

Launching Ceremony of ICESCO Peace 360 degree Approach in Academia

29 March 2022, Hybrid

Special Guest Speech by
H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR
Director General of SESRIC

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

H.E. Dr. Salim M. ALMALIK Director General of ICESCO,
H.E. Mr. Nouredine MOUADDIB, President of International
University of Rabat

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Very Good day to all of You

- It is a great honour for me to take the stage at this launching ceremony of the Pilot Programme to introduce the ICESCO initiative “Peace 360 Degree Approach in Academia”.
- I am confident that this pilot project to be conducted in partnership with the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at the International University of Rabat will be instrumental in promoting a holistic approach taking into consideration the social, economic and cultural dimensions in the complex mission of conflict resolution and building peace and security in the Islamic world.

- At the outset, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Dr. Salim M. ALMALIK and the ICESCO for this admirable initiative. I also thank him for his kind invitation to me as a special guest in this launching ceremony.

Distinguished Participants,

- Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance and constantly taking the side of world peace and global justice. Many OIC cities are places for different ethnic groups and religious traditions, where over the course of centuries the people there have developed capacity for coexistence and mutual trust and respect.
- The principle of peace in Islam is enforced through practical measures of conflict resolution. This is clear as outlined in the Holy verse, which says:

"وَإِنْ طَائِفَتَانِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ اقْتَتَلُوا فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَهُمَا فَإِنْ بَغَتْ إِحْدَاهُمَا عَلَى الْأُخْرَى فَقَاتِلُوا الَّتِي تَبْغِي حَتَّى تَفِيءَ إِلَى أَمْرِ اللَّهِ فَإِنْ فَاءَتْ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَهُمَا بِالْعَدْلِ وَأَقْسِطُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ"

And if two factions among the believers should fight, then make settlement between the two. But if one of them oppresses the other, then fight against the one that oppresses until it returns to

the ordinance of Allah. And if it returns, make a just and even-handed reconciliation between the two of them. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly.

- For its part, The OIC, since its inception in 1969, has been working tirelessly to promote global peace, stability, harmony and security. This is stipulated in the OIC Charter where the Member States of the OIC expressed their determination to:
 - preserve and promote the lofty Islamic values of peace, compassion, tolerance, equality, justice and human dignity.

They also expressed their determination to

- contribute to international peace and security, understanding and dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions and promote and encourage friendly relations and good neighbourliness, mutual respect and cooperation.
- And recently, the OIC 2025 Programme of Action identifies “Peace & Security” as one of the priority areas of cooperation among the Member Countries.

- However, achieving peace and security remains one of the most challenging tasks facing the OIC due to the undesirable state of conflicts in a great number of the Member Countries.
- The number of conflicts in OIC countries is showing an upward trend and currently the majority of conflicts in the world are taking place in OIC countries. Between 2000 and 2020, the number of armed conflicts, involving OIC countries as a side, increased from 40% to 57% of the world total armed conflicts.
- The consequences of terrorism, violent extremism and radicalism in OIC Countries have been destructive. It is a human tragedy that has taken its toll on the lives of thousands of people. Almost three quarters of global conflict fatalities have taken place in OIC Countries. Millions of people have been forced to leave their homes.
- In 2020, almost 63% of the refugees in the world originated from the OIC Countries. There were also 30 million internally displaced persons, corresponding to 62% of the total worldwide internally displaced persons.

- The economic consequences of conflicts in OIC Countries are estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars, money that could have been spent on economic and social development.

Distinguished Participants,

- Prevention is the least costly way to avoid the consequences of conflict. To succeed at this, there is a need to understand the drivers of conflict. Here, the importance of promoting research on peace building and conflict resolution becomes apparent.
- It is through research that the drivers of conflict can be identified and neutralized. Obviously, this is not an easy task. Conflict is not a simple reality, it is a multidimensional one and its causes are varied and inter-twined.
- In many cases, the lines between the drivers and the impacts of conflicts are obscure. These complexities should motivate research that is rigorous and holistic. Areas that research can focus on include socio-economic factors, inequality, governance, human development, and social and political exclusion.
- The importance of promoting such a research is also highlighted by the need to develop new ideas, models, tools and proposals

for conflict resolution and prevention. This is due to the fact that the models and tools we have now at hand belong to a setting that is no longer much relevant to OIC Countries.

- The models and tools we have at hand are designed for interstate wars. However, the majority of conflicts in OIC Countries are internal conflicts. Therefore, there is a need to develop innovative approaches that deal with internal conflicts in many fields, but mainly, in the case of our Member Countries, in the two areas of **power sharing** and **wealth sharing**.
- In fact, the joint efforts of conflict resolution and peace building in the context of OIC Countries should pay a special attention to these two areas (the **power sharing** and **wealth sharing**), as these two issues are now among the contentious issues in OIC Countries which experiencing internal conflicts.

Distinguished audience,

- SESRIC has early recognized the importance of research on peace building, mediation and conflict resolutions, and security.
- Following the meeting of the OIC institutions on “Combating Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization”, which was

held at the OIC General Secretariat Headquarters in August 2015, SESRIC sprung to action and formed a research team at the Centre to work on the project of combating terrorism and violent extremism.

- One of the outputs of this team has been the SESRIC report, which is titled “Towards Understanding Radicalism & Violent Extremism in OIC Countries”.
- Further and based on a special request of the Secretary General of the OIC, SESRIC prepared another report titled “Achieving Peace and Security in a World of Turmoil: An Arduous Challenge for the OIC”.
- This report, which was highly appreciated by the OIC diplomatic community, focused on the changes in the OIC security environment and the resulting new challenges, mostly related to preventing, managing and resolving conflicts.
- And, in response to a Resolution by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) entitled “Strengthening the Mediation Capacity of the OIC”, SESRIC, in close collaboration with the OIC

General Secretariat, worked on developing a Mediators Guideline or “Code of Conduct” Focusing on Culturally Sensitive Mediation Approaches. This Mediators Guideline, which is now ready for adoption, is expected to have a significant contribution to the literature and the field of mediation at the OIC Level.

- Also within the framework of SESRIC annual “Diplomacy Capacity Building Programme”, we organized in 2018 a training course for junior diplomats from OIC countries on the topic of “Conflict Resolution & Mediation”. 36 junior diplomats from 29 OIC Member States benefited from the training that was provided by four outstanding practitioners and world renowned trainers in the field of conflict resolution and mediation

Distinguished audience,

- Before concluding, I would like express my confidence that ICESCO Peace 360 degree Approach in Academia will be an instrumental approach in ensuring that all voices of peace are heard and that synergies are built and concerted action is taken for a lasting peace in the Islamic World and beyond.

- To this end, I would like to state that SESRIC stands ready to provide any support that ICESCO may require for the success of this admirable initiative.
- I wish you all the success in your endeavours and thank you for your kind attention.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته