



وزارة البيئة والمياه والزراعة
Ministry of Environment Water & Agriculture

المملكة العربية السعودية Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



الهيئة العامة للأرصاد وحماية البيئة
The General Authority Of Meteorology and Environmental Protection

Under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI
and the effective presidency of H.R.H Princess Lalla Hasnaa

7th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers

"Towards an Effective Islamic Cooperation to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals"

Final Report

ISESCO Headquarters, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
5 Safar 1439 A.H / 25 October 2017

Final Report

Under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may Allah preserve him, and the effective presidency of Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa, President of the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers held its seventh session under the theme “Towards an Effective Islamic Cooperation to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals”, on 5 Safar 1439 A.H., corresponding to 25 October 2017, at ISESCO headquarters in Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco. The Conference was attended by a number of ministers and heads of delegations of Member States and Arab, Islamic and international organizations.

- 1.** The opening session of the Conference was held under the chairmanship of HRH Princess Lalla Hasnaa, and with the attendance of HE Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); HE Eng. Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen Al-Fadhli, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chair of the 6th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers; HE Dr Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC); and HE Mrs Aminata Maiga Keïta, Consort of the President of the Republic of Mali, guest of honour of the Conference.
- 2.** At the beginning of the opening session, HRH Princess Lalla Hasnaa read out the royal message addressed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may Allah preserve him, to the 7th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, and wherein His Majesty welcomed the delegations taking part in the Conference and reiterated his thanks and appreciation to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and its Director General for the untiring action to coordinate and promote joint Islamic action and to give substance to inter-Islamic solidarity and cooperation. His Majesty also called for thinking hard about developing sustainable mechanisms to address climate and environmental challenges facing the entire globe and which Morocco has countered with an integrated system of initiatives, strategies and measures enshrined by an integrated approach to sustainable development areas under the constitution and as part of the National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development. This, His Majesty added, is also reflected by the promotion of a low carbon economy, to strike a balance between the requirements of economic development and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, His Majesty reiterated the commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco to set up the Islamic Academy for the Environment and Sustainable Development by allocating a plot of land for its facilities which will be consistent with green building design and construction standards.

3. Then, HE Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), delivered his address in which he welcomed HRH Princess Lalla Hasnaa, President of the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, while commending 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. He also stated that 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.

Besides, Dr Altwaijri conveyed to His Majesty the King his sincere thanks and appreciation for his great solicitude towards this Conference and for his message to the participants as it lavished words of praise on ISESCO, reaffirming his support for its civilizational mission. The royal message, he said, contained sound ideas, forward-looking vision and judicious directives regarding environmental issues, pointing out that it will serve as an official working document for the Conference to guide its orientations and to build on its contents.

In addition, ISESCO Director General hailed the great support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is extending 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.

By the same token, Dr Altwaijri welcomed Her Excellency Mrs Aminata Maiga Keita, Consort of the President of the Republic of Mali, President of “AGIR for the Environment and Quality of Life” Organization, thanking her for honouring the Conference with her attendance.

Moreover, he expressed his thanks to HE Dr Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), for his support to ISESCO and his keenness to strengthen the special relations linking it to the OIC.

On the other hand, ISESCO Director General pointed that the theme of the current session of the Conference reflects the basic task to be carried out by the Member States in order to achieve the main objective of this Conference, indicating that the **“Promotion of Effective Islamic Cooperation to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals”** should be at the forefront of concerns, particularly at that

juncture in which the world has turned greater attention to environmental issues in general and to climate change in particular.

4. HE Eng. Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen Al-Fadhli, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chair of the 6th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, took the floor to present his heartfelt thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, may Allah preserve him, for his patronage of the Conference, and to HRH Princess Lalla Hasnaa, President of the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, for honouring this Conference with her presence. He also expressed his thanks to ISESCO along with its Chief Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri and its staff for their efforts to advance the objectives of the Islamic conferences that the Organization organizes and supervises. In addition, he pointed out that the First Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in 2002, marked the early start of joint Islamic environmental action. This event, he explained, coincided with the world's unfolding developments as interest in environmental issues at all levels started growing following the emergence of many indicators signaling the exacerbation of climate change and pollution factors and the prevalence of environmental ills due to the shortage of the necessary expertise for environment protection. Eng. Al-Fadhli added that the Islamic world has therefore actively engaged in international efforts, through this Conference which has achieved notable successes that helped boost joint Islamic action.

Furthermore, the Saudi Minister reiterated the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to joint Islamic environmental action, in cooperation with the OIC and ISESCO. In this regard, he stated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia submitted the project of the "Award of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for Environmental Management in the Islamic World" to enhance environmental action in the Islamic world and develop management in environmental protection.

5. Afterwards, HE Dr Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), gave an address wherein he conveyed his profound thanks to the government and people of the Kingdom of Morocco under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI for the royal solicitude towards this Conference, as well as for the efforts of His Majesty in furtherance of joint Islamic action and his sustained support to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and particularly Al-Quds Committee which he chairs.

Besides, OIC Secretary General hailed the constant efforts of HE Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, to promote cultural, scientific and educational issues, including environmental ones.

In addition, Dr Al-Othaimeen stated that the OIC General Secretariat accords high priority to help the Member States in a broad spectrum of domains including

agriculture, rural development, environmental protection, climate change, water, energy and food security. In the same vein, he maintained that the OIC 2025 Program of Action prioritizes issues that are of direct relevance to the objectives of environment protection and sustainable development, adding that the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology held in Astana last September adopted the OIC STI Agenda 2026 that set specific targets for the Member States to achieve environment sustainability. Moreover, OIC Secretary General expressed his confidence that this Conference would come up with important resolutions and recommendations that would strengthen cooperation between the Member States, ensure environmental sustainability and address climate change related issues.

6. Her Excellency Mrs Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of the Republic of Malta, sent a recorded message in which she extended her profound thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, may Allah preserve him, for his patronage of this event, and to HRH Princess Lalla Hasnaa for her presidency of the Conference. She also expressed her regret for not being able to attend the Conference due to unforeseen and compelling circumstances and praised ISESCO and its Director General for the considerable achievements in the Organization's areas of competence. In addition, she underscored the importance of finding innovative measures to address climate change and its impact on the environment. Moreover, President Coleiro Preca stressed the need to promote green economy and renewable energy for the rational use of natural resources and the creation of new and sustainable jobs. In this connection, she hailed the leading models and successful experiences of the Kingdom of Morocco in this area, while calling for further cooperation and partnership between governments and institutions specialized in issues of the environment and sustainable development in order to achieve sustainable development goals as per the adopted standards and fixed agenda.
7. HE Mrs Aminata Maiga Keita, Consort of the President of the Republic of Mali, delivered an address in which she conveyed her thanks to the King, the government and the people of the Kingdom of Morocco for their generous hospitality. She also expressed her deep appreciation to ISESCO and its Director General as well as her delight at participating in this Conference which addresses the most important issues related to the present and future lives of peoples. In addition, she reviewed the trends and projects set by the AGIR Organization which she chairs in order to heighten collective awareness and shared responsibility towards the environment and sustainable development in general. In this regard, Mrs Keita pointed out that the African continent is endowed with abundant natural resources, but it also suffers from the challenges of the environmental conditions and their impact on all areas of development. In conclusion, she called for redoubling efforts and strengthening cooperation between all stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental, to address environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

8. Following the opening remarks, HE Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri offered His Majesty Mohammed VI the Conference's Golden Shield which was received on his behalf by HRH Princess Lalla Hasnaa.
9. Dr Altwaijri also presented the Shield of the Conference to HE Mrs Aminata Maiga Keïta, Consort of the President of the Republic of Mali.
10. Thereafter, the award ceremony honoring the winners of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Award for Environmental Management in the Islamic World (2016-2017 edition) started with an address by HE Dr Khalil bin Mosleh Al-Thaqafi, President of the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, Chair of the Award' Higher Committee.
11. Then, the Award was handed to the winning researchers and parties as follows:

Category 1: Environmental Research

1st place (*ex aequo*)

- Mr Khalid Elwakeel (Egypt)
- Mr Tamer Alslaibi (Palestine)

2nd place (*ex aequo*)

- Mr Muhammad Ashfaq (Pakistan)
- Mr Gaddour Amor (Tunisia)

3rd place (*ex aequo*)

- Mr Ammar Bouchair (Algeria)
- Mr Muhammad Rashed Al Mamun (Bangladesh)

Category 2: Governmental Bodies

1st place

- Dubai Municipality, Public Health Services Department, Public Health Pest Control Section (Dubai, United Arab Emirates)

2nd place

- ECOLOO GreenTech Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. (Malaysia)

3rd place

- Saudi Aramco (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

Category 3: Private Sector

1st place

- Agriculture Department, Saleh Al Rajhi Endowments Management in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

2nd place

- International Institute of Islamic Research and Development, Gombe State University (Nigeria)

3rd place

- Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) (Bahrain)

Category 4: NGOs

1st place (*ex aequo*)

- Union pour la Solidarité et le Développement (U.S.D) (Guinea Conakry)
- The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (Jordan)

2nd place

- Kuwait Water Association (KWA) (State of Kuwait)

3rd place (*ex aequo*)

- Environmental Education Center, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (Palestine)
- Medenine Association for Development and Strategic Studies (Tunisia)

12. After presenting the prizes to the winners, a Cooperation Programme for 2018-2019 between the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection was signed for ISESCO by its Director General, HE Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, and for the Foundation by its Chief Delegate, HE Mr Lahoucine Tijani.

13. At the close of the opening session, their Excellencies the heads of Member States' delegations posed for a souvenir photo with HRH Princess Lalla Hasnaa. Then, all participants attended the reception given by the Organization on this occasion.

14. Thereafter, the Conference held a procedural session during which the draft agenda and the draft programme were adopted and the Bureau was elected as follows:

❖ **Chair:** Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

❖ **Vice-chairs:**

- Kingdom of Morocco
- Republic of Benin
- Republic of Azerbaijan

❖ **Rapporteur:**

- Republic of the Sudan

15. Having taken cognizance of the reports, programmes and rules of procedure placed on its agenda and which were adopted by the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment with a recommendation for approval, the Conference made the resolutions annexed to this report.

16. The Conference also listened to the statements and national reports presented by the heads of delegations of Member States and invited organizations and took note of their contents in terms of the efforts, initiatives, projects and programmes being undertaken with regard to the various issues of the environment and sustainable development.

17. The Conference elected the members of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment as follows:

❖ **Chair: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

❖ **Secretariat:** Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

❖ **Members:**

➤ **Arab region:**

- Hashemite Kingdom Jordan
- State of Kuwait
- Islamic Republic of Mauritania

➤ **African region:**

- Republic of Uganda
- Republic of Togo
- Federal Republic of Nigeria

➤ **Asian region:**

- Republic of Indonesia
- Republic of Turkey
- Republic of Maldives

The OIC General Secretariat will also attend the Executive Bureau's meetings.

18. Then, the Conference decided to hold its eighth session at ISESCO headquarters, in October 2019.

19. During the closing session, the Conference adopted the Islamic Declaration on Environment Protection and Sustainable Development and the resolutions of the Conference. Also, HE Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, ISESCO Director General, and HE Eng. Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen Al-Fadhli delivered their closing addresses. In addition, the Conference addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may Allah preserve him, for his solicitude towards the Conference.