced by drought and natural disasters outnumbered refugees of war and racial conflicts. If this situation persists, about 700 million people, mostly from the Islamic world, will be forced to flee their areas by 2030.

Reliable reports issued by specialized institutions and bodies disclose horrible figures and awful facts about climate change. Such figures and facts raise real concerns about the warming of the planet and point to brewing disasters and tragic effects for natural resources, particularly as the number of disasters have soared from 599 disasters in 2002 to 1100 in 2017.

In fact, scientists fret that the runaway changes will result in the heating up of the Earth by 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius or more. As a consequence, abrupt and

violent climate variations will increase and roughly 10% of habitats of many living beings will be lost forever, desertification will sweep 13% of the planet, and oceans will be further acidified. All these disasters will have adverse effects on water and food security of communities and countries.

**Your Royal Highness,  
Excellencies,**

I should sadly ask: What are international conventions on climate good for as long as superpowers are responsible for the largest share of gas emissions that cause global warming and do not honor their commitments to the international community with regards to a human issue such as this one? They even absolve themselves of the legal responsibilities they have committed themselves to at Paris Summit amid the prevalence of short-term interests driven by the commercial and industrial greed at the detriment of one thing:

The ecological rights of future generations.

Two superpowers are responsible for 40% of Carbone emissions.

**Your Royal Highness,  
Excellencies,**

Despite the contemporary environmental crisis, our hope lies with Allah and our great Islamic world,

Our hope resides in joining our efforts,

Our hope resides in joint action inside and outside the Islamic world,

We also hope that serious and quality initiatives be taken to protect and preserve the environment.

At the Climate Summit held last week at the United Nations headquarters in New York, over sixty (60) countries announced their intention to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 'net zero'. It would be a great thing if these countries fulfill their commitment.

Would they really??

Among the Islamic world's initiatives, to name but a few, is Pakistan's initiative of one billion trees planted in the last five years and commitment to plant another ten (10) billion trees in the coming five years, and the support the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia extends to the "Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Award for Environmental Management in the Islamic World". The Kingdom of Morocco also launched the "**African Youth Climate Hub**", which aims to cultivate the sense of leadership and innovation, and highlight the positive role of African

youth. There are too many other initiatives from our Islamic world, but time would not allow me to review them in this statement.

I would like, in this regard, to reaffirm ISESCO's willingness to cooperate in action programmes with any initiative from the member States of our Islamic world.

Today, I assure you and affirm that ISESCO has taken upon itself to fully become an eco-friendly institution following international regulations and standards in the operation of its daily work and activities carried out with Member and non-Member States.

**Your Royal Highness,  
Excellencies,**

The agenda of this session and the documents presented for discussion reflect the collective will for joint action in Islamic countries in the various developmental and environmental fields. The theme chosen for this session "**the Role of Religious and Cultural Factors in the Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development**" stems from our belief that the religious and cultural values play a fundamental role in social education and upbringing, and in orienting the objectives and means of developmental action. While this topic is tackled today by various religions and international institutions, the civilizational richness of Islam, in terms of revelation, jurisprudence and practice, can bring a flagship contribution to this field.

In conclusion, I hope every success for this Conference, beseeching Allah Almighty to grant us wisdom, success, sincerity and guidance in speech and action to nurture hope and assist Muslim peoples to tirelessly and unwaveringly contribute to the protection and preservation of the environment and its treasures.

**[And if only the people of the cities had believed and feared Allah, We would have opened upon them blessings from the heaven and the earth]**

**Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatu Allah Wabarakatuh.**