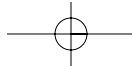
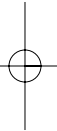
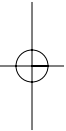
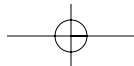
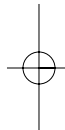
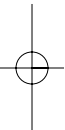


# Report of the **Islamic Executive Bureau** for the Environment





1. The Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment held its first meeting at the headquarters of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 18 through 19 January 2010.
2. The meeting's opening ceremony was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, General President of Meteorology and Environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President of the Third Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment. In attendance were HE Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajiri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); HE Ambassador Mr Moez Boukhari, Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Representative of the OIC Secretary General; along with their Excellencies the members of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment; the representatives of a number of international, regional and Arab organizations operating in the field of the environment and sustainable development; Member States' ambassadors accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco; and other personalities.
3. The meeting was opened with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by an address by HRH Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, where he expressed delight at inaugurating the first meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, in preparation for the Fourth Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, which is scheduled for 5 through 7 October 2010 in Tunis, under the high patronage of His Excellency Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Tunisian Republic. Prince Turki pointed out that environment and sustainable development are becoming a major area of interest for the international community and, more particularly, the Muslim world countries. He also reaffirmed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's support for joint Islamic action, especially joint Islamic environmental action, and he expressed hope that the first meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment would come up with important decisions, and that collective efforts would be made to implement them. The Prince's opening speech was closed with a call for further cooperation between the Islamic and Arab Executive Bureaus for the Environment and, through them, between the Council of Arab Ministers for the Environment and the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, in order to achieve common objectives.
4. For his part, Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajiri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), made an address wherein he welcomed the members of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, and the representatives of participant international, regional and Arab organizations, and wished them success in their tasks. Dr Altwajiri explained that the Executive Bureau's first meeting is especially significant in that it convenes only a few weeks after the Copenhagen World Summit on Climate Change, and at a time when ISESCO, in coordination with the OIC, is proceeding with preparations for the fourth Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, which will be held in Tunis, Tunisian Republic, from 5 to 7 October 2010, under the high patronage of Tunisian President Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He also explained that the review of the outcome of the previous sessions of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers will

pave the way for drawing a new roadmap for environment action in the Member States. By the end of his speech, the Director General pointed out to the environment and sustainable development related activities and programmes which ISESCO has included in its three-year action plan (2010-2012), in light of the outcome and resolutions of the third Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers. He also expressed hope that the Executive Bureau's meeting would come to a successful conclusion.

5. There was also HE Ambassador Moez Boukhari, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Representative of the OIC Secretary General. In his speech, Mr Boukhari brought the greetings of HE Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC, to HRH Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, Chairman of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, as well as to HE Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajiri, Director General of ISESCO, and their excellencies the representatives of the Member States of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment. Ambassador Moez Boukhari also pointed out to the wide range of challenges facing the Islamic countries in the field of the environment and sustainable development, particularly in relation to water resources and climate change. He went on to express confidence in the ability of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment and its Secretariat and, through them, the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers to continue contributing significantly to resolving environmental issues in the Member States.
6. For his part, HE Ambassador Chedli Neffati, Assistant Secretary General of the League of Arab States, delivered an address on behalf of the League's Secretary General, Mr Amre Moussa, in which he conveyed the Secretary General's greetings to HRH Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, Chairman of the Islamic and Arab Executive Bureaus for the Environment, as well as to HE Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajiri, Director General of ISESCO, and their Excellencies the representatives of the Bureau's Member States and the regional and international organizations and institutions operating in the field of the environment. He also commended the good cooperation between ISESCO and the League, particularly on issues pertaining to the environment and sustainable development, and called for boosting such cooperation through the Arab and Islamic conferences of environment ministers.
7. The Executive Bureau commenced its first working session with the election of the Bureau's Vice Chairman and Rapporteur as follows:
  - The Republic of Gabon, Vice Chairman.
  - The Arab Republic of Egypt, Rapporteur.

Also, the meeting's draft agenda was adopted in its attached version.

8. The meeting also examined and discussed the draft recommendations and decisions reached by the meeting of senior environment officials who are members of the Executive Bureau, and the representatives of participant international and regional organizations and bodies. After deliberations, the meeting adopted the report on ISESCO's Mandate in the Area of Environment Protection, Water Resources Management and Renewable Energy Promotion, taking into consideration the Executive Bureau's observations. The meeting also requested the Executive Bureau's Chair and Secretariat to develop a

conception about the setting up of a Technical Committee for the Environment and Development in the Islamic World, composed of senior environment officials representing the Member States of the Executive Bureau and specialized regional and international organizations, civil society institutions and local community associations operating in the fields of the environment, and to specify its areas of competence. The meeting also called on Member States to work out means to benefit from the programmes and funding mechanisms of international organizations, institutions and organs operating in the field of the environment and sustainable development. To this end, the meeting invited Member States to appoint Environment and Sustainable Development Focal Points to facilitate contact with the Secretariat of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment. The meeting also called on ISESCO Director General to continue his efforts in the fields of environment protection, water resources management, and renewable energy development, in coordination and consultation with Member States' competent authorities, as well as relevant regional and international organizations and bodies.

9. The meeting went on to adopt the Secretariat's evaluation report on the outcome of the previous sessions of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, taking into account the Executive Bureau's observations. It also called on Member States' competent authorities to redouble efforts and better coordinate actions to meet the new challenges posed by climate change and the deterioration of environmental situation, and formulate sound environmental policies. In this connection, it invited the Member States to provide the Executive Bureau's General Secretariat with regular reports on their achievements in sustainable development, in order to enable it to prepare the evaluation report on the outcome of the sessions of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers. The meeting also commissioned ISESCO to continue coordinating with the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Morocco, with regard to the establishment of an Islamic Academy for the Environment and Sustainable Development in the Kingdom of Morocco, in keeping with the Royal Message addressed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco to the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers in its third session. It also thanked the kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting and sponsoring the first and second sessions of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, as well as for supporting the Conference's third session, and allocating a constant budget for organizing each of the sessions of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers and the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment. In the same vein, the meeting commended HRH Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Aziz, President of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, for his efforts in promoting environment and other related issues in the Muslim world. It also thanked ISESCO Director General for preparing the outcome assessment report, and invited him to submit, after every three-session period, an assessment report of the outcome of the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers.
10. The meeting adopted the Draft Islamic Environmental Action Programme, taking into account the Bureau's observations. In this regard, the Member States were called on to translate into action the core elements of the action programme through developing environment related programmes and projects, as well as coordinating and cooperating with relevant organizations

and institutions. Also significant, the meeting called for setting up, under the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, a 'High-Level Task Force' comprising climate change experts from the Member States, which will be commissioned to closely monitor international developments in climate change and prepare for the next Climate Change Summit (Mexico, 2010). The meeting also called on ISESCO to undertake all necessary measures, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat, to consider establishment of the "Islamic Council for Water Resources", under the Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, as approved by the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, in May 2009 (Resolution No 4/36-S&T on Environment Matters). It also commissioned the Executive Bureau's Chair and Secretariat to prepare a plan for the protection and management of marine resources and development of marine ecosystems in the Member States. It further requested them to coordinate with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, with the view to prepare a strategy on disaster risk and impact reduction in the Islamic countries. The Bureau's Chair and Secretariat were also entrusted with preparing a report on environmental conditions in the Muslim world, increasing activities aiming to sensitise the youth to the environment and enhance their role in the field of environment protection and sustainable development, and drafting a strategy to develop renewable and clean energy sources in the Islamic countries, in line with the resolution of the third Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers. Also significant, the meeting invited Islamic, Arab and international funding institutions, especially the Islamic Development Bank, to contribute to the implementation of the activities of the Islamic Environmental Action Programme.

- 11.** The Executive Bureau also adopted the draft agenda of the fourth Islamic Conference of the Environment Ministers, and welcomed the Tunisian Republic's generous invitation to play host to it in the period from 5 to 7 October 2010, with the support of the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It also called on ISESCO to make all necessary arrangements in this regard, in coordination with the OIC and the competent authorities in Tunisia.
- 12.** The Executive Bureau approved a proposal by the General Secretariat of the OIC to establish H.R.H Prince Turki bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz Special Chair for Environment Studies in universities of the most vulnerable OIC countries exposed to the adverse impacts of climate change.
- 13.** At the close of its proceedings, the Executive Bureau decided to address a message of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for steadily supporting the joint Islamic action in the fields of environment protection and sustainable development.