

*UN - OIC general meeting on cooperation  
Rabat, ISESCO Headquarters, 11-13 July 2006*

**FINAL DOCUMENT**

## **I. Introduction**

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 50/17 of 28 November 1995 and 59/8 of 16 January 2003, a general meeting on cooperation between representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system (UN) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and its specialized institutions was held in Rabat, from 11 to 13 July 2006.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajiri, Director-General of ISESCO. It was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Assistant Secretary General for Science and Technology of the OIC, and by Ms. Mehr Khan Williams, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights. Both read out messages from their respective Secretaries-General.

The meeting had before it working papers prepared by the participating organizations, agencies and institutions. The Agenda and Programme of Work of the meeting as well as the list of participants are attached.

## **II. General agreements**

The meeting noted with satisfaction the strengthening of cooperation between the two organizations in all fields. It took note of the activities being carried out to improve collaboration and reviewed the implementation of joint projects. The meeting welcomed the increased political contacts between the Secretaries-General of the two organizations.

The participants welcomed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation in the field of human rights between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the OIC.

The meeting expressed gratitude to ISESCO for establishing and maintaining a website on UN-OIC Cooperation. It called on the UN and OIC participating agencies, programs, departments and institutions to contribute to the content of this site and regularly update it.

The meeting agreed to pursue organizing a coordination meeting between the two organizations in 2007 to follow-up on the decisions and recommendations of the present meeting and review the ongoing activities. The participants also agreed that every future meeting of cooperation will start with the presentation of a report about activities undertaken since the previous meeting. The first such presentation will be made by the OIC. It was also recommended that the participants in UN-OIC cooperation would exchange project proposals one year in advance with a view to finalizing their agreement during an UN – OIC Cooperation Meeting.

The participants expressed their appreciation to ISESCO for hosting the 2006 general meeting on cooperation, providing excellent support, meeting facilities and impeccable hospitality.

## ***Report of the Working Group on***

# **Political Issues**

A candid and fruitful discussion took place on political issues. The representatives of the UN and the OIC exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East and Palestine, Iraq, Sudan (Darfur), Somalia and Afghanistan and the activities of the two organizations in the area of peace-making, peace-keeping, and peace-building. The meeting discussed such cross-cutting issues as efforts in conflict prevention and resolution, combating terrorism, promotion of human rights and dialogue among civilizations with the view to accelerating cooperation in those areas.

With reference to the 10 year Program of Action, adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary Islamic Conference held in December 2005 in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, the OIC expressed its readiness to increase interaction and coordination with the UN Secretariat in the political area. The OIC briefed the meeting on its recent political initiatives and missions as well as its intention to build capacity in conflict resolution, peace-building, good governance, election and cease-fire monitoring and human rights. The DPA representatives took note of the OIC's readiness to take part in fact finding in other political missions undertaken by the UN.

DPA invited a representative of the OIC General Secretariat to participate in a conflict prevention and resolution workshop organized and funded by UNITAR.

The meeting took note of the ongoing contacts between the OIC General Secretariat and UNITAR with a view of organizing training courses for OIC staff.

The UN and OIC representatives agreed to continue consultations on issues of mutual concern, including during General Assembly sessions in New York. The OIC General Secretariat invited a UN delegation to visit its Headquarters in Jeddah for working consultations. Consultative meetings and contacts between DPA and the OIC General Secretariat and the OIC Observer Mission in New York were considered mutually beneficial and would continue. DPA and the OIC General Secretariat agreed to share information on issues of mutual concern and exchange mission reports.

The UN and OIC participants expressed grave concern over the developing crisis in the Middle East and the humanitarian situation in Palestine. The meeting was of the opinion that the international community must guide the parties from violence and conflict towards negotiations and compromise. The OIC reconfirmed their support to the Beirut peace initiative adopted in 2002. The OIC General Secretariat informed the meeting of its consultations with UNRWA aimed at exploring ways to further the provision of assistance to the Palestinian people.

The meeting took note of the important steps in the political transition in Iraq, including the holding of two national elections, adoption of the Permanent Constitution,

and the formation of the National Government. At the same time, the UN and OIC participants noted with concern the continued violence and the deepening sectarian rifts in the country. The OIC briefed the meeting about its recent mission to Iraq and its decision to open its Office in Baghdad. The DPA representatives welcomed the intention of the OIC to establish close cooperation between the Office and UNAMI and its intention to focus on bridging the sectarian divide in Iraq.

The meeting took note of the OIC's increased involvement in the international attempts to resolve the crises in Sudan and Somalia and its fact finding missions dispatched to these countries.

The OIC General Secretariat expressed its readiness to take active part in the implementation phase of the activities of the High-level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations (HGAC) in cooperation with relevant regional and intergovernmental organizations. It informed the meeting about the ongoing consultations between the General Secretariat of the OIC and the OSCE. The meeting took note of the efforts made by ISESCO in promoting Dialogue among Civilizations and support given by ISESCO to the initiative of Alliance of civilizations: cooperation with the HGAC, the appointment of ISESCO goodwill Ambassadors, the implementation of Rabat Commitment, etc. In this context the participation of the meeting welcomed the efforts of ISESCO to organize an international conference in Rabat, in coordination with OIC General Secretariat, to explore ethical, educational and social cultural dimensions of terrorism. DPA expressed its willingness to consult with relevant UN department and agencies with a view to participating in the conference.

The OIC and UN representatives confirmed that acts of violence and terrorism are anti-ethical to the teachings of all religions and restated the necessity of a coordinated international action to fight terrorism and extremism. The OIC representatives stated that terrorism should be distinguished from legitimate resistance to the occupation and underscored the need to address the root causes of terrorism in order to combat it. The OIC stressed the importance of enhancing the role of the Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee and confirmed the OIC's willingness to extend its utmost cooperation to the Committee.

The participants agreed to establish a mechanism of structured dialogue between OIC and UN on humanitarian issues starting with consultations on general and country specific issues in Jeddah in September this year. This may include discussion and agreement of further course of action on strengthening cooperation and partnership between OCHA and governments of Member States of OIC, engaging NGOs in OIC.

## **Human Rights**

### **OHCHR - OIC**

The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights facilitated the discussion on cooperation in the area of human rights and explained OHCHR's new country engagement strategy as outlined in OHCHR's Strategic Management Plan (2006-2007).

She explained the type of technical assistance OHCHR can offer. She also informed about the first session of the newly established Human Rights Council and the first special session of the Council on the “Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”.

It was highlighted that the Human Rights Council will conduct a universal periodic review of all Member States of the UN, commencing with the members of the Council. This will ensure that all 191 Member States of the UN will be subjected to a single standard in evaluating their human rights achievements and areas for improvement. In addition, human rights education, engagement and dialogue were recognized to be of utmost importance to reducing cultural and religious tensions. The OIC General Secretariat offered to assist in the future in undertaking joint actions such as the recent joint OIC-UN-EU statement on the “cartoons” controversy.

The OIC General Secretariat emphasized that the OIC Ten Year Program of Action contains specific sections dedicated to human rights and good governance, as well as rights of women, youth, children, and the family in the Muslim world, which constitutes a landmark development.

OHCHR and the OIC General Secretariat agreed to exchange views, share information and work together on building capacity at the OIC to devise necessary strategies for the implementation of the relevant provisions of the OIC Ten Year Program of Action related to human rights and good governance, as well as rights of women, youth, children, and the family in the Muslim world. Specific activities are to be elaborated and agreed upon by the end of the year 2006 within the framework of the memorandum of understanding for technical cooperation in the field of human rights signed between the two organizations on 11 July 2006.

OHCHR highlighted the importance and necessity of establishing a Human Rights Unit within the OIC General Secretariat to implement the OIC Ten Year Program of Action and to serve as a counterpart to OHCHR.

The OIC General Secretariat informed about the first “OIC Conference on Women”, which will take place in November 2006 in Istanbul, Turkey. An invitation was extended to relevant UN institutions to participate in this event.

#### **UNHCR – OIC**

UNHCR informed about the forthcoming “OIC Ministerial Conference on the Problems of Refugees in the Muslim world” hosted by the Pakistani Government in Islamabad, on 27-29 November 2006. The Conference is meant to foster support of States for the institution of asylum and the need to find durable solutions for refugees in the Muslim world. It is expected that the Conference will adopt a Declaration and Plan of Action.

## **OHCHR – ISESCO**

The two parties welcomed the successful training seminar for ISESCO and OIC Secretariat staff organized by OHCHR in Geneva in January 2006.

The two parties agreed on the need to hold further discussions to define their cooperation on the basis of a project document drawing from ISESCO's Action Plan (2004-2006 and 2007-2009) as well as OHCHR Strategic Management Plan (2006-2007).

Preliminary topics for discussion could include 1. Human rights education for the formal and non-formal sector; 2. Non-discrimination and equality including support for Dialogue among Civilizations and the Rabat Commitment jointly taken by ISESCO, UNESCO; ALECSO; the Danish Centre for Culture and Development; and the Swedish Anna Lindt Foundation; 3. The role of the media in promoting human rights.

The two parties agreed to work towards having an agreed work plan by the end of 2006.

# *Report of the Working Group on*

## **Economic Issues**

The Working Group on Economic Issues was co-chaired by Mr. Hasan Oker Gurler, Representative of the OIC General Secretariat, and Mr. Mourad Wahba/Mr. S. Shahid Husain, Representatives of the UNDP and coordinated by Mrs. Asmae Abdullah, Representative of the host Organization (ISESCO).

The Working Group reviewed the progress achieved as well as the future prospects in areas of cooperation relating to trade and development including maritime transport and shipping, food security and agriculture and investment mechanisms and joint ventures and agreed on the following. Participants also agreed to further strengthen cooperation and share knowledge and experience among them.

### **OIC Secretariat and IFAD**

Both institutions agreed to report that since inception, IFAD continued to promote cooperation with the OIC Member States which are both important contributors to IFAD's resources and recipients of IFAD's assistance. Of the 57 members of the OIC, 49 are also members of IFAD.

It was noted that as of June 2006, IFAD has financed 306 projects in 41 OIC Member Countries for a total project cost of nearly USD 13 billion. IFAD's own contribution to these projects was close to USD 4 billion, which represents about 43 percent of all IFAD financed projects. Financing from external donors amounted to USD 3.7 billion while recipient governments contributed USD 4.9 billion. At present, there are over 21 IFAD planned project activities in OIC Member States for the period 2006-2007. In addition to its regular programmes targeted at reducing rural poverty, IFAD also maintains operational activities in OIC countries through the provision of regional technical assistance grants for agricultural research, training and capacity-building.

It was recalled that a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the two Organizations on 21 March 1983. As both parties aim to promote programs related to economic growth and increased productive capacities so as to improve the livelihoods of the poor particularly in rural areas.

Taking into consideration the need to promote growth and alleviate poverty particularly in rural areas where most of the world's poor live, and in pursuing efforts aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the OIC Ten Year Program of Action, the two institutions agreed to pursue dialogue and further strengthen cooperation for the benefit of the rural poor including in OIC-Member States.

OIC Secretariat and IFAD agreed that in addition to the ongoing areas of cooperation between the two institutions and in line with the above mentioned Agreement, the two parties agreed to further strengthen cooperation and share knowledge and experience including exchange of information, documents and expertise

on topics of common interest. It was also agreed to organize periodic consultations to promote joint cooperation programmes including participation and reciprocal representation at governing bodies meetings (e.g. OIC Summits, Ministerial meetings, Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation or COMCEC, Governing Council, et al) as well as in conferences and meetings, where topics of mutual interest are discussed.

In relation to the above, the OIC Secretariat intends to invite the IFAD to future meetings, summits, conferences and workshops to be convened on the said subjects to benefit from its experience in rural development.

The two parties also recognized the importance of increased attention to the development of the African continent. IFAD informed that close to half of its total lending program is devoted to Africa and welcomed the opportunity to further review OIC's Special Program for the Development of Africa. The two parties agreed to continue consultations particularly as IFAD is currently engaged in reviewing its regional strategies for the development of Africa.

Other areas of interest discussed include land and water resource management, rural and microfinance, decentralization, gender, unemployment, land degradation, desertification, and sustainable management of natural resources.

IFAD and OIC look forward to intensifying their strategic partnership in order to contribute more effectively to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the OIC Ten Year Program of Action. The common task is to create the enabling environment and opportunity for poor people to realize a more prosperous, equitable, just and safe world.

**OIC Secretariat and FAO** agreed to report that, in addition to the existing areas of cooperation between FAO and the OIC institutions, FAO intends to increase cooperation with the OIC subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions in the following areas:

- Further support to the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification.
- Cooperation in documenting and disseminating information on the traditional/local knowledge, and technologies on dryland resources conservation in Islamic countries, in particular soil and water resources.
- Support to the initiative on low forest cover countries (LFCC), as many OIC Member States are part of this category.
- Promotion of dryland tree planting through recycling of sewage water. The issue is of high interest to many OIC member countries.
- Support national efforts in formulation and implementation of national and regional strategies for sustainable agricultural development and Regional Programmes for Food Security.
- Technical and institutional capacity building in agricultural policy analysis and planning at regional, sub-regional and national levels.
- Improvement of water resources management and water resources policy reform at the national and sub-regional levels.

**Supprimé** : to foster a favourable investment environment and to improve land and water governance. Inand activities in 2



- Preparation of contingency plans for controlling the potential outbreak of Avian Influenza.

**OIC Secretariat and ILO** agreed to explore and develop ways of cooperation between OIC and ILO in the field of poverty alleviation through employment promotion targeted mainly towards youth and women, skills development, self employment, enterprise development and generation of job opportunities in the rural areas. In this connection, the two organizations agreed on the necessity of enhancing exchange of information and expertise in those fields.

**OIC Secretariat and WHO** suggested that a Tripartite consultative mechanism be created with the participation of OIC Secretariat/IDB/WHO to further the implementation of the decision on combating diseases and epidemics taken by the Third Session of the Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah in December 2005.

**SESRTCIC, UNIDO, UNDP and ILO** agreed to consider proposals to organize workshops/seminars on "Investment Tools and Technology Transfer for SMEs". UNIDO, UNDP and ILO agreed to consider proposals for providing SESRTCIC with resource persons for the said workshops/seminars (Copy of the technical sheet is attached).

**SESRTCIC, WFP and UNDP** agreed to consider proposals for collaboration to organize a workshop on the "Use of Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) for Targeting Disaster Mitigation and Development Planning and its possible Integration into National Planning Structures". WFP and UNDP also agreed to consider proposals for providing the SESRTCIC with resource persons for the workshop and technical assistance for the study of the possibility of integrating VAM in the national planning structures (Copy of the technical sheet is attached).

**ICDT and UNIDO** agreed to strengthen their cooperation regarding the following points:

- to continue to exchange free of charge of publications and trade related information on electronic format (especially, industrial and investment statistics) ;
- to organize joint regional seminars on "Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures";
- to examine the possibility of providing technical assistance in setting up a database on investment opportunities (either by sending an expert to ICDT or by providing training session for the ICDT's staff) ;
- UNIDO would assist ICDT in organizing training seminars on "trade capacity building" and "investment promotion techniques";
- UNIDO agreed also to examine the possibility of contributing in the implementation of the industrial related aspects of the project on "sustainable development of tourism in a network of Transborder parks and protected areas in West Africa".

Both parties shall seek the funding sources to support implementation of the above mentioned activities.

As far as the signature of the “relationship Agreement” is concerned, the parties will determine the date and venue by exchange of letters in due course.

**ICDT and FAO** agreed in principle on the following :

- To examine the possibility of the FAO to participate in the second edition of the agro business industry exhibition to be organised by ICDT in 2007.
- That the FAO would provide ICDT with agro food statistics in order to undertake a market study to be submitted to the workshop to be organised on the sidelines of the exhibition.
- That the FAO would submit a working paper to the above mentioned workshop.

**ICDT and ITU** agreed to examine the possibility of ITU to provide technical assistance to ICDT in the organisation of the specialised exhibition and supply/demand workshop on “information and telecommunication technologies” scheduled to be held in 2008.

**ICDT and WIPO** agreed to cooperate in the implementation of the project on "Technical Cooperation among Industrial Patent Offices in the OIC Member States" to be jointly conducted by ICDT and the Turkish Patent Office (Copy of technical sheet is attached).

**ICDT and UNEP** agreed to submit the project on "Sustainable development of tourism in a network of Transborder parks and protected areas in West Africa" to the regional office of UNEP in Nairobi (Copy of technical sheet is attached).

#### **ICCI - UNIFEM**

UNIFEM showed interest in ICCI's project for economic empowerment of women. UNIFEM provides training to women through incubators.

Follow up will be done between UNIFEM –ICCI to evolve a mechanism of cooperation.

ICCI will invite UNIFEM to its activities programmes for women.

#### **ICCI – IFAD**

ICCI informed IFAD of their planned 2<sup>nd</sup> Businesswomen Forum to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in December 2006. IFAD indicated it will relay the information to the Fund's Gender Unit at headquarters to see how they can participate in the Forum.

Given ICCI's increased interest in the area of empowerment of women, the later expressed interest in learning more about IFAD's experience as well as identify opportunities for future cooperation.

#### **ICCI - FAO**

FAO showed interest in ICCI's project of ICCI-databank and agreed in principle to provide relevant data available at FAO. The project will be sent to the FAO statistical Department so that a mechanism can be determined between ICCI and FAO whereby ICCI can be provided the required statistical Data.

### **ICCI - UNIDO**

UNIDO has developed integrated programmes for OIC countries in the following areas:

- rural development
- women entrepreneurship development project
- environment – energy
- trade capacity building
- agro food industry

UNIDO in principle agreed to cooperate with ICCI in its projects on Labour training, as a way of capacity building, technology transfer programme. However, financing will need to be found through other sources.

ICCI will provide to UNIDO within 6 months (Dec 2006) or earlier detailed project proposals on the above.

### **ICCI - UNDP**

The status of affirmative support of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to the project on 2nd Forum for Businesswomen was discussed. ICCI will inform the Special Unit about the exact dates of the Forum (a copy of technical sheet is attached).

It was also suggested that ICCI maintains a link with the UNDP resident representative in Islamabad Mr. Jan Vandemoortele, for further cooperation between UNDP and ICCI in areas of common interest.

With regards to the ICCI – Data Bank, UNDP showed interest in the project but suggested that some existing relevant activities such as TECHNUNET – ASIA, and the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange System (SS-GATES) currently under development, be examined with the view to avoiding any duplication of efforts. Thereafter, the specific dimensions of support from the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation could be jointly reviewed.

For ICCI's project on Networking of Incubators, UNDP expressed its interest in exploring further cooperation in the field of technical assistance to the project and it was agreed that ICCI would contact the UNDP Resident Representative in Islamabad for consultation on collaboration and exchange of best practices in this regard.

The UNDP Resident Representative in Morocco informed the ICCI of its programmes with UNIFEM for women associations in Morocco, by means of which training was being given to women through incubators, thereby empowering them economically. Hence ICCI could explore with UNDP the possibility of having similar programmes for other countries as well.

For ICCI's project on 2nd International Islamic Economic and Cultural Conference in Bangkok, UNDP and UNIFEM was maintaining its commitment and awaited information on the dates.

UNDP – ICCI agreed to consider having a MOU which would cover areas of future cooperation.

### **ICCI - ILO**

ILO will look into the possibility of providing technical inputs within the framework of ILO/WEDGE program (Women Entrepreneurship Development and Gender Equality) to the second Business Women Forum which will be organized by ICCI.

ICCI requested ILO technical support for activities in the area of economic empowerment of women. The three main programs concerned at the ILO are WEDGE, GENDER, EQUALITY. This request will be considered by the ILO, based on concrete proposals that would be submitted by ICCI.

ICCI will submit to ILO within six months a detailed proposal of cooperation in the field of labor training to be considered for possible cooperation specifically in the following areas:

- Vocational training
- Labour administration
- Access to ILO statistical data bases.

### **OISA - IMO**

The two parties exchanged their views on technical assistance and support in the field of Maritime safety / security, maritime environment protection and human resources that might be provided by IMO to OIC members through OISA.

Representatives of the OISA emphasized the importance of the possible development of partnership as a tool for the implementation of some activities of the IMO's technical co-operation Programme.

The IMO's Technical support would be to assist the OIC members through OISA, in the following fields:

- 1- **Maritime Security:** delivery of model courses to train maritime security ship officers, maritime security port facility officers and maritime security shipping company officers in order to promote the establishment of effective ship and port facility security measures in the OIC Member States.
- 2- **Voluntary IMO Member State Audit scheme:** support to facilitate the preparation of the audit and to address audit fundings.
- 3- **Updating of maritime legislation:** the IMO's support would consist in updating national maritime law in OIC Member States, mainly in the field of liability and responsibility for damage caused by oil spills from ships and also in the field of the safety of small ships.
- 4- **Maritime Education:** possible cooperation between IMO and OIC would cover aspects of maritime education and training to promote human resources.

During discussions, OISA representatives indicated their strong willingness to develop a partnership agreement with IMO, the content and modalities of which will be considered between the two parties, to enhance and promote safety, security and marine environment protection in OIC countries.

**OISA-ILO** will consider areas of cooperation in the field of condition of work and human resource development in maritime sector of OIC Member States.

**IDB - IFAD**

IFAD representative mentioned that the Fund works in close partnership with many OIC-affiliated development institutions and funds in designing, financing, implementing and monitoring its rural development projects. In May 1979, IFAD and the Islamic Development Bank signed a Co-operation Agreement in order to achieve their objectives in assisting countries of common memberships in their development activities. As such the Agreement involves:

- regular consultation on matters of mutual interest;
- exchange of information on potential projects related to their common objectives and provision of suggestions for participation in such projects;
- reciprocal representation to the organisations' governing bodies;
- close co-operation in the identification, preparation and appraisal of development projects which are likely to be suitable for financial assistance from both organisations;
- exchange of information on specific development projects in countries of common membership for which financing from both organisations appears necessary or suitable;

IFAD and IDB have continued to expand their co-operation since the signature of the Agreement. Co-operation has benefited Member States in Africa, Asia, the Near East and North Africa, and more recently in the Republics of Central Asia. Regular meetings and consultations have taken place between representatives of the two institutions at the highest level, both in Rome and Jeddah to discuss, among others, ways and means to strengthen collaboration particularly through exchange of knowledge and experience, participation at joint events including regional workshops, and increased co-financing of projects.

As of June 2006, 15 IFAD projects have been co-financed by the IDB for a total value of nearly USD 523 million as described below:

**Projects Co-financed between IFAD and IDB**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Number of Projects</b>	<b>IFAD USD 000</b>	<b>IsDB USD 000</b>	<b>Total Financing USD 000</b>
Western & Central Africa	3	24 879	14 500	128 069
Asia and the Pacific	2	29 930	12 098	60 912
Near East & North Africa	10	131 152	75 296	333 990
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>185 961</b>	<b>101 894</b>	<b>522 971</b>

Reference was also made to the joint IFAD-IDB seminar on the “Challenge of Rural Investment and the MDG's, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia during the IDB Annual Meetings in June 2005, where the two parties recognized the importance of organizing

similar such events in the future as they help in the dissemination of knowledge and the sharing of experiences particularly in agriculture and rural development.

The two partners also discussed ways of further strengthening collaboration and exchanged information pertaining to the decision taken at the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in Makkah on 7-8 December 2005, as well as the IDB's Board of Governors decision taken in Kuwait on 31 May 2006 to establish a "Poverty Alleviation Fund".

In this regard and given IFAD's extensive knowledge and experience in poverty eradications programs including in the OIC Member States, IFAD expressed interest in sharing its experience and lessons learned with IDB particularly in light of the Bank's new Strategic Planning Framework.

The two parties agreed to pursue dialogue and further exchange information so as to identify areas and opportunities for future collaboration in support of agriculture and rural development in the OIC-Member States, hence contributing more effectively to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

#### **IDB - FAO**

The FAO representative highlighted with the IDB representative the Special Program for Food Security (SPFS) that is based on South-South Cooperation, where the Islamic Development Bank is playing an important role in contributing to the development of agreed projects in the selected Member States.

The FAO representative mentioned that while the implementation process of the Projects with IDB is going-on smoothly, the necessary follow-up from the IDB side is required to approve Projects in some Member States (Projects related to Food Security in Sub-Saharan Countries, Joint Activity with the Turkish Cooperation Agency -TICA- in favor of CIS countries, Regional Program for Food Security in favor of ECO Member States, etc..).

Based on the past experience in the cooperation with IDB, in line with the changes occurred in countries needs and due to the recent changes in the world economic environment, FAO proposed the followings to the IDB:

1. To strengthen the cooperation between the two Institutions to include more periodical Meetings/exchange of visits of experts of both organizations, possibly by the convening of bi-annual meetings reciprocally in both organizations to discuss collaborative arrangements and exchange of experiences around thematic areas.
2. To strengthen exchange of information and knowledge and experience on the programs and activities, especially in the area of publications, proceedings, studies and researches, as well as specific data on Socio-Economic indicators of the IDB Member Countries.
3. To explore the possibility of establishing new collaborative arrangements like those that are made with other Regional Banks or the World Bank, through which funds are made available to FAO for the inception/formulation of projects for implementation in the Member States.

4. Expressed to the Bank FAO's potential areas for future cooperation, such as Soil conservation, Water Management, Food Quality Control, Emergency and Rehabilitation Projects (Avian flu), technical and institutional capacity building in agricultural policy analysis, forestry and fisheries development.

Based on the request expressed by the last ICFM, FAO expressed the willingness to further collaborate with the IDB to promote agricultural, fisheries' and cotton development programs in common Member States. In this context, FAO mentioned the availability of database, expertise, high-qualified professionals in the field of identification, formulation, supervision and follow-up of the projects in the area of Agriculture and Fisheries.

#### **IDB - ILO**

The ILO representative presented the ILO's role in promoting Decent Work and Employment Promotion within the global agenda of Decent Work, including the OIC Member States, which was adopted by the World Summit (New York - USA, September 2005). He also presented the Palestinian Social and Employment Fund that was established by the ILO in Palestine, with contribution of other partners, in an aim for creating job and income creation opportunities and skills development for job seekers in Palestine.

The IDB representative highlighted the role of the Bank in Palestine, as well as the various operations and programs conducted by the Al-Aqsa and Al-Quds Funds managed by IDB in Palestine.

The ILO representative also presented the project related to the establishment of Sheikha Fatima Centre for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (in Bait Omar-Khalil, Palestine). The details pertaining to this project were officially submitted by the ILO to the IDB in 2005.

Other items of cooperation in the fields of exchange of knowledge and experience sharing, especially in the area of publications, proceedings, studies and researches, as well as specific data on Socio-Economic indicators of the IDB member Countries (Key Indicators on Labor Market - KILM), conducted by the ILO were also reviewed.

Further consultations between the two parties will be undertaken to identify study and finalize projects of mutual concern based the above-mentioned items, and common priorities of the IDB/ILO, as well as the areas identified by the OIC Programme of Action, adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit (7-8 December 2005).

#### **IDB - UNDP**

IDB expressed its interest in cooperating with UNDP in programmes integrating poverty and capacity-building in the LDMC of the OIC, especially in the development of innovative programmes including knowledge management, lessons learned and best practices and studies and data to monitor development concerns. In the specific case of post-conflict and emergency and recovery issues, UNDP suggested direct contacts with the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery in New York.

In other substantive areas, UNDP suggested the development of a relationship with sub-Regional Resources Centres such as the one in Beirut, Colombo or Addis

Abeba, that would provide a locus for such exchange of information. UNDP further suggested that such knowledge management, South-South cooperation Modalities be included in the MOU between UNDP and IDB currently being discussed by both parties.

UNDP and IDB further exchanged information on the Poverty Alleviation Fund created by the IDB Board of Governors at its 31st Session. The UNDP representative expressed willingness to work with IDB in the establishment process and implementation of the Action Plan to be developed with UNDP substantive experience and its extensive field network covering 166 countries including all the Members of OIC.

### **IDB - UNIDO**

At the request of the UNIDO representative, the IDB representative highlighted the role of the IDB (through the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment & Export Credit - ICIEC) in coordinating with UNIDO for the creation of a Multi-Agency Cooperation Program in the field of Investment Promotion. He mentioned that having the responsibility to manage the Investment Promotion Technical Assistance Program (IPTAP) on behalf of the IDB Group, ICIEC have been engaged into discussions with UNIDO in order to coordinate efforts together in the common fields, such as: Country Needs Assessment, Sectoral Assessment, Project Assessment, Investment Promotion Activities, Institutional Capacity Building; and strengthening of the Investment Promotions Agencies. These areas of cooperation are identified in MOU of the two parties.

The IDB representative also mentioned that the Internal Partners of the IPTAP are the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), while the External Partners are Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency of the World Bank (MIGA), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and Malaysian Industrial Development Agency (MIDA).

Both representatives agreed to strengthen the cooperation between the two Institutions and explore more cooperation areas. These might be discussed at the various periodical meetings, events, and at bilateral level.

UNIDO representative expressed the willingness to discuss establishing mechanisms for exchange of information and knowledge and experience on the programs and activities, especially in the area of publications, proceedings, studies and researches, as well as specific data on Socio-Economic indicators of the IDB Member Countries.

### **IDB - IMO**

The IDB representative highlighted the role of the Bank in the Member States in fostering economic development and social progress in the Member States that is conducted under various operations, activities, schemes and windows of the IDB Group.

The IMO representative gave a brief presentation to the IDB representative on IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme for 2006-2007. Copy of this Program was given to the IDB representative, in-order to enable the Bank to consider implementing the relevant parts of this Programme in the Member States, according to its priorities and procedures, as well as its scope of work.



### **IDB - WFP**

The WFP Representative notified that both institutions are seeking means and ways to strengthening their cooperation to reduce child hunger and improve nutrition of vulnerable groups in OIC Member States. He also mentioned that cooperation will be developed for the provision of food aid to people stricken by natural and man-made disasters.

### **IDB - ITU**

Within the framework of cooperation between the ITU and IDB, the ITU representative suggested that channels of communications be opened between the two entities in order to exchange:

1. Criteria of IDB for the selection of Projects
2. Information on the proposed ITU projects
3. Expertise in the field of ICTs and finance

He further mentioned that liaison will be made to ensure more participation of IDB in ITU's activities, including the membership of the IDB with the ITU.

# *Report of the Working Group on*

## **Education and Technology Issues**

The Working Group was chaired by Dr. Faiq Billal, from the host organization ISESCO, and coordinated by Dr. Razley Mohd Nordin, on behalf of the OIC General Secretariat as well as its institutions and by Dr. Habib El-Habr on behalf of UN Organizations.

The Members of the Group appreciated the high level of cooperation that exists between the organizations under the framework of OIC and UN and thanked ISESCO for providing the opportunity to further strengthen this cooperation. It was also stated that under each category of six areas it will be necessary to evaluate and examine the implementation of the joined projects and programmes that were agreed during the last OIC-UN General Meeting held in Vienna 2004 and learning from the past experience to facilitate implementation and bring more quality to the future joined programmes.

The meeting noted the preparatory efforts made by the OIC's institutions to prepare background information to facilitate discussions in the Working Group, and for initiating prior communications with the relevant UN's institutions. The meeting congratulated ISESCO for the agreement with UNESCO on future collaboration.

After brief introduction by all organizations participating in the Working Group on their prime areas and major projects and programmes, the discussion was initiated on the areas of cooperation as following:

### **Development of Science and Technology**

The OIC Secretariat briefed the Working Group on the OIC Science and Technology strategies, the OIC's institutions implementing projects in the area of Science and Technology and the network of institutions established by the OIC Standing Committee on Science and Technology (COMSTECH).

**ISESCO-UNESCO** both partners appreciated the excellent cooperation existing between the two organizations in the field of Science and Technology and whatever was agreed under the previous OIC-UN General Meeting was implemented with a very high percentage of success. The example of ISESCO and UNESCO cooperation may be followed by other organizations to strengthen their cooperation.

It was informed that UNESCO and ISESCO have signed a new Cooperation Programme in May 2006 which includes a large number of activities of important

interest to other organizations. The major joint cooperation programmes and activities included the following:

- Establishment of International Science Policy Forum -SF- Asian Region (New Delhi, November 2006)
- Development of Genetic Modules on Scientific Concepts (Rabat, October 2006) (Rabat, October 2006)
- Workshop on Policy S&T Indicators (Azerbaijan, September 2006)
- Strengthening Regional and International Databases and Directory on S&T Policy (Rabat, July 2006)
- Study on Impact of S&T Activities on Development and Economic Growth (UNESCO, November 2006)
- Study on Promotion of South-South Cooperation in Science and Technology (UNESCO, November 2006)
- Promoting Science, Technology and Gender (Rabat, October 2006)
- National Training Courses on Micro Science experience in Chemistry (Afghanistan, August 2006)
- National Training Courses on Micro Science experience in Chemistry (Lebanon, October 2006)
- National Training Courses on Micro Science experience in Chemistry Palestine, December 2006)
- Printing of “Advanced Teaching and Learning Packages: Microchemistry experience” in Arabic Language and its Distribution (Rabat, August 2006)
- Production and Distribution of Open Lectures on CD ROMs on Biotechnology and Avionics Rabat, September 2006)
- Publication of Mini Libraries (5-6 Books) to be Used as Supplementary Reading in Schools (Rabat, September 2006)
- Support to the Arab Network for Women in Science and Technology (Bahrain, October 2007)
- Support to the Arab Parliamentarians Networks Science, Technology and Innovation (Egypt, November 2007)
- National Training Courses on Micro Science experience in Chemistry (Algeria, March 2007)
- National Training Courses on Micro Science experience in Chemistry (Bahrain, January 2007)
- National Training Courses on Micro Science experience in Chemistry (Iraq, November 2007)
- Strengthening Regional and International Databases and Directory on S&T Policy (Rabat, October 2007)

- Support Studies and Training on Policy-related S&T Indicators (Rabat, September 2007)

The other members of the Working Group were invited to join in the already agreed programmes and activities as expanding the partnership that may bring further quality in results.

**ISESCO-ITU** discussed the possibilities of initiating joint research programmes in the field of information technology and communication under the ISESCO Centre of Promotion of Scientific Research.

It was further discussed that both organizations may initiate joint programmes on Youth Education Scheme (YES) to use the current allocation US \$ 2000 per person to work either at ITU headquarters or at other centers, digitalization of information and provide scholarship in telecommunications to undertake master and Ph.D

**IUT-ITU** discussed cooperation areas and showed interest in organizing short courses, seminars at IUT facilities in the field of telecommunications, Information and communication technologies, mobile wireless technologies. For Seminar or Conference, ITU would assist in providing services of resource persons whereas the local hospitality will be arranged by IUT. It was discussed that IUT may also be invited to join the regional activities of ITU on reciprocal basis. IUT showed interest to host the centre of excellence on the priority areas under their common objectives whereas ITU indicated their project of digitalization of library and creation of centre of documentation based on the document of the Arab network Group.

**ISESCO-ITU-SESRTCIC** discussed difficulties in collecting scientific and technological data and emphasized the need to cooperate to overcome these difficulties and share their experience in this field.

## **Technical Cooperation**

IMO briefed the Working Group that it is working on biennial program based on needs of developing countries and some priority as defined by donors. IMO is implementing several projects such as maritime education to train skilled personnel and assisting maritime education centre by training teachers / instructors; operates the World Maritime University, the first Maritime Centre that offers training for high level maritime officers; and maintaining International Maritime Law Institute. IMO implements its projects through co-financing: 60% by IMO and 40% by donors and Member States.

Currently IMO is giving high priority to two topics:

1. Maritime security by developing new regulations and training maritime officers, ship owners and port operators; and
2. Audit scheme to assist Member States to implement IMO regulations.

IMO has a strategy plan (2004-2010) to implement technical program through joined-partnership. IMO proposed to collaborate with OIC Member States to develop training manual

**ISESCO-IMO** discussed the importance of marine security under their common objectives and showed interest in common programmes in implementation of training courses and workshops in updating of the skills of the IMO safety rules and regulations. Apart from maritime security, IMO stated that their other prime areas of interest is Audit scheme to try to help the Member States to examine what extent the rules are implemented for security and disasters of ships.

**UNDP-ISESCO** discussed programme on south-south cooperation and strengthening the NGOs, and civil society bodies in implementation of programme directly related to improve the quality of life in the poor localities. Both organizations agreed to further explore future cooperation.

**OISA-IMO** discussed programmes to promote shipping, compensation losses, environment issues, promotion of maritime laws and their implementations.

Both organizations also discussed the possibility of promoting marine education and examine the possibility of working together to establish Marine Academy within the OIC framework.

**ISESCO-UNIDO** discussed programmes for eradication of poverty and implementing some small projects for the benefit of poor communities. It was agreed that both organization would exchange information to finalize the specific activities in this area.

**IUT-UNIDO** agreed to explore the possibility of presentations on investments on renewable energy equipments that will deal with details of renewable energy equipments and local manufacturing. IUT will provide local hospitality while UNIDO may provide the services of resource persons.

**IUN-UNDP** discussed activities in the benefit of Islamic University of Niger such as support for the creation of digital library and support for vocational and technical education centre. UNDP agreed to convey the request to their Headquarters in New York and UNDP resident representative in Niger.

## **Food Security and Agriculture**

**UNESCO-ISESCO** showed satisfaction on the activities implemented under the Cooperation Programme and agreed to implement the following activity during 2007.

- Workshop on Food Safety and Food Microbiology (Egypt, 2007).

As this topic was a part of FAO mandate, it was agreed to evolve them during the implementation of the Workshop.

**SESRTCIC-FAO** agreed to approach IDB in order to jointly develop a programme of work towards the implementation of a series of training workshops, seminars and technical cooperation activities on combating desertification and water resources management aiming at poverty alleviation and hunger reduction in the OIC countries.

**IDB-FAO** showed satisfaction on implementation of their joint programmes on food security, as well as technical and institutional capacity building.

**FAO-ISESCO** discussed programme related to the preparation of simplified guide books and other material specially on food processing. Proposal on linking higher education with social and economic development was also discussed. ISESCO wants to improve the output of higher education (universities and institutions) by funding applied research, training trainers and field visits for the benefit of higher education officials, especially under the framework of programme related with development of rural areas (agriculture). It was transpired that further discussion is necessary among the relevant staff to finalize the details of such programme for future implementation. It was agreed that both organizations would exchange information on activities in areas of common concern including publications on the topic. It was further agreed that both might proceed ahead to activate their cooperation in order to implement joint activities in near future.

## **Human Resource Development**

UNEP informed the Working Group that it is mandated to implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer with Member States. UNEP works closely with Member States on issues identified by Member States. Therefore, UNEP work is based on bottom-up approach. UNEP assisted Member States in capacity building and technology transfer based on South – South cooperation.

UNEP is working closely with the Arab League to develop curricula for primary and secondary schools and proposed to cooperate with ISESCO to produce two books on environment.

**ISESCO-UNICEF** expressed satisfaction with the implementation of programmes by both organizations in Human Resource Development as agreed at the previous OIC-UN Coordination Meeting.

**UNEP-ISESCO** identifies their need to strengthen their cooperation in capacity building of the common Member States through initiation of capacity building programmes. It was also identified to develop the required expertise and useful technologies in the developing countries through the South-South cooperation mechanism.

**SESRTCIC-UNEP** examined the possibility of having joint collaboration in human resource development through organizing joint training courses and workshops. UNEP agreed to examine the possibility of providing technical support to SESRTCIC's activities in the area of human resource development. SERSTCIC requested UNEP to

open its training activities to participants nominated by SESRTCIC. UNEP indicated its readiness to provide experts on environment when possible.

**ICCI-UNIDO** discussed to develop human resources for enhancement of trade and industrial development.

**UNESCO-ISESCO** expressed their satisfaction with the agreed joint activities in their Cooperation Programme for the years 2006-2007 under human resource development:

- Regional Workshop for the Benefit of Officials in Charge of Education Marginalized Children in Different Forms of Non-formal Education (Mali, July 2006)
- Regional Workshop on Enhancing Capacities of Facilitators in Literacy and Non-formal Education (Egypt, April 2007)
- Income Generation for Women and Young Girls through National Vocational Training Courses (Morocco, July 2007)
- Training of Science Journalists on Latest Mode of Popularization of Scientific Concepts (Mali, July 2007)
- International Experts Consultation on New Trends in Mobility of Scientists (Rabat, October 2006)
- Training in the Use and applications of Renewable Energies for Sustainable development (Mali, June 2006)
- Workshop on Marine Bio-prospecting (Iran, August 2006)
- Expert group of Policy Makers on effective Contribution of engineering and Technology to Poverty Eradication (Egypt, 2006)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Summer School “Solar Electricity for Rural Areas” (Paris, July 2006)
- Training of Trainers for Women on Water Networking for Poverty Alleviation in Rural Areas (Pakistan, April 2007)
- Training and Sensitising Trainers to Water Management (Tunisia, 2007)
- Organization of a National Training Programme on Renewable Energy (Niger, April 2007)
- National Training in Renewable Energy (Malaysia, February 2007)
- Training in the Use and Applications of Renewable Energies for Sustainable Development (Benin, February 2007)
- Regional Consultation on Renewable Energy in Africa Region (Senegal, June 2007)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Summer School “Solar Electricity for Rural Areas” (Paris, July 2007)
- Capacity Building on Renewable Energy (Togo, October 2007)
- Training in the Use and Applications of Renewable Energies for Sustainable Development (Guinea, June 2007)

- Providing Training for Executive Staff in the Use of Renewable Energy Sources towards Sustainable Development (Kazakhstan, September 2007)
- Training Workshop for Policy Analysts and Science Advisers (Pakistan, April 2007)
- Training Workshop for Policy Analysts and Science Advisers (Cameroon, June 2007)
- Training Workshop on Science Journalism (Senegal, September 2007)
- Study /Research on Women, the Rights of Women and Role of Judiciary in the Maghreb Region (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, 2006)
- International Philosophy Day (Morocco, November 2006)
- Regional Ethics Experts Meeting (Oman, November 2006)
- Research Network on Economic, Social and Cultural rights in the Maghreb States (To be determined, 2007)
- Round Table: Promoting Ethics and Anti-doping in Sport (Qatar, 2007)
- Workshop on the role of Women Journalists in the Citizen Education and Rural Populations Using ICTs (Mauritania, May and October 2006)
- Translation into Arabic of the Manual on ICTs and the Media in the Maghreb (Rabat, July 2006)
- Study on the Development of Policies for the Promotion of Access to Public Information in the Maghreb (Follow-up of WSIS 2005 ). (Rabat, September 2006)
- Carrying out Studies and Reinforcing Capacities about the Topics of Audio-visual Policies in the Maghreb (Rabat, October 2006)
- Sub-regional Workshop on the Development of Policies for the Promotion of Access to Public Information in the Maghreb (Tunisia, September 2007)
- Publishing the Manual on ICTs and Media in the Maghreb, and Holding a Sub-regional Workshop on the Promotion of Journalists' Know-how in the Field of the Use of ICTs in Information-related Occupations (Libya, November 2007)
- Training Session for the Staff Members of the National Commissions for Education, Culture and Science in Arab Member States (2007, venue to be determined)

**IUT–UNESCO–ISESCO** will explore the possibility of digitizing the IUT library and documentation center. IUT will acquire the hardware and UNESCO will explore the possibility of providing appropriate cooperation.



## **Environment and Health**

UNEP announced to the Working Group that it will circulate a list of 2007 activities and invited the OIC's institutions to participate in those activities.

**ISESCO-UNEP** appreciated the cooperation relations existing between the two organizations and discussed various activities under their common objectives. The activities under their Cooperation Programme for 2006, 2007 and 2008 were finalized and signed between the two organizations on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006 which consist of the following major programmes:

- Organization of a regional forum for civil societies, NGOs, youth and women organizations to discuss environmental issues on the agenda of the Governing Council (2006)
- Organization of Expert Meeting about compatibility of national laws and legislations on environment with the international conventions and agreements (2007)
- Support participation of 6 representatives from civil societies/NGOs to take part in the global forum of civil societies organizations and Governing Council of UNEP (2007)
- International Seminar on Environment challenges to the public health and their mitigation in the Arab region (2007)
- Sub-regional workshop on coping with natural disaster (2007)
- Preparation of simplified booklets for the benefit of new literate learners on various environmental issues (2008).
- Workshop for the officials working in non-formal education institutions to highlight Islamic concepts pertaining to environment (2008)
- Regional forum for NGOs, civil societies, youth and women organizations to discuss environmental issues on the agenda of the Governing Council of UNEP (2008)
- Training Course on protection of biodiversity and preservation for the Member States (2008)

Both organizations discussed some other important activities under their common objectives but left to be finalized later for implementation. The activities were as followings:

- Regional workshop to incorporate environment concept into pre-school education (2007)
- Regional Workshop on educational media and environment concepts from an Islamic perspective (2007)
- Regional workshop on SAICM for the Arab Countries in Dubai (2007)
- Workshop for the benefit of youth organizations on environment pollution and its impact on public health (2008)
- International Conference on Sustainable Tourism in Dubai (2008)

**UNEP-SESRTCIC** agreed that UNEP would provide to SESRTCIC, when possible, resource person to actively take part in the training workshops/seminars that SESRTCIC

would organize on environment and related subjects. UNEP also agreed to open its training activities to participants nominated by the SESRTCIC from among the OIC countries. UNEP further agreed to share with SESRTCIC its annual work programmes and activities related to environmental indicators.

**SESRTCIC-ITU** agreed on the following:

- Possibilities of exchanging ICT related data
- Possible cooperation on capacity building and ICT indicators and trainings.

**UNEP-IUT** discussed their areas of cooperation and agreed to arrange short courses and Seminars at IUT in the field of environment. It was agreed that UNEP will assist IUT in arranging international resource persons and IUT will be responsible for the overall arrangement of such training courses.

**ISESCO-UNESCO** showed satisfaction on the implementation of the programmes in the area of Environment and discussed the upcoming activities agreed to be implemented activities in 2006-2007 which are as following:

- Regional Youth Forum on Health Awareness and Community Development (Tunisia, November 2006)
- International Conference on Groundwater Management (Libya, November 2006)
- Regional Seminar on Renewable energy for Sustainable Development (Burkina Faso, June 2006)
- Regional Conference at Ministers Level on “the Strategic Role of Renewable Energy for the Sustainable Development of Central Asia” (Kazakhstan, September 2006)

## **Education and Eradication of Illiteracy**

UNIFEM has a specific interest in promoting women’s social, political and economic rights. ICT is a powerful tool for promoting women’s rights in developing countries. UNIFEM with the support of CISCO Inc. Ltd and USAID, is currently working in Morocco, Jordan and Iraq on “E-quality projects in the ICT sector”. The purpose of these types of projects is to strengthen women’s participation in the ICT sector by providing a technical curricula (the CCNA: 280 hours of CISCO IT related training) and soft skills sessions, mainly in communication and gender. In Morocco, the E-quality project has helped 12 educational institutions to train around 1000 students (with more than 50% of female students) over the last two years. The project is currently implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the State Secretary for Professional Training and more than 40% of the students succeeded in finding a job in the IT sector.

**ISESCO-UNESCO-ITU** agreed to implement programme in the field of tele-education for learners especially in rural and remote areas. Finalization of the activities was subjected to defining of the detailed programme and modalities of implementation.

**UNESCO-ISESCO** expressed their satisfaction on cooperation in the important field of Education and Eradication of Illiteracy in which they implemented 10 activities in EFA, literacy and LIFE. In 2006-2007, they will implement the following activities:

- Capacity Building of Literacy and Non-Formal Education Facilitators in Africa: Regional Meeting to Set up a Harmonized Policy for Community-based Learning Centres (2007, venue to be determined)
- Regional Workshop on the Development of Educational Policies for the Integration of Children with Disabilities (Morocco, March 2007)
- Capacity Building of Literacy and Non-formal Education Facilitators in Africa: Regional Workshop on the Creating and Management of Community-based Learning Centres (2007, venue to be determined)
- Conference of Elected Representatives of the Mediterranean (Rabat, September 2007)
- Guidelines for promoting peace and intercultural understand through curricula, text books an learning material (2007)
- Capacity building in literacy and non-formal education facilitators in African region workshop on the creating and management of Community based learning centres (2007)
- Forum of Asian Parliamentarians for Education (2007, venue to be determined later) Regional workshop on the development of educational policies for the integration of children with disabilities (Morocco, 2007)

**UNIDO-ISESCO** found interest in areas of Higher Education and social development, information technology for cooperation

**UNIFEM-ISESCO** in the light of their discussion UNIFEM and ISESCO agreed to see the possibilities of cooperating on women and ICT related projects and on women and science education projects. In order to extend the cooperation to other Member States of the ISESCO, it was agreed to approach the third partner, i.e. CISCO, of this program to propose a tri-partite cooperation program between ISESCO-UNIFEM and CISCO.

**UNIFEM-SESRTCIC** discussed and found common areas of interest and agreed to seek for possible areas of cooperation, in particular in the following topics:

1. On women's education in the African OIC States, specially the least developed countries;
2. Empowering women in public life in OIC countries.

SESRTCIC and UNIFEM will get in touch to see the feasibility of developing common activities.

**UNESCO-IDB** agreed to strengthen cooperation in programmes aimed at improving quality of education that promote creativity, innovation, and research and development in the common Member States. In addition, exchange of knowledge and experience sharing, especially in the area of publications, proceedings, studies and researches, as well as specific data on Socio-Economic Indicators of the IDB's Member Countries. Modalities and mechanisms for the cooperation would be pursued in near future, during the bilateral meetings and mutual visits between the parties.

## *Report of the Working Group on*

# **Social and Cultural Issues**

The Working Group on Social and Cultural Issues was chaired by Mr. Fuad Al-Maznaee, Representative of the OIC General Secretariat and coordinated by Mr. Rhiati Najib, Representative of ISESCO.

Each of the UN and the OIC agencies gave a brief statement of its activities. Both sides expressed satisfaction and noting the ongoing cooperation between their agencies, the two groups committed themselves to enhance their cooperation in future.

The groups briefly exchanged views on the optimal approach to address the engagement in the identified twelve areas of cooperation.

The meeting discussed the following four issues relative to the Cultural and social matters:

- Protection of and Assistance to Refugees
- Environment, Health and Population
- Development, Arts and Crafts and Promotion of Heritage
- Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations and Cultural Diversity.

### **I- Protection of and Assistance of Refugees**

UNHCR and OIC agreed to closely coordinate with, and bring all possible support to the Government of Pakistan hosting the Conference on the Problems of Refugees in the Muslim World in Islamabad from 27-29 November 2006. The initiative for this Conference has been welcomed by OIC Foreign Ministers in its Resolution 10/33-P adopted at the Baku meeting, 19-21 June. The OIC will make all its efforts for raising funds for the conference (total of 1.9 million US\$) with the OIC member states and OIC specialised agencies.

**WFP- ISF / OIC** agreed to enhance their cooperation in the fields of emergency relief, school feeding, and water supply in the North of Africa. WFP will submit to OIC/ISF funding proposals for specific projects in drought stricken countries (Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya).

**UNHCR-OIC/ISF** agreed to:

- Participating in training courses organized by UNHCR in the various fields relating to refugees

- Organizing a series of activities during 2006-2007 focusing on assistance and education to refugee populations in camps, notably but not limited to, camps in Kenya and the Horn of Africa.

**UNHCR- ISESCO agreed to:**

- Participating in training courses organized by UNHCR in the various fields relating to refugees
- Enhancing their cooperation through the implementation of a series of activities during 2006-2007 focusing on education of refugee children, training of female refugee teachers, vocational skills training and projects towards self-reliance for refugees, particularly refugee women, in countries in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and South-West Asia
- Organizing workshops and seminars for refugee community leaders and elaboration of cultural projects for the benefit of refugees.

**UNHCR-ICIC agreed to:**

- participating in expert meetings focusing on the various issues relating to the refugees in the Muslim world, and in the Ministerial Conference on the issue to take place in Islamabad in November 2006
- Participating in training courses organized by UNHCR in the various fields relating to refugees
- Contributing to publications on issues relating to refugees in the Muslim world.

**ITU, ISF, ICIC, and ISESCO agreed to:**

Enhance their cooperation in the following fields:

- a- Study the possibility of creating a training module on ICT through training of trainers and provision of infrastructure for the Somali refugees in the Dadab Refugee Camp based in Kenya and in Gode in Ethiopia.
- b- Study the possibility of training of teachers in ICT, dealing with the disabled children in refugee camps in Somalia

**UNRWA, ISF, ISESCO and ICIC**

UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Islamic Solidarity Fund, Islamic Committee of International Crescent and ISESCO have agreed to cooperate for the benefit of Palestine Refugees resident in the Gaza Strip, West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria in the following fields:

- Preparatory and elementary education
- Primary health care
- Relief and social services

UNRWA, ISF and ISESCO will further discuss cooperation in the above areas with the objective of producing concrete outcomes for Palestine refugees

## **II- Environment, Health and Population**

The meeting welcomed cooperation between OIC and WHO/UNICEF on the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and encouraged them continue to work closely to ensure that children in the OIC Member States were protected from the disease. In line with the landmark resolution of OIC 10<sup>th</sup> Summit Meeting on Polio eradication, OIC, WHO and UNICEF were called to reinforce the campaign to encourage concerned Member States to fully cooperate with the global vaccination campaign.

### **OIC and WHO**

WHO's cooperation with the OIC and its specialized institutions is of political, advocacy and technical nature. Until recently, such cooperation has been carried out through one of the WHO regional offices – the WHO Office for Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO).

1. In the last ten years, the number of members of the OIC has increased considerably. In addition, the OIC, its specialized institutions and its Member States have displayed vivid interest to participate in the WHO global programmes.
2. As a result, the volume and areas of OIC/WHO cooperation have increased considerably due to the enlargement of the OIC membership (today OIC members are located across **5 WHO Regions** -- African, Eastern Mediterranean, European, South-East Asian and Western Pacific) and because of new public health challenges that arose globally and locally (e.g. avian flu, SARS, etc.)
3. The efficiency of the WHO technical assistance to the OIC countries to take forward items of global health importance, such as fight against epidemics and poliomyelitis eradication, depends to a large degree on the **high-level commitment and support** that could be ensured by the OIC among political and religious leaders in its Member States.
4. High-level political commitment and support is important to **rally the OIC financial institutions** and funds in the OIC Member States behind priority public health policies and interventions, which are promoted by the WHO and which are aimed at strengthening health security in these countries. (e.g. The Islamic Development Bank will support the OIC and the WHO work to improve detection and rapid containment of outbreaks of communicable diseases such as Ebola, Marburg and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fevers, Lassa fever, plague, yellow fever, avian influenza and seasonal influenza).
5. In order for the WHO cooperation with the OIC and its Member States to be more effective, it has to be carried out in a more "structured" way with elements of **planning at the global and regional levels**. An umbrella agreement is probably needed to provide a **legal framework** for the existing

and possible activities both in and among the WHO Regional Offices and HQ.

6. WHO may wish to consider holding the first-ever **interregional consultation** to discuss issues related to the WHO-OIC cooperation. Such a consultation will permit HQ and Regional Offices to consolidate their efforts in the screening, submitting, and implementing of various proposals to the OIC and its specialized organs. The level of clarity and vision in this process will finally determine to what extent the OIC countries will be willing to support and finance them.
7. OIC may wish to consider to hold, in cooperation with WHO, the first-ever **OIC Health Summit** (Health Minister's Conference) to **discuss priority public health issues** at global and regional levels in the OIC countries as well as **the financing** of joint projects from the newly created **OIC Poverty Alleviation Fund**.
8. Representatives of OIC and WHO suggested that a **tripartite consultative mechanism** be created with IDB to further the implementation of the decision to combat diseases and epidemics taken by the third session of the Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in Makkah in December 2005.
9. Proposed areas for possible cooperation between WHO and OIC and its specialized institutions include: Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and response; Poliomyelitis Eradication; HIV AIDS, TB and Malaria Prevention and Control; Chronic Non-communicable Diseases and Health Promotion; Health Action in Crises; Environmental Health; Knowledge Management; Injuries and Violence Prevention (please see the attached annex).

## **ISESCO-WHO**

EMRO has a plan of cooperation with OIC/ISESCO covering the period of 2006-2007. These planned activities include:

- Regional Workshop for the Benefit of Counselors to Train them on "ISESCO Guide for the Incorporation of Reproductive Health and Gender Concepts into Islamic Education Curricula" (Jordan, July 2006)
- Assessment of the Impact of Leaded Gasoline on Health Environment and Economy in Jordan (Jordan, October 2006)
- Regional Workshop/Conference on Water Reuse and Health (Jordan, November 2006)
- Translation of 10 Environmental Health Pamphlets into Arabic (Rabat, December 2006)
- Support to Improvement to accessibility to Basic EH Needs (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) in Rural Communities in Pakistan (Pakistan, 2006)
- Regional Workshop for Religious Leaders to Promote Good Breast Feeding Practices as Part of the IMCI Community Component (Saudi Arabia, September 2006)



- Regional Conference on Health Promoting Schools in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Syria, July 2007)
- Development of the Catalogue on environmental Health (Jordan, August 2007)
- Printing 10 Environmental Health Pamphlets in Arabic and its Distribution (Rabat, February 2007)
- Regional Workshop on Environmental Health Risk Assessment and Evidence (March 2007, venue to be determined)
- Support to Improvement to Accessibility to Basic EH Needs (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) in Rural Communities in Syria (Syria, 2007)
- Assessment of Water Security Requirement of Health in Tunis/Morocco (Tunisia, Morocco, 2007)
- A Regional Workshop on Promotion of the Role of Radio Stations in Raising Health Awareness among Rural Areas in the Arab World (2007, venue to be determined)
- Media, a Partner in the Path towards Health for All (Bahrain or Dubai, February 2007)
- Workshop on the Psycho-social Negative Impact of FGM on Women (Sudan or Djibouti, 2007)

**ISSF-WHO** agreed to strengthen cooperation in youth health (especially in sports), to promote healthy life style and to prevent non-transmissible disease (obesity, diabetes, hypertension and cancer).

A plan of action will be worked out with a view to structuring collaboration in the area of awareness and health education of teenagers in the healthy life style, nutrition, and the use of tobacco and drugs.

#### **OIC-UNICEF**

UNICEF and the OIC agree in principle to cooperate in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in OIC Member States.

The OIC welcomes UNICEF's support in helping advance the role of women in OIC Member States and is ready to discuss in detail plans for the First OIC Conference on Women to take place in November 2006 in Turkey.

UNICEF is interested in providing technical support for the Conference and is specifically interested in helping organize two panel discussions during the Conference, one on harmful traditional practices falsely associated with Islam and another on the UNICEF flagship publication to be launched in December 2006. The publication, the State of the World's Children 2001, focuses on discrimination against women and how this negatively impact both women and their children.

UNICEF anticipates necessary detail about the Conference preparations from the OIC in order to develop a detailed plan of support.

## UNICEF-ISESCO

- 1- UNICEF and ISESCO have enjoyed an excellent cooperation, beginning particularly with preparations for the First Islamic Ministerial Conference on the Child held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco in November 2005 and continuing through the conclusion of the landmark meeting which resulted in the Rabat Declaration on Children in the Islamic World. The Declaration has now been adopted by the OIC 33rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Baku; paving the way for the full implementation of its recommendations.
- 2- UNICEF will support the organisation of the First Ministerial Conference on Women to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in November, 2006.
- 3- UNICEF and ISESCO look forward to continuing their cooperation during 2007 and 2008 and working together on specific activities to support the implementation of the Rabat Declaration.

These activities will include:

- a) Production of a **joint handbook on Harmful Traditional Practices Falsely Associated with Islam** for use as a communication and reference tool in OIC Member States by women's groups, religious leaders, educators, journalists and others in working to eliminate these harmful practices.
- b) Conduct a **mapping of civil society** organisations and other key constituencies for realizing the rights of children and achievement of the MDGs. The mapping will focus on identifying youth organisations, media organisations, women's organisations, faith-based organisations, parliamentarians and other elected officials, etc. with a particular focus on the Arab world, where such mappings have been less systematic than in other regions.  
  
The mapping will attempt to define the specific mandate of each organisation, scope of work, size, reach, source of funding and needs for additional technical support. Once specific additional support needs have been identified, UNICEF and ISESCO will attempt to identify the necessary technical and funding support to produce handbooks and other appropriate advocacy and communications materials.
- c) **Competition to promote good citizenship among children and young people in the Islamic world.** Competition will be launched with an appeal for proposals from youth organisations, media organisations, schools, community groups, individual children and young people, etc. A high-profile judging panel will select winning proposals based on clearly articulated criteria. Winners will be awarded with small grants to help them implement their plans. The competition will be undertaken with a view to its becoming an annual activity that is widely publicised and that generates considerable interest among children and young people.

- d) UNICEF and ISESCO will work together on preparations for the **Second Islamic Ministerial Conference on Children**. Precise date and location to be determined.

### **ISESCO - UNEP/ROWA**

The two parties met and discussed cooperation for the years 2007-2008 and agreed on the following:

- Forum of non-governmental organizations, civil society, youth and women organizations to discuss environmental issues submitted for the consideration of UNEP Governing Council.
- Meeting on the compatibility between national regulations on the environment in Member States and the international laws and agreements on the environment
- Support of participation of 6 representatives from civil society organizations in the International Forum and UNEP Governing Council meetings
- International symposium on the effect of environmental problems on health in the Arab Region and ways and means to deal with them
- Sub-regional workshop on prevention of natural disasters
- Preparation of booklets on environmental issues for the benefit of the new literates
- Workshop for officials working in non-formal education institutions to highlight the Islamic concepts on the environment
- Training session on the preservation of biodiversity
- Regional training session to incorporate environmental concepts into pre-school education
- Regional workshop on educational media and the environment concepts from an Islamic perspective
- Workshop on hazardous chemical substances
- Workshop for the benefit of Youth organizations on environmental pollution and its effect on public health
- Conference on Eco-tourism

### **ISESCO-UNESCO**

In this field the two parties agreed to implement the following activities in 2006-2007:

- Regional Youth Forum on Health Awareness and Community Development (Tunisia, November 2006)
- International Conference on Groundwater Management (Libya, November 2006)
- Regional Seminar on Renewable energy for Sustainable Development (Burkina Faso, June 2006)

- Regional Conference at Ministers Level on “the Strategic Role of Renewable Energy for the Sustainable Development of Central Asia” (Kazakhstan, September 2006)

### **ISESCO–UNFPA**

Considering the completion of the consecutive projects on Reproductive Health from an Islamic perspective, communication between ISESCO and UNFPA is now underway in order to prepare an integrated project which include the following activities:

- Experts Meeting for the Benefit of Staff Working in the Field of Planning to Highlight the Importance of Population Census in the Formulation of Sound Development Policies and Strategies ( Tunisia, September 2007).
- Sub-regional Workshop on Health Education and Encouraging Healthy Life for Youth.
- Sub-regional Forum on Investment in Women Capacities Development through Promoting Gender Equality, Women Empowerment and Improving Material Health (Cairo, October 2007).
- Training of health workers on reproductive health services, population, communication advocacy and production and information, education and communication materials.

### **UN-Habitat and OIC institutions**

Cooperation between the UN-Habitat and the OIC in the following areas:

- 1- Environmentally sustainable urbanization in Islamic countries (the Habitat Agenda)
- 2- Launching of the UN-Habitat Global Campaigns on Good Governance and Secure Tenure
- 3- The implementation of activities in the context of UN-Habitat Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People.

### **UNEP-ISESCO and UN Habitat**

Agreed to cooperate in the following activities by providing technical support and expertise to ISESCO.

- Regional workshop for officials in charge of the environment and sustainable urban development in Member States for highlighting the Islamic perception to sustainable development
- Regional workshop for activation of the role of civil society in the promotion of the cultural dimension of sustainable development
- Seminar on coping with natural disaster and promoting disaster reduction.

### **UN Habitat-ISF**

- Preservation and restoration of the historical center in Nablus.
- Shelter for Refugees in Somalia.

- Rehabilitation of partially damaged houses in Gaza (cost ranges from \$ 5000
- \$ 10000 per house) to be considered for potential funding by ISF.

### **UNDP-ISF**

The possibilities of enhancing cooperation between UNDP's Special Unit for South-South cooperation and ISF in areas of common interest were discussed. It was realized that while there was much potential in this direction, the following priority areas need urgent attention.

- Emergency volunteer support to facilitate the supply of competent and qualified volunteers from OIC Member States to fill vacant positions in hospitals, medical centres and schools.
- Strengthening the capacity of ISF secretariat through staff training in the areas of project identification, evaluation and reporting at both executive and operational levels.
- To facilitate these tasks and galvanize functional relationship between the two institutions, it was agreed that the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between the UNDP's Special Unit for South-South cooperation and in order to clearly identify areas of cooperation initially during the 2006 through 2008 period shall be explored.

### **ISSF-UNICEF**

UNICEF and the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation have agreed in principle to work together on mutual areas of cooperation to promote sports for development

The Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation has proposed the following projects for cooperation, UNICEF has agreed to also share proposals.

While reviewing their mutual proposals the two parties will further explore cooperation in specific areas such as:

1. Development sport syllabuses for children taking into consideration their needs and abilities in the various aspects of growing.
2. Granting children in the Islamic world the right of practicing sports and obligatory physical education.
3. Organizing seminars for the preparation of specialized personnel in teaching motor and physical education programs.
4. Publishing books, magazines and brochures on the importance of movement skills for children.

### **ISSF-UNEP**

Agreed to enhance their cooperation in the following two projects:

1. Exploiting natural environment for practicing sports that depend on such environment.
2. Protecting natural environment by carrying out competitions and activities that help build man

and also agreed to explore the implementation of the above two projects

### **UNESCO-ISSF and ISESCO**

Agreed to cooperate in the field of Sports and Youth in the OIC – Member States through the projects which will be submitted by ISSF in future after consolidating the various activities of ISSF in the following fields :

- Improve Sport curricula
- Training of sport teachers
- Preparation of educative sport books
- Organize symposiums and conference in the field of sport education
- Organize work training for women leaders
- Preparation of programmes and ethical sport norms and values to eliminate violence
- Support research and studies to promote sports and sport institutions.

### **III-Development of Arts and Crafts and Promotion of Heritage**

#### **UNIDO-IRCICA**

UNIDO and IRCICA reviewed the existing cooperation in the field of developing the crafts sector, and agreed to further cooperate in designing a project format of future collaboration aiming to advance the quality standards of artisans.

Both sides also agreed in principle to organise a symposium on crafts and entrepreneurial development.

#### **UNESCO-IRCICA**

Contacts of cooperation between UNESCO and IRCICA continued in various relevant fields and enlarged to cover the expanding range of cooperation through the amended copy of the Memorandum of understanding signed on 18 March 2005.

As a follow-up to the exchange of missions made by the representatives of the two institutions during April and June 2006 on the establishment of Süleymaniye Book Hospital - a Training and Restoration Unit of Old manuscripts- UNESCO IRCICA agreed to undertake necessary contacts with relevant bodies to ensure the availability of Funds required for the realization of the project based on the report of the UNESCO experts who were assigned to undertake a mission on this specific subject.

#### **UNDP-IRCICA**

1. UNDP and IRCICA will explore the possibilities of cooperation with the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people (PAPP), and with the Special Unit for South-South (Cooperation) (SUSSC), in supporting the work of about 5 to 10 post-graduate students for 6 weeks each in Jerusalem under title Jerusalem 2015. The work will involve studying historical sites and buildings and designing the restoration plans to be transferred into software for use in the restoration work.

2. IRCICA and UNDP will explore the possibilities of obtaining information on Southern providers of software for use in identifying and recording information on the archaeological and urban historical sites for the preparation of a comprehensive compendium on such sites in OIC Member States. They will also explore the possibility of cooperation in identifying and mobilizing the resources for obtaining the software for the implementation of IRCICA's Architectural Heritage program.
3. UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation will assist IRCICA in applying to the Group of 77's Perez Gurrero Trust Fund (PGTF) for support to IRCICA's project - Establishment of a Book Hospital- for training and restoration of old books and manuscripts to be undertaken in cooperation with UNESCO.

### **ISESCO-UNESCO**

In the past two years, the two parties implemented 14 activities on handicrafts, preservation of heritage, architectural restoration of historical monuments, promotion of intangible heritage. In the new cooperation programme for 2006-2007, they agreed to implement the following:

- The Reinforcement of Museum' Capacities in the Protection of Cultural Goods Threatened with Extinction (Mali, September 2006)
- The Safeguarding of Threatened Intangible Heritage in the Maghreb: the Living Human Treasures in the Maghreb (Rabat, December 2006)
- Support for the Development of Book-related Field (Rabat, 2006)
- The Reinforcement of Cultural Policies in the Maghreb Countries (Rabat, November 2006)
- The Reinforcement of Museum' Capacities in the Protection of Cultural Goods Threatened with Extinction (Rabat, September 2007)
- The Safeguarding of Threatened Intangible Heritage in the Maghreb: the Living Human Treasures in the Maghreb (Rabat, March 2007)
- Support for the Development of Book-related Field (Rabat, 2007)
- Improving the Equality of Craftsmen Production (Mauritania, 2007)
- The Reinforcement of Cultural Policies in the Maghreb (2007, venue to be determined)
- Creation of an Internet Portal to Present and Promote Maghreb Heritage (Rabat, 2007)

### **ISESCO-ITU**

Agreed to exchange information and have open channels on the possible cooperation in relation to the Digitalization of the Arab World Memories and History.

## **UNESCO, ISESCO and ISF**

Agreed to enhance cooperation in the field of promotion and preservation, of Islamic heritages in the OIC Member States and non-Member States.

It was agreed that UNESCO and ISESCO would prepare a full fledged feasibility study to be considered for potential funding by ISF on the following identified cultural activities in Ethiopia:

- Preservation of the manuscripts in the town of Harar town
- Preservation of the historical old mosque in the town of Harar
- Preservation of the historical sites of King Najashi, Abesinya in Tigring region.

## **IV- Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations and Cultural Diversity**

The meeting welcomed the insertion of the new field of action and recommended stronger cooperation between the UN and OIC agencies to implement programmes and activities in this field.

The meeting also paid tribute to the efforts of ISESCO and UNESCO as focal points in this field. It took note that both parties implemented in cooperation with other partners a number of symposia on, dialogue among civilization and culture diversity.

### **ISESCO-UNESCO**

The two parties cooperated in 3 activities in 2005 regarding promotion of cultural diversity in Africa, protection of cultural contents and artistic expression, and in holding an International Conference on Fostering Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations through Concrete Sustained Initiatives. UNESCO paid a tribute to the exemplary cooperation with ISESCO which is regularly increasing and growing.

In their 2006-2007 cooperation programme, both parties agreed to implement the following:

- Guidelines for Promoting Peace and Intercultural Understanding through Curricula, Textbooks and Learning Materials (2007, venue to be determined)
- The Promotion of Cultural Diversity: the Enhancement and Protection of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions (Rabat, December 2006)
- The Promotion of Cultural Diversity: the Enhancement and Protection of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions (Rabat, 2007)
- Strengthening and Enhancing of INFOYOUTH Arabic Portal (Rabat, 2006)
- Digital Library on Classical Works of Arabic Literature (Rabat, December 2006)
- Strengthening and Enhancing of INFOYOUTH Arabic Portal (Rabat, September 2007)
- Digital Library on Classical Works of Arabic Literature (Rabat, October 2007)



- Fostering the Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations through Concrete and Sustained Action-Follow up to the Rabat Conference (2007 venues to be determined)

The two parties reiterated their engagement to consolidate their co-operation, in particular by implementing the *Rabat Commitment and publicizing UNESCO Convention on the Protection Declaration on Cultural Diversity*, through bringing into motion the hereafter joint activities, whose details will be discussed later. UNESCO welcomed the project of ISESCO Ambassadors for Dialogue among Cultures and confirmed its readiness to cooperate in this regard, and also expressed its appreciation of ISESCO initiative to open an office in its Headquarters and also welcomed the decision of establishing an OIC Ambassadors Group accredited at UNESCO and their successful joint efforts to promote cooperation and coordination.

Both parties agreed to implement the following:

- Three sub-regional seminars on interactive dialogue between cultures and civilizations
- International workshop on "the consolidation of the role of museums as gravitational multicultural spaces".
- International conference for reinforcing cultural diversity in cultural policies
- International conference on "teaching history and art to children as a factor of cross-fertilization among the cultures of the world"
- Three sub-regional seminars on strategies for strengthening mechanisms of peace and prevention of clashes.

### **IRCICA-UNESCO**

In line with the OIC plan of action to encourage activities on dialogue among civilization based on mutual respect and understanding, IRCICA and UNESCO will cooperate together to organize seminars and meetings that could contribute towards more understanding among world cultures.

### **ISESCO-ILO-UNESCO**

The three organizations will run a project on Islamic perspectives on Decent Work, the ILO Decent Work Agenda. This project will be both a follow up of the 2005 World Summit that adopted Decent Work as a global development strategy and of the economic and social field paragraphs of the declaration and program of action adopted by the Makkah Summit of December 2005. It will result in an easier implementation of the Decent Work strategy among the OIC countries, based on the proper values of Islam, and in new insights from Islam for the operationalisation and evolution of that strategy. Using the same methodology as the already published study on "Philosophical and spiritual perspectives on Decent Work", it will give the opportunity to a group of High level experts of all the diverse Islamic madhahibs to express their commonalties and originalities concerning the Decent Work Agenda. It will be run 2007-2008. The three parts will finalize the project by October 2007, based on a draft project proposed by ILO. IDB will be invited to contribute to this project.

**ISESCO-ILO**

ISESCO proposed to ILO to co-organize two workshops in 2007 and 2008 for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in the fields of handicraft. The first one will be organized for the Islamic countries from Arab and Asian regions; the second one for African Islamic countries. The technical proposal, finalized by ISESCO will be submitted for ILO consideration. IDB and other organizations and specialized institutions will be associated to that project on a later stage.

## Annex

### World Health Organization

1. Almost from its inception, health has occupied a prominent place on the agenda of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). OIC is an old and time-tested partner of World Health Organization (WHO). WHO's cooperation with the OIC Secretariat and its specialized institutions is of *political, advocacy and technical nature*.
2. The work of the WHO is decentralized and is carried out through its HQ and six Regional Offices. The OIC Member States are located in **5 WHO Regions** (African, Eastern Mediterranean, European, South-East Asian and Western Pacific). Of these five, only the WHO Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) has a formal agreement -- memorandum of understanding -- with the OIC.
3. Until recently, technical cooperation has been carried out mostly through the WHO Regional Offices. EMRO pioneered this cooperation. However, OIC, its specialized institutions and its Member States have recently displayed vivid interest to participate in the WHO global programmes.
4. The volume and areas of such cooperation have recently increased considerably due to the enlargement of the OIC membership and because of new public health challenges that arose globally and locally (e.g. avian flue, SARS, etc.).
5. WHO/OIC cooperation could be further developed and strengthened in the following areas:

#### 5.1 *Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response:*

- investigation and rapid control of outbreaks of epidemic-prone and high-consequence communicable diseases;
- improving epidemic readiness of countries in the epidemiological, laboratory, clinical and operational spheres, including readiness for pandemic influenza;
- improving laboratory biosafety and biosecurity;
- building international public health networks to support national epidemic readiness and response;
- developing essential public health core capacities to implement the International Health Regulations (2005) and to promote improved global health security.

#### 5.2 *Poliomyelitis Eradication*

Given that children from poor Islamic communities are being disproportionately affected by poliomyelitis paralysis, WHO and the OIC Observer Mission in Geneva identified three areas of work to support poliomyelitis eradication efforts in OIC member states: (1) *secure and strengthen political commitment*; (2) *secure support from Islamic religious leaders for poliomyelitis immunization campaigns*; and (3) *mobilize additional resources to fund polio campaigns in OIC member states*. The work of WHO and OIC and its specialized institutions in these areas should continue.

### 5.3 *HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Prevention and Control*

OIC and WHO will consider developing mechanisms to finance joint projects in this area. WHO will continue to provide assistance to OIC Member States to prepare their submissions to the Global Fund on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

### 5.4 **Chronic Non-communicable Diseases and Health Promotion**

Chronic non-communicable diseases are a major and growing problem in OIC countries. WHO collaborative activities and interactions with OIC countries include surveillance, prevention and management of chronic, noncommunicable diseases as well as health promotion to address the broader determinants of health. These interactions will focus on the following **objectives**:

- prevent and reduce disease, disability and death from chronic, noncommunicable conditions;
- promote health and sustainable development, prevent and reduce risk factors for health conditions associated with unhealthy diets and physical inactivity;
- improve nutrition throughout the life-course and in support of public health and sustainable development;
- speed up the implementation of the Tobacco Framework Convention in the OIC countries.

Immediate opportunities to continue strengthening the collaboration with OIC countries include:

- launching the Arabic-language version of the WHO global report "Preventing Chronic Diseases: A Vital Investment" at the forthcoming session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean;
- implementing the recommendations of the "Bangkok Charter for Health Promotion in a globalized world", which has been agreed to by participants at the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Health Promotion;
- continuing to strengthen the STEPS surveillance system in the OIC countries and assist countries translate this information into policy;
- assist countries respond to the growing chronic disease epidemics and especially the problems of overweight and obesity, by developing national action plans and assisting with their implementation.
- promoting lung health within OIC countries through active participation in the Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD)

### 5.5 **Health Action in Crises**

HQ/WHO and at least two regional offices have good cooperation with IOC and its organs for building OIC Member States' capacity for emergency preparedness and response, including response to both acute and more chronic emergencies. This cooperation has had

mutual benefits and had a positive impact on recipient countries. It could be further enhanced through a more structured approach at the global and regional levels, as is the case with other inter-governmental regional organizations. Technical expertise and logistic resources could be made available through OIC/WHO partnership at the global level and thus provide visibility to OIC and its Member States internationally. WHO is ready to cooperate with the OIC and its Member States in the following areas:

- capacity building for emergency preparedness and response;
- regional and international responses to major crises, such as the tsunami and the South Asia earthquake;
- collaboration with OIC in countries with economies in transition and those in recovery stage, such as Afghanistan and Somalia.

## 5.6 Environmental Health

The WHO work in this area is aimed at the primary prevention of diseases through the assessment of environmental risks to health, both traditional (indoor air, water and sanitation) and emerging (chemical, radiation, new technologies), as well as by providing guidance to Member States on public health policies and interventions that can effectively reduce them. **Of special interest to the OIC countries** are the following areas:

- depleted uranium;
- long-term consequences of low dose ionizing radiation;
- long-term consequences of non-ionizing radiation;
- safe drinking water supply and sanitation

WHO could set-up an international programme in Central Asia that would:

- identify the scope and extent of environmental radiation health issues in the region;
- review past and ongoing research, gaps and needs;
- foster collaborative research projects to assess health risks and identify best mitigation methods, including through conferences;
- develop recommendations for health protection policies and strategies with public health authorities;
- work with relevant stakeholders to promote health protection measures based on sound evidence.

WHO can provide technical assistance to the OIC countries to strengthen national public health preparedness and response to radiation emergencies.

- review of Islamic States' national capacity for response and preparedness to radio-nuclear emergencies;
- development of WHO standard training material in relevant languages for (a) first-aid responders (ambulance workers, rescue workers and other emergency response personnel); (b) public health workers and hospital administrators; and (c) medical specialists;

## 5.7 Knowledge Management

With the overall goal of *helping to bridge the know-do gap in global health*, WHO is pursuing with the following strategic directions:

- improving access to the world's health information;
- translating knowledge into policy and action;
- sharing and reapplying experiential knowledge;
- leveraging e-Health in countries;
- fostering an enabling environment for knowledge management

There are several ongoing initiatives in OIC countries, and WHO would like to work closely with OIC in the following areas:

***e-Learning and Health Education:*** Access to scientific knowledge is key for education and research work in OIC countries. WHO provides free access to a rich collection through its HINARI initiative (Health InterNetwork Access to Research Information). 42 OIC countries and the Palestinian Authority (West Bank and Gaza) are eligible for HINARI. Iraq, Morocco and Tunisia are among the top 10 users of HINARI in the world. HINARI website and training in Arabic has been very useful and needs to be sustained.

In 2003, WHO launched the Health Academy to foster health education in the general public through e-Learning. The Health Academy was piloted in Egypt and Jordan. The target audience is 12 to 17 years old school students. The next phase is targeting OIC members in Africa.

***e-Health:*** Developments in information and communication technologies (ICT) have ushered in an era of profound opportunity and potential for world-wide advancement in public health and clinical care. In the last 2 years WHO has developed an Organization-wide e-Health strategy and established an e-Health unit to coordinate activities globally and with our regions.

The WHO' Global Observatory for e-Health (GOe) just completed the first global e-Health survey, and 35 of the 57 OIC members are part of this ongoing initiative. Efforts are under way to develop model national e-Health strategies and work on electronic health systems. EMRO has played a leadership role in this area, although more resources are needed to scale up in OIC countries.

A new e-Health initiative will cover all 27 African countries in OIC: The Africa Health Infoway (AHI) is a system to support the collection, sharing and use of sub national health information through strengthening of i) *infrastructure and connectivity (inter-operational standards, registries, etc)*, ii) *district health information systems*, and iii) *knowledge translation into policy and action*.

***Multilingualism and WHO Publications:*** There is a need to provide health information in relevant languages for maximum comprehension, retention and action. There are large gaps in the provision of information in the principal languages of the OIC countries (Arabic, Turkish, Urdu, Javanese, Malay, Farsi, Bengali etc). Currently there are 241 WHO publications in Arabic in WHOLIS and 1484 web pages in Arabic on WHO global web-

site. There has been insufficient translation in all other major languages of the OIC Member States in past 5 years. Funding for the adaptation (translations) and creation (local editors) of relevant health information in these languages is important.

**Global Health Histories:** WHO has recently launched this initiative. Islamic Contribution to Health and Medicine is often overlooked, although some of the works of major scholars are recognized. Funding for the WHO Global Health Histories project would allow the engagement of OIC historians and perspectives.

## 5.8 Injuries and Violence Prevention

Even though there were no collaborative activities between WHO and OIC in the past, this area is of relevance to many of the OIC countries and could be of interest to them for future projects.

6. The efficiency of the WHO technical assistance to the OIC countries to take forward items of global health importance, such as fight against epidemics and poliomyelitis eradication, depends to a large degree on the **high-level commitment and support** that could be ensured by the OIC among political and religious leaders in its Member States.
7. High-level political commitment and support is important to **rally the OIC financial institutions** and funds in the OIC Member States behind priority public health policies and interventions, which are promoted by WHO and which are aimed at strengthening health security in these countries. (e.g. The Islamic Development Bank will support OIC and WHO work to improve detection and rapid containment of outbreaks of communicable diseases such as Ebola, Marburg and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fevers, Lassa fever, plague, yellow fever, avian influenza and seasonal influenza).
8. In order for the WHO cooperation with OIC and its Member States to be more effective, it has to be carried out in a more "structured" way with elements of **planning at the global and regional levels**. An umbrella agreement is probably needed to provide a **legal framework** for the existing and possible activities both in and among the WHO Regional Offices and HQ.
9. WHO may wish to consider holding the first-ever **interregional consultation** to discuss issues related to the WHO-OIC cooperation. Such a consultation will permit HQ and Regional Offices to consolidate their efforts in the screening, submitting, and implementing of various WHO proposals to OIC and its specialized organs. The level of clarity and vision in this process will finally determine to what extent OIC countries will be willing to support and finance them.
10. OIC may wish to consider to hold, in cooperation with WHO, the first-ever **OIC Health Summit** (Health Minister's Conference) **to discuss priority public health issues** at global and regional levels in the OIC countries as well as **the financing** of joint projects from the newly created **OIC Poverty Alleviation Fund** .

11. Representatives of OIC Secretariat and WHO suggested that a **tripartite consultative mechanism** be created with the IDB to further the implementation of the decision to combat diseases and epidemics taken by the third session of the Extraordinary Islamic Summit hold in Makkah in December 2005.



**UN/OIC GENERAL MEETING  
(Rabat, 11-13 July 2006)  
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