

**Remarks of H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director-General,
Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)**

**Launch of “Investing in the Children of the Islamic World” Report
21 September 2005 • New York, NY (Perm. Mission of Malaysia)**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and honour to address your Excellencies in this launch meeting of the report on investing in children in the Islamic World, which does constitute a key reference in tackling and dealing with the issues of the child in the Islamic countries. I express my gratitude and thanks to UNICEF, and its Executive Director Ms. Ann Veneman, and to OIC and its Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, for their cooperation in preparing this valuable document, and also to our host today His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Malaysia and the delegation of his esteemed country to the United Nations.

Excellencies,

The 1st Islamic Conference on the Child that ISESCO, UNICEF and OIC will hold next November in Rabat, will by all means be an important event for our organizations and Member States. It will not only be the occasion for our policy and decision makers to sit together to review, reform and confirm the main stands and orientations on the issues of the child in our Islamic countries, but it will also be the first action in a long process heading towards building a global vision and thorough perception of the challenges, solutions and future horizons of the Child issues.

The Conference will also be the right institutional context in which the true values of Islam regarding the child will be presented, these values which highlight and protect the fundamental rights of the child and the basic obligations of the family and the society in this aspect.

ISESCO noticed with great pleasure and satisfaction that much progress has been made in the Islamic World, and one aim of our report today is to enable members to share and learn from positive examples. But, much remains to be done to address high levels of maternal and child health, break the silence on HIV/AIDS and protect children from all forms of violence and exploitation, and investing in children and putting them at the center of development strategies are the most effective ways to eliminate poverty and meet global development targets.

Excellencies,

Through its action in its fields of competence, related to Education, Science, Culture and Communication, ISESCO spared no efforts to upgrade the life of the children in the Member States, to ensure for them a better preparation for their future and to help the concerned institutions to provide for them the right and appropriate education and cultural

services. ISESCO's policy and vision in these fields will certainly be more effective and vigorous with the resolutions and commitments of the ministers and heads of delegations and Organizations who will attend our 1st Conference in Rabat. Thanking you once again and apologizing for not being able to be among you, I wish the meeting every success.