



Tunis Appeal on «Youth and Biodiversity»

Hammamat, Tunisian Republic, 5-6 October 2010

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We, the Ministers, heads of delegation of the OIC member States and representatives of international and regional organizations, gathering in Hammamet, Tunisian Republic, from 5 to 6 October 2010, as part of the fourth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, held by ISESCO and the General Presidency of Meteorology and Environment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in association with the OIC and the Tunisian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, under the high patronage of Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Tunisian Republic:

- **Recalling** that the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2010 as the “**International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding**”, at the initiative of His Excellency Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Tunisian Republic;
- **Noting** that 2010 is also celebrated as the International Year of Biodiversity and the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures;
- **Expressing deep concern** about the continuing loss in our planet’s biodiversity, which is estimated to be a thousand-fold the natural rate of species extinction, and which seriously undermines the capacities of the Earth to ensure sustainability of its resources;
- **Recalling** that the protection of the Earth is a quintessential value of Islam;
- **Expressing serious concern** at the adverse impact of life erosion on land across the world, and particularly on the most vulnerable population, notably the youth;
- **Noting** that children and the youth account for half of world population and for more than 80 percent of population in Islamic countries;
- **Recognizing** the invaluable richness in biodiversity and the importance of the nature component for the Islamic countries;
- **Noting** the rapid urbanization in our countries, which seriously distances youth from nature;
- **Noting with satisfaction** the outcome of the UN General Assembly 65th session on Biodiversity, which was held in New York, on 22 September 2010;

1. **Reaffirm** our commitment to ensuring success of the International Year of Youth and the International Year of Biodiversity;
2. **Recall** that youth welfare and biodiversity protection are an integral part of Islamic lofty values;
3. **Recall** the crucial role of youth in the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity;
4. **Reaffirm** our commitment not to spare any effort to effectively implement the New Strategic Plan of the UN Convention on Biodiversity for 2011-2020;
5. **Support** the Green Wave initiative aiming to sensitize and educate children and youth on the importance of biodiversity protection, and instill love of nature into their minds;
6. **Invite** the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity to collaborate with the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers in the promotion of the Green Wave within the OIC member States;
7. **Fully support** the proposal to proclaim 2011-2020 as the International Decade for Biodiversity, and commit ourselves to ensure its success;
8. **Entrust** the president of the 4th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers to present the Tunis Appeal on Youth and Biodiversity to the Secretariat of 10th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity;
9. **Invite** the president of the 4th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers to present the Tunis Appeal on Youth and Biodiversity to the 66th session of the UN General Assembly, as part of the review of the report on the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity.