

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



**ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
FIRST ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE
DAKAR, REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL.**

ICMC/1-89/DEC

DAKAR DECLARATION
ON
THE PROTECTION, AND DEVELOPMENT
OF
ISLAMIC CULTURE,
AND ON INTER-ISLAMIC
CULTURAL COOPERATION

ICMC-1-89/DEC

We the representatives of the States and Organizations participating in the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Culture, held on 25 and 26 January 1989 in Dakar, capital of the Republic of Senegal, citadel of Islam and crossroads of civilizations, at the gracious invitation of His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs set up by the Summit Conference of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

- Convinced of the oneness of our Islamic faith and of the community of our destiny as members of a firmly united Ummah with diverse components and distinctive features,
- Convinced that culture plays an effective role in safeguarding world peace and security, as it fosters rapprochement and understanding among peoples and nations, contributes to the emancipation and self-fulfilment of the individual by stimulating his faith and conscience, and promotes communal spirit and cohesion within societies,
- Reaffirming the basic rights of individuals and communities to express themselves, innovate, and assert their Islamic identity,
- Considering that Islamic culture, among its distinctive characteristics, accommodates both the material aspirations and the spiritual needs of man, and imparts balance and meaning to his life as an individual and as a member of of the community,
- Conscious of the threats posed to the Islamic Ummah and our cultural identity by world and Zionist cultural invasion, and the continued alienation resulting from the latter's use of various communication media,

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- Desirous of strengthening the commendable efforts being made by the Islamic Ummah to preserve its cultural identity and its civilization through fruitful cooperation within the framework of the OIC and its affiliated organs and institutions,

- Referring to the charters of the OIC and its affiliated and subsidiary institutions on the one hand, and to the Summit Conferences, the Conferences of Foreign Ministers, and the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs on the other hand,

AFFIRM THE FOLLOWING:

1 - In spite of the progress made by the Islamic world towards solidarity, complementarity and the consolidation of its personality, its efforts have not come up to expectations by reason, in particular, of the inadequacy of the resources allocated to cultural action.

2 - In order to achieve the desired development, the Muslim world must pay greater attention to culture by placing it among its high priorities and fundamental Islamic objectives.

3 - Given the contribution that Muslim peoples can make to human thought, culture and creativity, it is incumbent upon the Islamic Ummah to be united - particularly within the international fora that deal with culture or its dissemination, and to demand the strict application of the principle of reciprocity with respect to the unrestricted circulation, dissemination and exchange of intellectual and cultural production. Moreover, in order to strengthen the bonds among all parts of the Muslim World, and given the distinctive characteristics of these parts, which have enriched and are still enriching Islamic civilization, the Conference stresses the need for the Islamic world to open up to its regional cultural particularities which express both diversity and unity, and to take them into consideration.

4 - Since the contribution of nations is in fact the contribution of their scholars, intellectuals, and other innovators, the Conference exhorts the OIC and the Islamic States to encourage and honour them.

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5 - As a reparation for the loss it has suffered and continues to suffer as a result of the confiscation and plundering of its cultural treasures, the Islamic Ummah demands the return of the marvels of which it has been so unjustly dispossessed, and considers any obstacle to their retrocession an act of cultural aggression. It also emphasizes the need to work for the preservation of Islamic monuments and shrines, particularly in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

6 - On the basis of the words of the Most-High: "We have made you into nations and tribes that you might get to know one another. The noblest of you, in Allah's sight is the most righteous of you" and also: "And of His signs are the creation of heaven and earth and the diversity of your tongues and colours", the Islamic Ummah supports every world cultural action that spreads tolerance and mutual respect among all peoples, since Islamic culture emerged only through interaction of the distinctive characteristics of its peoples, in an atmosphere of emancipation and tolerance which had been brought by Islam.

7 - Proceeding from these principles, the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Culture, endorses the United Nations' resolution establishing a Cultural Development Decade and proclaims its determination to contribute to the latter's success. It also supports UNESCO in the tasks of coordination and follow up assigned to it in this context.

8 - In light of the above, the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Culture requests the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to work for materializing the present Declaration.