

**IAS 2012 ASTANA DECLARATION**  
**on**  
***Science and Technology in Muslim World:  
Achievements and Prospects***

*Adopted at Astana, Kazakhstan*

*on*

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**PREAMBLE**

1. Since the end of World War II, many countries have succeeded in achieving socioeconomic advancement through the utilization of science and technology (S&T). At present however, many countries, including most OIC-member states, face unprecedented challenges in the domains of Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture, Biodiversity – collectively known as WEHAB. Moreover, many countries lack the capacity to create wealth and contribute to world civilization. A close nexus exists between addressing such challenges and building the tolerant societies of the future, societies which provide opportunities for young people to achieve and succeed.
2. There is a need to comprehend the paradigm shifts in the globalised and digitalized world of today on the one hand while disseminating ethics-based knowledge on the other. It is thus imperative that the intellectual and political communities address the issues of ethics and humanism as crucial instruments of modern scientific advancement. There is a need to leverage intellectual and scientific dialogue and utilize research breakthroughs as vehicles for social cohesion and stability of societies and advancement of human beings. Academics, politicians, research scholars and intellectuals have to play a role in bonding scientific and humanistic approaches together.

3. The Islamic world was for over a millennium the birthplace of prominent enlightened thinkers, scientists and intellectuals. This is in part due to the fact that the pursuit of knowledge is one of the pillars of Islamic faith. Today, the Islamic world continues to make dispersed yet significant contributions in the scientific field.

**The Islamic World Academy of Sciences urges the leaders of the Organization of Islamic Co-operation Countries to:**

1. Consolidate the efforts of the leaders of the OIC Member States and the modern Muslim intellectual elite.
2. Promote research on theoretical and applied problems relating to issues of modern development and implementation of scientific and technological innovations based on interdisciplinary researches and links between natural, technical and social sciences.
3. Implement measures to involve young researchers in the scientific field particularly to promote sustainable development and address the future. Future generations in the OIC countries must be well-educated and knowledge-driven to benefit their societies and communities.
4. Create a favorable milieu for scientific cooperation and joint project implementation on the most ambitious initiatives at the frontier of world science. Of especial importance in this regard is the broad institutionalization of and strengthening of relations with world research centers of repute. Furthermore, the outputs of scientific explorations should target the economies of the respective countries and benefit their populations.
5. Incorporate elements of the great achievements of the Islamic civilization in science into contemporary educational curricula, highlighting the historical significance of the Muslim world for the development of humanity's scientific progress.