

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



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



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FINAL COMMUNIQUE
OF THE
FIRST ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE.
DAKAR, REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL, 20 - 21 JUMADA 11, 1409H
(25 - 26 JANUARY, 1989)

FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE FIRST ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE.

1. On the initiative and at the gracious invitation of His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs, the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Culture was held in Dakar on 20 - 21 Jumada II, 1409H (25 - 26 January, 1989).

2. The following Member States participated in the Conference:

- 1- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- 2- Republic of Indonesia
- 3- Republic of Uganda
- 4- Islamic Republic of Iran
- 5- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- 6- State of Bahrain
- 7- Brunei Darussalam
- 8- Burkina Faso
- 9- People's Republic of Bangladesh
- 10- People's Republic of Benin
- 11- Republic of Turkey
- 12- Republic of Chad
- 13- Republic of Tunisia
- 14- Republic of Gabon
- 15- Republic of The Gambia
- 16- People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- 17- Republic of Djibouti
- 18- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 19- Republic of Senegal
- 20- Syrian Arab Republic
- 21- Democratic Republic of Somalia
- 22- Republic of Iraq
- 23- Sultanate of Oman
- 24- Republic of Guinea
- 25- Republic of Guinea-Bissau
- 26- State of Palestine
- 27- State of Qatar
- 28- Republic of Cameroon

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- 29- State of Kuwait
- 30- Republic of Lebanon
- 31- Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- 32- Republic of Maldives
- 33- Republic of Mali
- 34- Malaysia
- 35- Arab Republic of Egypt
- 36- Kingdom of Morocco
- 37- Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- 38- Republic of Niger
- 39- Yemen Arab Republic
- 40- Democratic People's Republic of Yemen.

3. The following subsidiary organs of the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference participated in the Conference:

- Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture;
- International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage;
- Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development;
- Islamic Fiqh Academy.

4. The following OIC affiliated organisations and institutions also participated:

- Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO)
- Islamic Solidarity Fund.

5. The Muslim World League attended the Conference as an observer.

6. The following organisations also attended the Conference as observer:

- United Nations Organisation (UNO);
- Organisation of African Unity (OAU);
- League of Arab States (LAS);
- Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

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7. The Conference commenced its proceedings with a recitation from the Holy Quran. His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference then delivered the opening address.

His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, began his masterful opening address by highlighting the fact that "in view of its originality and importance, the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Culture constitutes an unprecedented event in the history of our youthful Organisation."

In welcoming the participants of the Conference to Senegal, His Excellency President Abdou Diouf gave a special salute to the delegation representing the new State of Palestine, recalling the pride with which we had welcomed the historic decision of Algiers and reiterating our feelings of solidarity.

His Excellency President Abdou Diouf also extended special welcome to the new Secretary General of the OIC who was inaugurating his term of office under such auspicious circumstances.

His Excellency President Abdou Diouf pointed out the importance of the objectives assigned to the Conference, mentioning in particular that "the aim is not only to involve all our States in the development of a cultural policy, but also to induce the entire Islamic community to participate in the resultant choices."

After highlighting the rich civilizational heritage of the Islamic peoples, His Excellency President Abdou Diouf indicated that "taking the cultural component into consideration in the dynamics of development, the scientific and technological dimensions of all cultures convey the same reality: culture cannot be reduced to heritage from the past; it is also the original response given to the challenges constraints and contradictions confronting at present every human community."

It is on the basis of this certainty, His Excellency Abdou Diouf added, that the leaders of the Islamic Ummah adopted at the Taif Summit in 1981 the historic Makkah Al Mukarramah Declaration which is one of the landmarks in the history of our community.

The Makkah Al Mukarramah Declaration, H.E. President Abdou Diouf recalled, is a vibrant appeal for the consolidation of faith and for the attachment and strict adherence to the teachings of Islam, at a time when materialism is dominant and when moral values are deteriorating day after day, aggravating all sorts of crises throughout the world.

It is out of faithfulness to this historic Declaration, and with the noble intention of carrying out the pledges it contains, that this Conference has been convened, especially in order to revitalize cultural action within the Ummah.

His Excellency President Abdou Diouf concluded his speech by outlining the political orientations which should constitute the frame work of this revival of Islamic culture.

8. On the proposal of His Excellency Mr. Rashid Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid, Minister of State for the Affairs of the Council of Ministers of Kuwait, the Conference decided to consider as a guiding document for its deliberations, the keynote speech of His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs.

9. The Conference then heard the address delivered by His Excellency Mr. Rashid Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid, Minister of State for the Affairs of the Council of Ministers of the State of Kuwait, in his capacity as representative of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait and current Chairman of the Islamic Summit Conference.

His Excellency Mr. Rashid Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid, speaking on behalf of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait and Chairman of the Islamic Summit Conference, thanked His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf for having convened this first Islamic Conference of Ministers of Culture. He reviewed present-day problems which preoccupy the Islamic world, such as the national Palestinian uprising, the situation between Iran and Iraq, the situation in Afghanistan, the problem of South Africa and Namibia. He stressed the role played by the OIC on the international scene in making its contribution to the search for solutions to these problems and to the establishment of peace and security.

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His Excellency Mr. Al-Rashid pointed out that Islamic civilization took its impetus from the revelation of the First Verse of the Holy Quran, which enjoins Muslims to seek knowledge. The Leaders of the Muslim world, inspired by these teachings, have established universities, and cultural institutions and foundations with a view to preserving the Islamic cultural heritage. He invited all the Member States to support these institutions so as to enable them to pursue the mission assigned to them.

10. The Conference also heard an address delivered by His Excellency Mr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary-General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

In his address, His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid expressed his pleasure to participate in this great premiere, namely the convening of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Culture as Secretary-General stating that this conference is the first of its kind since the establishment of the OIC twenty years ago.

Paying tribute to His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf as initiator of the Conference, Dr. Algabid said these States General of Islamic Culture complement, prolong and enrich the manifold and determined action which His Excellency the Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs has been conducting since the Third Islamic Summit Conference entrusted him, as head of that Committee, with the heavy but exalting task of seeking to consolidate inter-Islamic cooperation in such vital sectors, and to ensure the preservation, diffusion and revival of Islamic culture, in the spirit of the historical Declaration of Makkah Al-Mukarramah which was issued by the Third Islamic Summit Conference.

The Secretary-General was of the opinion that if the whole debate on cultural developmlent and simply on development boils down to seeking ways and means to give a meaning to life on earth and to reconcile man with himself and with his environment, then the Dakar Conference is of paramount important for the future of our Ummah and for the achievement of one of the basic objective enshrined in the Charter of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, namely "to consolidate cooperation among Member States in the economic, social, cultural, scientific and other vital fields of activities."

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In a vibrant plea, His Excellency the Secretary General requested those responsible for Culture in the Muslim countries not to overlook the constraints imposed on the OIC cultural organs and institutions, constraints due primarily to a persistent financial crisis which spreads frustration among the staff of these institutions and hinders their activities. In that respect, the Secretary General stated that he was convinced that the exchange of views on these problems will cover all the obstacles hindering the real take-off of the cultural sector within the OIC. In the same line of thought, His Excellency Dr. Algabid praised the merits of comprehensive and harmonious coordination among the subsidiary organs and affiliated bodies created under the aegis of the OIC, which respond to need actually felt and contribute equally towards the achievement of the objectives stipulated in our Charter.

11. The Conference also heard the address by H.E. Dr. Abdul Hadi Boutaleb, Director General of the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Professor Abdul Hadi Boutaleb stated in particular that "the convening of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Culture attests to the desire to examine the intellectual and cultural situation of the Ummah as a prelude to laying down an Islamic Cultural Strategy, which would serve as a basis for the cultural action we are duty-bound to carry out in compliance with the mission and responsibilities entrusted to our community by Muslim peoples who look forward to a development worthy of their past."

In this respect, the Director General of ISESCO expressed the hope that the Conference would herald a new era in terms of cooperation among OIC Member States as well as better harmonization of their efforts.

Professor Abdul Hadi Boutaleb further indicated that the Organization of which he is in charge would spare no effort to contribute to the achievement of the above objective.

12. The Conference then proceeded to elect its Bureau. On the proposal of His Excellency Mr. Rashid Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid, Minister of State for

the Affairs of the Council of Ministers of the State of Kuwait, His Excellency Mr. Moustapha Ka, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Senegal, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Conference.

The following Member States were elected members of the Bureau as follows:

Vice-Chairmen : Kuwait, Palestine, Turkey, and Tunisia.
Rapporteur : Morocco.

13. In taking office as Chairman of the Conference, His Excellency Mr. Moustapha Ka, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Senegal, welcomed the participants to Dakar once again and thanked them for the honour they had done to his country in unanimously electing him Chairman of the Conference.

14. Proceeding with its business, the Conference heard the report of the Senior Officials meeting which was presented by Mr. Rawane MBaye, Chairman of the meeting. The Conference approved the report and adopted its agenda.

15. Within the framework of the general debate, the Conference heard the interventions of the heads of delegations focussing on the activities of Islamic Cultural institutions, organs and centres, on the obstacles facing the cultural sector, and the proposed remedies, and on the definition of a cultural strategy and a plan of action for the Islamic world.

The Conference also discussed current major issues of concern to the Islamic world.

16. The Conference also reviewed the activities of Islamic universities, and cultural institutes, centres and organizations established under the auspices of the OIC, in the light of the report presented by the Secretary General.

The Conference expressed satisfaction at the efforts made since the establishment of the OIC for the purpose of providing the Islamic world with structures capable of ensuring the cultural development of its peoples. The Conference commended the results achieved within the framework of these structures and stressed the need to consolidate them. It exhorted Member States to provide them with the necessary support so that they can fully carry out their mission.

17. The Conference studied in depth the various obstacles hindering the institutions established with a view to achieving the objectives of the OIC on the cultural level. Special emphasis was laid on financial and structural obstacles. In this respect the Conference recognized the necessity to provide support to all OIC institutions and to work for the promotion of activities in their respective fields of competence, while stressing the urgent need for cooperation and coordination among them. The Conference also invited the Secretary General to pursue his efforts aimed at rationalizing the work of these institutions and achieving greater coordination among their activities.

18. The Conference discussed extensively the agenda item on Islamic Cultural Strategy. The Conference paid tribute to the fortunate and opportune initiative of H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs aimed at providing the Islamic Ummah with a common cultural policy based on its rich civilizational heritage and meeting its lofty aspirations. The Conference recognized that the elaboration of the Cultural Strategy will be an important stage in carrying out the pledges made by the Kings, and Heads of States and Governments of the OIC Member States as reflected in the historic Makkah Al-Mukarramah Declaration.

At the end of its discussions, and proceeding from the relevant guidelines defined by H.E. President Abdou Diouf, the Conference agreed on the general framework of a cultural strategy for the development of the Islamic world, and established a special Committee to finalize the elaboration of this Strategy.

19. The Conference hailed the blessed uprising of the Palestinian people against the Zionist enemy in the occupied Palestinian territories. In this uprising, it sees proof of the firm determination of the proud Palestinian people to safeguard their Arab and Islamic identity and to assert their inalienable rights, particularly their rights to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to establish an independent State on their national soil with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole and legitimate representative.

20. The Conference called upon Member States to coordinate their efforts with the aim of exposing, denouncing and preventing the desecration, the attempts at distorting the Islamic features of the Holy Places, particularly the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the First Qibla, and Third Holiest Place in Islam and the starting point of the Midnight Journey (Isra) of the Prophet Mohamed (Peace and prayers be upon him).

21. The Conference emphasized the necessity to have close cooperation amongst the Member States with a view to strengthening their national laws in order to prohibit and prevent the illicit import, export and transfer of items belonging to the cultural Islamic heritage and to strive to retrocede to their rightful owners, those objects which were illicitly taken away.

22. The Conference welcomed the laudable initiative of the Republic of Senegal in deciding to erect a memorial called the "Goree-Almadies Memorial" which is in keeping with the noble ideals of brotherhood, peace and tolerance of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It urged the OIC Member States and the General Secretariat to lend their material and moral support for the erection of the Memorial.

23. The Conference discussed the conditions of Muslim minorities in the world, and the need to give them support and assistance in their efforts to safeguard their Muslim identity and their legitimate rights.

The Conference invited the Government of Bulgaria to respect the legitimate rights of the Turkish Muslim minority in allowing them to practice their religious rites in complete freedom and tranquillity.

24. In the same spirit, the Conference expressed support and sympathy to the Turkish Muslim people of Cyprus in their efforts to preserve their cultural identity and their Islamic heritage and, in this regard, invited Member States to continue their valuable assistance.

25. The Conference expressed its solidarity with the heroic struggle of the Muslim Afghan people and welcomed the Geneva Accord for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Afghan territory to enable the Muslim Afghan refugees to voluntarily return to their homes in dignity and honour and to maintain their Islamic cultural heritage and identity.

26. The Conference expressed concern over the acts of destruction perpetrated against cultural institutions in southern Lebanon, and urges Member States to seek the implementation of the relevant resolutions of international organizations, in particular those adopted by UNESCO on the preservation of cultural heritage in Lebanon.

27. The Conference paid homage to the Egyptian writer, Negrib Mahfouz for his contribution to literature which has now gained world-wide recognition. It expressed its encouragements to all the philosophers, researchers, men of letters and artists of the Muslim world.

28. The Conference adopted a document entitled -"DAKAR DECLARATION on the Protection and Development of Islamic Culture, and on Inter-Islamic Cultural Cooperation".

29. The Conference of Ministers of Culture decided to hold its sessions every other year. It likewise decided to entrust its Bureau with the task of following up the implementation of its decisions.

30. The Conference expressed its warm thanks and deep gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs and to the Government and people of Senegal for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the participants and for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference.

May Allah bless our efforts.