



Annex - II

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**Final Communiqué of the  
Second Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers  
(Rabat, 22-24 Rajab 1419 A.H./12-14 November 1998 A.D.)**

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Under the high patronage and generous hospitality of His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, at the joint invitation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), and in co-operation and co-ordination with the Government of Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers held its second session, in Rabat, in the period from 22-24 Rajab 1419 A.H. / 12-14 November 1998 A.D. At the opening of the Session's proceedings, H.E. Mr. Mohammed El Achaari, Minister of Cultural Affairs in the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, read the Message addressed by his Majesty King Hassan II to the Conference. The lofty Royal Message conveyed the greetings of the Moroccan Sovereign to the Ministers in charge of cultural affairs in the Muslim world, expressing the happiness of His Majesty that Morocco should host their Conference. The Royal Message highlighted, likewise, the paramount importance of the Conference, the mission of culture and its role in today's world, and the requirements of cultural edification in the Muslim countries and its deep impact on boosting the efforts of comprehensive development in modern societies.

The Message of the Moroccan Sovereign to the Conference commended the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) for the efforts it had exerted to hold the

Conference and the sustained activities it undertook toward adopting an Islamic cultural strategy and applying it in an optimal way.

The Royal Message highlighted the vital need for the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and its sovereign importance in the Muslim world.

At the opening session, H.E. Mr. Abdullah Eliman Kanc, Minister of Culture in the Government of the Republic of Senegal, Chairman of the First Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, talked about the efforts exerted by the President of Senegal, H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations taken by the First Session of the Conference. He highlighted, in this connection, the importance of cultural action, within the framework of Islamic solidarity, in boosting the development and progress of Muslim countries. He then called for activating co-operation among the OIC Member States in the cultural field, in particular, and in other fields at large.

The Senegalese Minister expressed thanks to the Moroccan Sovereign, His Majesty King Hassan II, for his efforts in fostering joint Islamic action, and hailed his Majesty's stances in the defense of the supreme interests of the Muslim Ummah.

H.E. Dr. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary-General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, then delivered an address in which he expressed his thanks to His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, for his high patronage of the Conference as well as his unflinching interest in the causes of the Muslim Ummah and his

steady efforts in defense of its sanctities and the unity and cohesion of its members. He, likewise, praised the action undertaken by the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs under the chairmanship of H.E. the President of the Republic of Senegal, Mr. Abdou Diouf, in conjunction with the OIC General Secretariat and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, to prepare the file of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World. He emphasised the importance of highlighting the role of Islamic culture in building and enriching the human civilisation as well as contributing efficiently to shaping the features of the contemporary world culture, monitoring the interaction of the Muslim world with the dominant culture, and endowing the rising generation with immunising factors likely to safeguard them from the dazzle of alien trends.

H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, delivered an address in which he thanked the Moroccan Sovereign for gracing the Conference with his high patronage and conveying a lofty Message to its members. He commended the support extended by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco in the organisation the Conference, and talked about the factors that made the Conference a real instrument of support of joint Islamic action in the field of cultural co-operation. He, then, underscored the necessity of exerting further efforts with a view to providing the necessary means for implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World.

Addresses were then delivered by Their Highnesses and Their Excellencies the Ministers and the representatives of Islamic and

international organisations, who were unanimous in considering the Conference an auspicious opportunity for the Member States to assert the strong bases of co-operation and co-ordination among them and find the means for applying the Cultural Strategy.

The Conference decided to adopt the Royal Message addressed by the Moroccan Sovereign as a working document and a basis for the work of the Conference.

The Conference discussed different items pertaining to the development of practical and flexible mechanisms to be wielded in the implementation of the applications of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World in such a way as to achieve the objectives aspired and contribute efficiently to the cultural development drive in the Muslim world. Deliberations revolved around issues related to the cultural reality in countries of the Muslim world, taking into consideration the conditions of the current juncture as well as the requirements of the coming phases on the level of general cultural action.

Discussions focused on the future prospects through a comprehensive exploration of the nature of cultural action and the social, economic and cultural reality in the Muslim world.

The Conference affirmed the role and mission of culture in strengthening the bonds of fraternity and the relations of co-operation among the Member States, highlighting the strong impact of cultural co-operation on the enhancement of Islamic solidarity and reinforcement of the efforts aimed to entrench its status in the life of Muslims.

The Conference stressed that the preservation of the Arab-Islamic identity of Al-Quds constituted a noble mission of prime urgency for all the Muslim countries. It condemned, in this connection, the Israeli practices aimed to alter the holy city's features and judaize it.

The Conference called for providing all forms of support and assistance to the Palestinian National Authority with a view to building the cultural infrastructure in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and all the Palestinian territories.

Given the importance of dialogue in the contemporary world and the prominent position it occupies in the Islamic civilisation within the framework of the authentic Quranic culture and throughout the history of the Muslim Ummah, and in view of the fact that the initiative taken by His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Chairman the Islamic Summit Conference, regarding the proclamation of the Year 2001 A.D. as the Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, has been met with full endorsement and support from the Organisation of the United Nations, the Second Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers declared its full support and endorsement of that important initiative. The Conference declared, also, its adoption of that essential approach to interaction with the different cultures world-wide, and voiced its readiness to join the international community in the UN proclamation of the year 2001 A.D. as the Year of Dialogue among Civilisations.

The Heads of delegation of the States participating in the Conference had the honour of being received by the Moroccan

Sovereign, His Majesty King Hassan II, in the Royal Palace of Marrakesh. They expressed pride in that generous royal gesture.

The Conference issued a Resolution on the implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, in which it entrusted the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation with applying the Strategy and following up its implementation with the competent authorities within the Member States, in co-ordination with the OIC General Secretariat.

In its Resolution, the Conference entrusted the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to look for special financing sources in order to support the application of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World.

The Conference also decided to set up a Consultative Council to implement the Cultural Strategy for the Muslim World composed of nine States on a rotation basis for three years to be entrusted with the study of the projects conducive to the implementation of the Cultural Strategy and with the task of coordinating with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to look for financing sources.

The Conference, also urged Member States, which have not yet joined ISESCO to do so.

The Second Islamic Conference for Culture Ministers addressed, at the end of its proceedings, a message of thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco.

**Resolution**  
**on the Implementation of the Cultural Strategy**  
**for the Islamic World**

The Second Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, held under the high patronage and generous hospitality of His Majesty King Hassan II, in Rabat, from 22 to 24 Rajab 1419 A.H., corresponding to 12-14 November 1998 ;

*Pursuant to* the principles, provisions and objectives of the Charter of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference ;

*Invoking* the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation ;

*Inspired by* the Makkah Declaration, issued by the Third Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah and Taef in January 1981;

*Having considered* the resolutions and recommendations of the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference, held in Teheran, in December 1997 ;

*Having considered* the resolutions and recommendations of the Twenty-Fifth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Doha, in March 1998 ;

*Having considered* the relevant recommendations and decisions of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs ;



*Having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary-General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the report of the Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, both of which concern the implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World ;*

*Having studied the document containing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World as adopted by the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, held in Dakar, in December 1991 ;*

*Having studied the Experts Report on the Implementation Mechanisms of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, issued by the Five-Member Committee, which held its meeting in Rabat on 15-17 June 1998 ;*

**Decides the following :**

- 1- Entrust** the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, in its capacity as the body specialised in the field of culture and communication within the framework of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, with the implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World and following up its implementation with the competent parties in the Member States, in co-ordination with the General Secretariat of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference ;
- 2- Appeal** to the Member States to adopt the fundamental concepts of a culture that shapes man, civilisation and progress, builds on the principles of Islamic fraternity, and

calls for cohesion, complementarity, mutual solidarity and co-operation, and to attach special importance to education on all levels in order to guarantee the continuity of cultural action throughout generations, in addition to teaching Islamic civilisation and culture in all Islamic institutions, providing all the relevant teaching aids, and activating the role of women through the different teaching and awareness-raising means ;

**3- Affirm** the importance of the unity of the Muslim Ummah and the coherence of its cultural orientations, the importance of coordinating its field efforts in the various fields of public action, observing all the while the national and local cultural specificities of the Muslim peoples, and the importance of supporting scientific research institutions in such a way as to guarantee the implementation of projects in the field of Islamic culture and civilisation ;

**4- Invite** the Member States to incorporate the objectives of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World within their cultural plans according to their national policies, and to attach the deserved paramount importance to cultural action in their economic and social development plans on the grounds that culture is a fundamental element in the civilisation building process ;

**5- Appeal** to the Member States, wherein there are no national councils for culture, to set up such institutions in order to

co-ordinate cultural activities therein in prospect for the implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World ;

**6- Appeal** to the Member States to establish national funds for financing cultural projects therein, and to encourage the national governmental or non-governmental institutions operating in this field ;

**7- Adopt** the recommendations contained in the Report of the five-member Committee, which held its meeting on 15-17 June, 1998, and which emanated from the Coordination Meeting of Culture Ministers in the Muslim countries, convened in Stockholm, on 30 March 1998 ;

**8- Approve** the setting up of the Consultative Council on the Implementation of the Cultural Strategy, as mentioned in paragraph 7 of the Recommendations of the Five-Member Committee, from the following Member States :

- 1- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 2- Kingdom of Morocco
- 3- Arab Republic of Egypt
- 4- Islamic Republic of Iran
- 5- Malaysia
- 6- Republic of Indonesia
- 7- Republic of Senegal
- 8- Republic of Mali
- 9- Burkina Faso

**9- Calls upon** the Member States desirous to implement cultural projects to submit them in elaborate and exhaustive form to the Consultative Council on the Implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the purpose of studying them, estimating their financial cost and endeavouring to implement them, all in consultation with the General Secretariat of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) and the Islamic Development Bank, provided that ISESCO circulate the projects concerned to the Member States and other donor parties with a view to collecting the necessary funds for their implementation under the supervision of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation ;

**10- Commend** the role of the General Secretariat of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the role of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs it being a supreme body that charts the broad lines of cultural development in the Islamic world, and the role of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in its capacity as the specialised body in charge of co-ordinating joint Islamic cultural action and following up its course, and emphasise the importance of its mobilising the awareness of the Member States regarding the support of the implementation programmes of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World ;

**11- Open** a special account for backing up the joint cultural actions falling within the framework of implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, and entrust its management to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation ;

**12- Appeal** to the Member States to allocate additional financial resources to support the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.