

GUIDE TO ISESCO

Creation

The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- was set up upon the adoption of its Statute (Charter) by the Eleventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, meeting in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in May 1980. The Third Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah and Taef, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, decided, in January 1981, to set up the Islamic Organization -ISESCO-.

The Founding Conference of ISESCO was then held in Fez, Kingdom of Morocco, **on 9-11 Rajab 1402A.H/3-5 May 1982.**

Objectives

The Organization's objectives are as follows :

- a) To strengthen and promote cooperation among Member States and consolidate it in the fields of education, science, culture and communication ;*
- b) To develop applied sciences and use of advanced technology within the framework of the lofty and perennial Islamic values and ideals ;*
- c) To consolidate understanding among Muslim peoples and contribute to the achievement of world peace and security through various means, particularly through education, science, culture and communication ;*
- d) To consolidate complementarity and to seek to achieve coordination among the specialized institutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the fields of education, science, culture and communication and among the Member States of the Islamic Organization (ISESCO) in order to consolidate Islamic solidarity ;*
- e) To make Islamic culture the basis of educational curricula at all levels and stages ;*
- f) To consolidate Islamic culture, protect the independence of Islamic thought against cultural invasion and distortion factors, and safeguard the features and distinct characteristics of the Islamic civilization ;*
- g) To safeguard the Islamic identity of Muslims in non-Islamic countries.*

Organs

The organs of the Islamic Organization -ISESCO- are :

- **The General Conference**
- **The Executive Council**
- **The General Directorate.**

I. The General Conference

It is composed of the representatives of ISESCO's Member States, appointed by their governments and specializing in education, science, culture or communication.

The General Conference meets in a regular session once every three years. It may meet in an extraordinary session.

II. The Executive Council

Made up of one representative from each Member State.

It lays down the internal administrative regulations of the Islamic Organization, except for those falling within the competence of the General Conference. The Executive Council also appoints the Deputy Director General upon his nomination by the Director General, for a three-year term, renewable once. The Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council specify the nomination conditions and selection procedures.

III. The General Directorate

It is headed by a Director General elected by the General Conference for a renewable three-year term, from among candidates of Member States. The Director General is the head of the administrative setup and is accountable to the Executive Council and the General Conference.

Broad Lines of the Three-Year Action Plan (2004-2006)

The current Three-Year Action Plan for the years 2004-2006 -ISESCO's 7th Three-Year Action Plan-contains (201) programmes and 27 major civilizational projects broken down as follows :

Education Directorate

Education programmes are broken down into five fields of action, namely :

- Original education in the service of sustainable development.
- Literacy.
- Education for all.
- Education and serving society
- Higher education

These fields of action contain a number of axes, programmes and activities.

Education programmes also include the following seven major projects :

- Project of setting up departments for Islamic culture, Arabic language and of Muslim people's languages in universities and institutes.
- Project of setting up in-service Arabic language training centers in non-Arabic speaking Member States.
- Project for literacy using the standardized Quranic script.
- Project of literacy for girls, women and abandoned children.
- Project for generalizing the introduction of informatics as a basic learning subject.
- Project for transcription of Muslim peoples' languages in standardised Quranic scripts.
- Project for generalising computer use in schools in rural and remote areas.

Science Directorate

Science programmes are broken down into six fields of action, namely :

- Building scientific research capacities.
- Strengthening technological capability.
- Scientific and technological education needs of 21st century.
- Environment and sustainable development of natural resources.
- Social and human sciences.
- ISESCO Centre for Promotion of Scientific Research (ICPSR).

These fields of action contain a number of axes, programmes and activities.

Culture and Communication Directorate

Culture and Communication programmes are broken down into four fields of action, namely :

- Islamic Culture : Towards a Renewed Contribution to Human Civilization.
- The Cultural Dimension of Sustainable Development
- Culture in the Islamic World : Between Unity and Diversity.
- Information and Communication in the Islamic World.

These fields of action contain a number of axes, programmes and activities.

Culture and Communication programmes also include the following ten (10) civilizational projects :

- Project of the capitals of Islamic culture.
- Project for promoting the culture of justice and peace.
- Project for supporting Islamic encyclopaedic action.
- Project of (Decade of information and communication culture in the Islamic world).
- Project of setting up regional audio-visual and multi-media training and production centres.
- Project of developing national websites on education, science and culture in the Islamic World.
- Project of setting up Regional Copyright Training Centre.

- Project of Reading Centres.
- Project of Productive Women.
- Project of the “Islamic Observatory of the Cultural Outlook“.

External Relations and Cooperation Directorate

External Relations and Cooperation programmes are broken down into four fields of action, namely :

- Arab Islamic and international cooperation
- Development of educational, scientific, cultural and social institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif
- Development of educational, scientific, cultural, social and information institutions in Sarajevo
- Cooperation with National Commissions.

These fields of action contain a number of axes, programmes and activities.

Information and Documentation Center

The programmes of the Information and Documentation Centre fall under the following field of action :

- Promotion of modern information, communication and documentation technologies in Member States.

This field contains a number of axes, programmes and activities.

Planning, studies and Evaluation

Planning, Studies and Evaluation programmes fall under the following field of action :

- Planning, Studies and Evaluation mechanisms.

This field of action contains a number of axes, programmes and activities.

Library

ISESCO Library offers its services, in terms of books and references, to the staff members of the Organization as well as researchers and academics from outside the Organization.

Information

The Information Division publishes the academic periodical journal (**Islam Today**) as well as the quarterly newsletter (**ISESCO**), in the three working languages : Arabic, English and French. It also secures a daily media coverage of the Organization’s activities, through news agencies, leading newspapers and magazines as well as television and radio stations in the Member States and in some Western capitals.

The Information Division also issues other information publications in the three working languages, in addition to the (**Yearly Press File**) issued in three separate editions. It also maintains an extensive network of cooperation ties with numerous media corporations in the Islamic World.

ISESCO Publications

ISESCO Publications featured, up to May 2004, 543 books and studies, originals and translations, most of which were issued in the three working languages: Arabic, English and French.

Major Civilizational Projects

As part of its contribution to educational, scientific and cultural development in the Islamic world, ISESCO prepared a number of major civilizational projects, which are implemented over scheduled phases within the framework of its successive action plans :

- **Special Islamic Programme for Literacy and Basic Training for All** (this programme represents ISESCO’s contribution to the World Conference on Education for All, held in Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990).
- **Programme on Basic Education and Training for Human Resource Development in Islamic Countries** (in cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and their specialized agencies operating in the field of human resource development).
- **Transcription of Muslim Peoples’ Languages in the Quranic Script** (transcription of 21 African languages has so far been standardized. A special typewriter has been produced and distributed to the countries concerned. Special manual typing characters for these languages have, also, been produced and the Organization is considering

implementation of the second phase of the project in Central Asia in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank, the World Islamic Call Society and the Rabat-based Institute of Studies and Research for Arabization).

- **Modernizing the teaching of Scientific Education Curricula** (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology for lower secondary, secondary and university levels).
- **Programme on Promotion of Peace Culture in Africa through education, science and culture.**
- **ISESCO Scientific Information Web Service** (this web-site is expanding and contains copious information on Islam, the Muslim world and the Islamic culture and civilization).
- **ISESCO Centre for promotion of Scientific Research (ICPSR).**
- **Islamic Body on Ethics of Science and Technology.**

Cooperation with international and Regional Organizations

The Islamic Organization has concluded (up to May 2004) one hundred and thirty-one (131) cooperation agreements with Arab Islamic, international and regional organizations including : United Nations Organization, Organization of the Islamic Conference, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, United Nations Higher Commissioner for the Refugees, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Environment Programme, Islamic Development Bank, Arab Fund for Economic Development in Africa, Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, South-East Asian Ministers of Education Organizations, International Organization of Francophony, World Islamic Call Society, Muslim World League, International Islamic Charitable Organization, Islamic Call Organization, Islamic Organization for Medical Science, Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, Arab Thought Foundation, Kaddafi World Foundation of Charitable Association, International Institute of Islamic Thought, Center for research on Islamic History, Arts and Culture, Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, World Migration Organization, Al Al-Bayt Foundation for Islamic Thought, Regional Council for Education and Adult Education in Africa, Institute of the Arab World, International Educational Union, African Centre of Training and Administrative Research for Development (CAFRAD), African Center for Science and Space Technology, Third World Academy of Science, Bait-mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency, etc.

Sponsoring of and Participation in International Conferences

ISESCO has always been anxious to participate actively in the sponsoring and organization of international conferences dealing with its fields of specialization. The Organization co-organized inter alia :

- **World Conference on Education for All** (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990).
- **World Conference on Global Knowledge'97** (Toronto, Canada, 1997).
- **Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies** (Stockholm, Sweden, 1998).
- **World Conference on Higher Education** (Paris, France, 1998).
- **African Conference on Higher Education** (Durban, South Africa, 1998).
- **General Conference of Francophony on Higher Education and Scientific Research** (Beirut, Lebanon, 1998).
- **International Conference on Technical and Vocational Education** (Seoul, South Korea, 1999).
- **World Conference on Science and Technology** (Budapest, Hungary, 1999).
- **International Conference on Higher Education in the Arab World : Preparing for the World Market** (Marrakech, Morocco, 2002).
- **International Conference on Sustainable Development** (Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002).
- **World Conference on Renewable Energy** (Colone, Germany, 2002).
- **Arab Forum of Education** (Beirut, Lebanon : 2004)

Working Languages

ISESCO's working languages are Arabic, English and French.

Presidents of General Conferences and Chairmen of Executive Council Sessions

I. General Conference Presidents

1. *Constitutive General Conference*

(Fez, 9-11 Rajab 1402H / 3-5 May 1982)

- Dr. Azeddine Laraki, Minister of National Education of the Kingdom of Morocco

2. *First General Conference*

(Casablanca, 25-27 Shaaban 1403H / 7-9 June 1983)

- Dr. Azeddine Laraki, Minister of National Education of the Kingdom of Morocco

3. *Second General Conference*

(Islamabad, 17-19 Zul Hijja 1405H/3-5 September 1985)

- Mr. Maya Mohamed Yasin Khan Watu, Minister of Education of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

4. *Third General Conference*

(Amman, 2-5 Rabii II 1409H/12-15 November 1988)

- Dr. Duqan Al-Hindaoui, Minister of Education of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

5. *Fourth General Conference*

(Rabat, 20-21 Jumada I 1412H/28-30 November 1991)

- Dr. Taïeb Chkili, Minister of National Education of the Kingdom of Morocco

6. *Fifth General Conference*

(Damascus, 24-27 Jumada II 1415H/27-30 November 1994)

- Mr. Muhammad Ghassan Al-Halabi, Minister of Education of the Syrian Arab Republic.

7. *Sixth General Conference*

(Riyadh, 6-8 Shaaban 1418H/6-8 December 1997)

- Dr. Khaled Ben Muhammad Lankari, Minister of Higher Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

8. *Seventh General Conference*

(Rabat, 25-27 Shaaban 1421H/22-24 November 2000)

- Dr. Najib Zerouali Ouariti, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Executive Staff Training in the Kingdom of Morocco.

9- *Eighth General Conference*

(Tehran 3-4 Zul Qi'da 1424 A.H./27-29 December 2003)

- Dr. Morteza Haji, Minister of Education in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

II. Executive Council Chairmen

1. Mr. Saleh Bauzir

(Executive Council, 1st and 2nd Sessions)

2. Mr. Muhammad Ben Abdu Salam

(Executive Council, 3rd Session)

3. Dr. Rashed Ben Abdulaziz Al-Mubarak

(Executive Council, 4th through 8th Session)

4. Mr. Muhammad Ben Ahmed Al-Uthaimin

(Executive Council, 9th Session)

5. Mr. Abdulaziz Ben Sulayman Al-Fadhel

(Executive Council, 10th through 12th Session)

6. Mr. Lamine Kamara

(Executive Council, 13th to 18th Session)

7. Mr. Qadi Raqibudin Ahmed

(Executive Council, 19th through 21st Session)

8. Mr. Mohamed Abdellah Faris

(22nd Session-24th Session)

9. Dr. Bachir Ahmad Said

(Executive Council, 25th Session- ...)

Directors General

1. *Prof. Abdelhadi Boutaleb*

(May 1982 - November 1991)

2. *Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri*

(November 1991 to date)

Comparative table of gradual
evolution
of activities implemented
*since the Two-Year Action Plan
(1983-1985) up to the Three-Year
Action Plan (2004-2006)*

Action Plans	Training Sessions, Workshops, Meetings and Symposia	Publications, Originals and Translations
Two-Year Action Plan (1983-1985)	8	2
Three-Year Action Plan (1985-1988)	36	47
Three-Year Action Plan (1988-1991)	67	41
Three-Year Action Plan (1991-1994)	95	32
Three-Year Action Plan (1995-1997)	98	90
Three-Year Action Plan (1998-2000)	136	123
Three-Year Action Plan (2001-2003)	201	188
Three-Year Action Plan (2004-2006)^(*)	25	20
Total	666	543

(*) These figures include the activities implemented over the first four months of the current year 2004.

General Conference and Executive Council Sessions

General Conference	Executive Council	Date	Venue
Founding Conference		03-05/05/1982	Fez, Kingdom of Morocco
	1st Session	15-17/11/1982	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	2nd Session	15-16/01/1983	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	3rd Session	04-05/06/1983	Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco
First Regular Session		07-09/06/1983	Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco
	4th Session	18-20/09/1984	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	5th Session	30/04-04/05/1985	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	6th Session	31/08-01/09/1985	Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Second Regular Session		03-05/09/1985	Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan
	7th Session	01-03/09/1986	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
First Extraordinary Session		27-29/10/1986	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	8th Session	07-12/12/1987	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	9th Session	07-10/11/1988	Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Third Regular Session		12-15/11/1988	Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
	10th Session	27-30/11/1989	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
Second Extraordinary Session		05-09/03/1990	Jomtien, Thailand
	11th Session	03-08/12/1990	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	12th Session	19-25/11/1991	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
Fourth Regular Session		28-30/11/1991	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	13th Session	23-27/11/1992	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	14th Session	22-27/11/1993	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	15th Session	19-24/11/1994	Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Fifth Regular Session		27-30/11/1994	Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
	16th Session	1-5/12/1995	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	17th Session	1-6/12/1996	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	18th Session	29/11-4/12/1997	Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Sixth Regular Session		6-8/12/1997	Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
	19th Session	19-23/11/1998	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	20th Session	22-27/11/1999	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	21st Session	16-20/11/2000	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
Seventh Regular Session		22-24/11/2000	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	22nd Session	22-26/12/2001	Sharjah, State of the United Arab Emirates
	23rd Session	12-15/12/2002	Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
	24th Session	21-25/12/2003	Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Eighth Regular Session		27-29/12/2003	Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran