



Under the high patronage of His Excellency Mr Béji Caïd Essebsi, President of the Republic of Tunisia

First ISESCO Conference of Education Ministers

**“Towards boosting and activating joint Islamic
educational action”**

Tunis, Republic of Tunisia
26 Muharram 1438A.H. / 27 October 2016

**Tunis Communiqué on
Invigorating Youth’s Educational Roles in Entrenching
the Values of Tolerance and Coexistence**

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We, the Ministers of Education of the Member States taking part in the first ISESCO Conference of Education Ministers to boost and activate joint Islamic educational action, hosted by the Republic of Tunisia (Tunis, 27 October 2016), under the high patronage of H.E. Mr Béji Caïd Essebsi, President of the Republic of Tunisia,

- Inspired by the teachings of our noble religion which calls for prizing youth education and promotion to help them contribute to comprehensive sustainable development, and advocates promoting a sense of cooperation and solidarity among them and with the Other within the framework of the shared civilizational values;
- Adhering to the relevant international resolutions, instruments, declarations, agreements and reports, particularly those emanating from the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the League of Arab States and the African Union and from their respective specialized agencies, whereby the Member States and the institutions concerned are invited to design appropriate educational programmes to instill the values of peace, mutual respect and mutual understanding among peoples into youth's minds and behavior;
- Building on the objectives of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, which stresses the need to sensitize young people to the importance of their educational roles in fostering respect for cultural and religious plurality, spreading the values of tolerance, coexistence, peace and human rights and adhering to them in their way of thinking and acting.
- Based on the resolutions of the first and second sessions of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports, held respectively in 2005 and 2014, in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on empowering the youth and enforcing their roles in the revival of the Islamic world;
- Guided by ISESCO's past efforts and current policy guidelines defined in the three-year Action Plan for 2016-2018, and being responsive to the youth-related appeals, statements and declarations emanating from the specialized symposia and conferences held by ISESCO under its action plans, in cooperation with regional and international organizations, on the importance of promoting youth's educational roles in fostering coexistence and addressing contemporary international issues, and the potential role of the education system in raising youths' awareness about the values shared by the world's youth and strengthening understanding among them; and
- Taking into consideration the documents and reports submitted to this Conference and the fruitful discussions and deliberations thereon,

Affirm our pledge to:

- Build on the contents and guidelines of ISESCO's project on **promoting the youth's educational roles in fostering coexistence and addressing contemporary international issues in national educational policies and programmes**, given the role of education as a major driving force of sustainable development and a key tool to positively influence learners' patterns of behavior vis-à-vis their natural and human environments.
- Reinforce the integrated role of formal and non-formal education institutions to enable them to heighten young learners' awareness about the dangers of violence, extremism and terrorism on them, their families and societies, and to entrench the values of tolerance, dialogue and middle-stance in their way of thinking and behavior.
- Integrate civic and human rights education into the curricula of the various educational levels in order to entrench civic values, strengthen the foundations of coexistence between the different components of society and promote a culture of human rights among the youth, in line with the reference framework of ISESCO and the principles of the relevant Islamic and international agreements, declarations and covenants.
- Shield young people against violence and extremism tendencies, by providing them with the educational training corresponding to their aspirations and new roles in development, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary for curbing their unemployment, facilitating their access to the job market and integration in the knowledge society, stimulating their participation in the development of their societies and involvement in addressing contemporary international issues, and encouraging young leaders to present their appropriate approaches and plans in this regard.
- Dedicate incentive awards and scholarships to educational institutions and young leaders with outstanding intellectual contributions or leading concrete initiatives on education in dialogue, tolerance and respect for religious, civilizational and ethnic diversity, based on the magnanimous values of Islamic culture.
- Increase opportunities of educational and cultural contact and interaction between creative literate young people in the Member States and their counterparts in other countries, and ensure their active participation in the national, regional and international activities pertaining to the promotion of young people's creations on education in tolerance and coexistence and to exchange of successful experiences in this regard.

- Harness extracurricular, artistic-education and school-sports activities for enhancing dialogue, civic values and human rights among young learners, heightening their awareness about respect for and peaceful coexistence with the Other, and discarding all forms of violence, extremism and unfair gender discrimination.
- Enable educational institutions to open up to their external environment and promote cooperation and partnership with different cultural and media stakeholders, as well as with NGOs and the private sector in such a way as to enable young learners to make an optimal and diversified use of their creative works in the fields of sustainable development and coexistence.
- Promote media-related education in order to develop a media sense among young people and enable them to select useful media messages, particularly amid the worrying propagation of websites advocating extremist ideologies, while giving due attention to education in the use of social media technologies to promote tolerance and discard violence and extremism, and encouraging media-related extracurricular activities such as production of school magazines, creation of websites and use of school journalism clubs to promote freedom of responsible expression and entrench the values of tolerance and coexistence.
- Support students' associations and encourage their active involvement in voluntary work aimed at raising awareness about tolerance and coexistence and denouncing violence and extremism in their educational institutions and in their neighborhoods, while mobilizing social media to this end, and promoting networking among students' associations, educational institutions, student parents' associations, elected councils and civil society associations in order to achieve the desired efficiency and field impact.
- Give more attention to parental education in such a way as to raise the awareness of students' parents and tutors about their vital role in instilling tolerance, respect for cultural and religious plurality and rejection of violence and extremism in the minds and behaviors of their children.
- Strengthen cooperation with the ministries of youth and sports as well as with regional and international specialized organizations and institutions to promote education in dialogue, coexistence and tolerance in national educational policies and programmes.