



# Report of the Experts' Committee

Hammamat, Tunisian Republic, 5-6 October 2010

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As part of the fourth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers held under the high patronage of His Excellency Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Tunisian Republic, in the city of Hammamet, Tunisian Republic, from 26 to 27 Shawal 1431 (corresponding to 5 and 6 October 2010), the experts, members of participating delegations, convened a meeting to discuss draft documents of the conference, and submitted resolutions thereon to the conference to examine and adopt them.

The meeting opened its proceedings with the draft **General Framework of Islamic Agenda for Sustainable Development**. The General Directorate presented an updated vision of that framework. The document highlights environment priority issues in the Islamic world, as well as the positive development in a number of Member States where the competent parties developed plans and implemented projects aimed at protecting the environment, achieving rational use of natural resources and taking measures likely to strengthen their capacities in these fields. It also reviews the major recent challenges in that respect.

During discussions, the experts expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Director General and his assistants for the efforts deployed to develop a reference framework and procedural mechanisms to achieve sustainable development in the Islamic world, promote joint Islamic action in the environment, and foster Islamic solidarity in that regard.

They referred a resolution on that document to the conference and recommended its adoption (**see annex 1**).

Afterwards, the General Directorate of ISESCO presented the draft “**Strategy on Management of Disaster Risks and Climate Change Implications in the Islamic World**”. It highlighted the underlying references of this strategy, as well as the specificities of its contents, strategic orientations and the motives for its preparation to mitigate disaster impact, through heightened awareness, good governance and the fostering of the culture of prevention and readiness, which constitutes a major component in any disaster management strategy.

During discussions, observations of experts focused on the importance of the Strategy contents and proposed to reformulate its title to become more inclusive. They agreed to rename it as “the Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in the Islamic World”. They underlined the importance of increasing Islamic funds to face disasters, and the need for adaptation in disaster reduction, through preventive measures such as the construction of dams and earthquake-resistant buildings, better fuel quality, and use of clean, renewable energy.

Then, the meeting referred a resolution on that document to the conference and recommended its adoption (**see annex 2**)

Thereafter, the General Directorate of ISESCO presented the draft **Islamic Action Programme to Benefit from Adaptation Funds and Clean Development Mechanisms**. The programme aims to develop capacities of the competent parties in Islamic countries to benefit from adaptation funds and clean development mechanisms, and enable them to mitigate greenhouse effect and climate change.

During discussions, the experts underscored the importance of the Programme and the need for training in the Member States on the ways to benefit from adaptation funds, especially in African countries.

In the second working session, the General Directorate of ISESCO presented the draft **Strategy for Promoting Energy Efficiency and Clean and Renewable Energy Sources Use in the Islamic World**. The strategy provides technical expertise needed by the Member States in this field, which will in turn help secure energy resources that are readily and sustainably available in the long term at reasonable cost, and can be utilized for all required tasks without causing detrimental effects to the environment or natural resources.

During discussions, the experts lauded the contents of the strategy and expressed their awareness of the importance and need to use clean and renewable energy sources. Subsequently, they referred a resolution on that document to the conference and recommended its adoption (**see annex 3**).

Likewise, the General Directorate of ISESCO presented the draft **Environment Action Plan in the Islamic World**, which was adopted by the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment at its first meeting held at ISESCO headquarters in Rabat from 18 to 19 January 2010, and which would enable the competent parties in the Member States to implement field projects and programmes covering climate change, water issues, management of marine resources, meeting renewable energy demands, conservation of biodiversity, desertification control, mitigating the impact of disasters, health issues, etc.

During discussions, the experts commended the contents of the Programme and underlined the need to push through Islamic solidarity to achieve the sought objectives. They also referred a resolution on that document to the conference and recommended its adoption (**see annex 4**).

Afterwards, the General Presidency of Meteorology and Environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (PME), presented the project on the establishment of the **Islamic Environment Information Centre**, which would provide environmental data to the competent parties in the member states, and activate the networking of national and regional bodies and institutions active in the field of environment protection and sustainable development. During discussion, experts expressed their appreciation to ISESCO and the Presidency for the efforts deployed to set up the Center and called ISESCO and the Presidency to continue their coordination and cooperation to develop mechanisms for the implementation of that project.

Then, the experts referred a resolution on that document to the conference and recommended its adoption (**see annex 5**).