



**Draft Declaration of the  
Conference of Elected Representatives  
of the Mediterranean  
Rabat, 28-29 June 2006**



**Rabat Declaration**

We, the elected representatives of the Mediterranean, participating in the above conference, held at ISESCO Headquarters, Rabat on 28-29 June 2006, at the invitation of UNESCO and ISESCO under the High Patronage of His Majesty Mohammed VI, the King of Morocco;

Acknowledging the need for greater participation by elected representatives in the work of the United Nations and their respective specialised agencies, thereby helping to bring those institutions closer to citizens;

Welcoming the initiatives taken by UNESCO and ISESCO to strengthen the key role of elected representatives as potential partners in the implementation of their respective programmes;

1. Urge the designation, in national parliaments, of parliamentary focal points for UNESCO and encourage strengthening co-operation with the Organisation at national, regional and international levels, by: promoting in a sustained dialogue with UNESCO and its field offices in the Member States, and through National Commissions; disseminating information about UNESCO with a view to increasing public awareness of the Organisation's mandate and its strategic objectives; transmitting relevant information on UNESCO's activities to those authorities actively concerned with the national legislation and financing in education, sciences, culture and communication;
2. Encourage the initiative of ISESCO to strengthen cooperation with national parliaments and elected representatives within the framework of that organisation's mandate and fields of competence.
3. Moreover, cognizant of the far-reaching role of municipalities and other local authorities in the development process, we call for a solid institutionalised partnership and synergy of the latter with UNESCO and ISESCO so as to meet the challenges linked to those aspects of urbanization that also fall within UNESCO and ISESCO's fields of competence. A particular emphasis in this respect is to be laid on both Organisation's interaction and collaboration with relevant national, regional and international organisations and associations that bring together cities and municipalities.
4. Recognizing the key role played by quality education in the economic and social development of the Mediterranean region and in promoting inter-cultural dialogue, we reiterate our support for UNESCO and ISESCO's efforts to coordinate the mobilisation of the international community to meet the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All goals adopted at the World Education Forum Dakar in 2000. We encourage enhanced cooperation among all partners within the framework of the EFA Global Action Plan.
5. As elected representatives, we affirm our commitment to ensuring equitable access to learning opportunities for all – girls and women, boys and men – by ensuring legislative frameworks and budgetary allocations based on the principle of equality. We also commit ourselves to the full participation of our citizens in the governance of the education and learning processes with a view to ensuring their efficiency and relevance to the needs of our societies at every level.
6. Working towards the full participation of our peoples in the knowledge society, we affirm our support for promoting innovation in education through regional and international cooperation and the exchange of good practice.

7. Affirm our commitment to promote in national legislations and general policies an approach based on the respect of human rights and non discrimination, to provide a better knowledge of international standards, problems and trends in the field of human rights, to enhance the research in the field of human rights, fight against discrimination and exclusion and to reinforce effectively the practical application of education to human rights on national, regional and international levels.

8. Support the organisation of special events and media campaigns on the occasion of international days:

- 8 March: International Women's Day
- 21 March: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 12 August : International Day for Youth
- 16 November: International Day for Tolerance
- 10 December: International Human Rights Day

9. Recognize the need to promote and implement the UNESCO Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage (17 October 2003).

10. Confirm our commitment to promote the ratification of UNESCO's international conventions, in particular:

- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, with Regulations for its Execution (The Hague, 14 May 1954) and its Protocols,
- Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (Paris, 14 November 1970) and the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995),
- Convention on the World Heritage (1972),
- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (Paris, 2 November 2001),
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Paris, 17 October 2003),
- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Paris, 20 October 2005);
- International Convention against Doping in Sport (Paris, 19 October 2005)

11. Take also note of the Rabat Commitment (14-16 June 2005) on fostering Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations through concrete and sustainable initiatives and of the following relevant declarations of ISESCO:

- Islamic Declaration on Sustainable development (Jeddah 2001)
- Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversities (Algiers, December 2004)
- Rabat Declaration on Child Issues in the Islamic World (Rabat, 7-9 November 2005)

12. Recalling the resolution of the UN General Assembly which proclaimed 2005-2015 the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", emphasizing the fact that water is critical for sustainable development, including environmental integrity and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and therefore indispensable for human health and well-being, we highly welcome UNESCO taking a proactive role in activities related to this decade with a view to fulfilling the international commitments made on water and water related issues by 2015.

13. Bearing in mind UNESCO and ISESCO's mandate in educational, scientific and cultural aspects of water resources management, we welcome UNESCO and ISESCO's regional and global activities in this regard and their sustained dialogue with the National Commissions. Furthermore, we express our support for UNESCO and ISESCO's programmes and initiatives in fields related to water and their role in the UN system-wide activities related in this respect.

14. Recognizing that access to clean water is the prerequisite to the realization of all the other human rights and being aware of the fact that world is currently falling short of meeting the target to ensure adequate water services for all, we express our support to the UNESCO for its commitment to find plausible solutions to expanding water related problems.

15. Recognize the importance of access to information and knowledge as reaffirmed by the World Summit on Information Society.

- We urge to take initiatives to establish sustainable multi-purpose community public access points, providing affordable access for citizens to the various communication resources. These access points should provide assistance to users, in libraries, educational institutions, public administrations, post offices or other public places, with special emphasis on rural and underserved areas.
- Furthermore, we support the development of a variety of software models, including proprietary and open-source, in order to increase competitive bidding, freedom of choice and affordability of access to softwares.

16. Recognising that UNESCO and ISESCO's policy on youth is based on their firm conviction that young people are key actors in all efforts aimed at human development and sustainability and are therefore a major force for the shaping of the present and future of our societies, we urge their involvement in decision-making processes at all possible levels.

17. Furthermore, we support the overall objective of UNESCO and ISESCO's strategy of action with and for youth focusing on the empowerment of young people to ensure and enhance their full participation in society as equal and valuable partners. Consequently, we welcome UNESCO and ISESCO's outreach efforts to young people with a view to responding to their needs and concerns, and involving them in the design implementation and evaluation of relevant programmes and policies.

18. Express our deep gratitude and sincere thanks to His Majesty Mohammed VI for having accepted to honour this Conference with his high patronage and host it in this beautiful capital.

Adopt the present document entitled the Declaration of Rabat, on 29 June 2006, in Rabat, Morocco.