

**SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY
ABDULLAH BIN ABDELMOHSIN ALTURKI**

**AT THE OPENING CEREMONY
OF
THE CONFERENCE
OF
“THE INITIATIVE OF THE
CUSTODIAN OF THE TWO HOLY
MOSQUES ON DIALOGUE AND
ITS IMPACT IN DISSEMINATING
HUMAN VALUES”**

**ORGANIZED BY
THE MUSLIM WORLD LEAGUE**

GENEVA - SWITZERLAND

11-12 Shawwal 1430 H – September 30th – October 1st 2009

**IN THE NAME OF ALLAH THE MOST GRACIOUS THE MOST MERCIFUL
PRAISE BE TO ALLAH AND PEACE AND BLESSING BE WITH OUR PROPHET
MOHAMMAD, THE SEAL OF ALL MESSENGERS AND PEACE BE UPON HIS
BRETHREN MESSENGERS AND PROPHETS**

PEACE BE UPON YOU!

Ladies and Gentlemen

I greet you and express my pleasure for this occasion that has brought us together to discuss what is good for us and for the entire humanity.

It gives me great pleasure to express my thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Muslim World League to the Swiss Government in holding this conference on its soil, thus encouraging dialogue among the followers of religions and cultures in the hope that the members of the human family- despite their religious and cultural differences- will coexist and cooperate more among each others bound by dialogue, openness and above all the desire to serve humanity without discrimination.

This conference held under the title “The initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for inter religious dialogue and its impact in disseminating Human values” comes as a series of efforts exerted by the Muslim World League in the matter of dialogue, that was accorded in recent years, a priority and a special attention among its programs and actions in response to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz al-Saud’s appeal to the followers of religions, civilizations and cultures to extend bridges of dialogue among themselves guided by common human bonds; to cooperate in finding ways in dealing with the problems besetting the nations of the world and to meet the challenges threatening their security in various fields.

This initiative was greeted with international approval and official and popular acclaim echoed by the encouragement received by the world Conference on dialogue organized by the League in Madrid last year, and also by the special meeting at the UN General Assembly in its regular session to highlight the importance of this initiative and to lend it its support and praise.

Pursuant to one of the recommendations issued in the final statement of the Madrid conference calling for the establishment of a committee to follow up and analyze its decisions and recommendations, and to seek ways of implementation; in addition to study the future path of dialogue, a first meeting of the said committee was held last July in Austria. The participants renewed their commitment to the initiative of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques and praised its honest call to respect human dignity; and to carry on with the dialogue among the followers of religions, cultures and civilizations. It further mentioned that the international acclaim received by the initiative will give them the responsibility to work jointly to implement it so as to become a basis for the revival of human values and be instilled in people.

It is hoped that the researches and discussions presented in this gathering will shed further lights on this distinct initiative and explore its impact on the promotion of civilizational interaction and the propagation of the culture of dialogue through which it is possible to find a stable balance between maintaining cultural and civilizational characteristics - that are the rights of every nation - and the cooperation within the overall common human interests to ensure a decent level of cultural and civilizational coexistence.

It is also possible, through the culture of dialogue to open wide vistas of understanding, build strong bridges of cooperation and find just solutions to intractable conflicts; to deal with humanitarian issues in exemplary cooperative manners; eliminate many causes of violence; and most of all to reduce the tendency of extremism which, when faced with closed door of dialogue will find justification to grow and flourish.

The Muslim World league is looking forward to the day when this initiative becomes a humanitarian project that will be implemented through a series of conferences, symposia and programs involving organizations and personalities who will advocate and argue the cause of the happiness of the human family to consolidate the foundations of peace and friendship among the nations of the world, and to strive to do good for the entire human race without discrimination; to develop common human values that will serve cooperation and understanding between the countries of the world and their organizations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The speech addressed to the Islamic world by President Obama from the University of Cairo last June contributes in creating the atmosphere for more understanding between the followers of religions and cultures through bridges of dialogue. In his speech, the President called for a new beginning with the Islamic World based on understanding, dialogue, coexistence and mutual respect.

On that occasion, President Obama also said: "Faith must be a factor of rapprochement among us; that's why we are working now on establishing new voluntary projects in America that would bring Christians, Muslims and Jews together. He further said: "For that, we welcome similar efforts to the initiative of His Majesty King Abdullah on inter religious dialogue, and also the leading position taken by Turkey on Alliances of Civilizations".

Finally, it's my pleasure to express my highest expressions of thanks and appreciation on behalf of the participants in this conference to the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz for his kind patronage accorded to our gathering. Thanks are also due to His Excellency the Ambassador and the Head of the Permanent Delegation of the European headquarters of the UN in Geneva Dr. Abdulwahab Abdussalam Attar and his colleagues for their efficient efforts and cooperation with the League in preparing this meeting; to the participating ladies and gentlemen and all who helped and collaborated; to H.E. Hazim Bin Mohammad Karkatli (the Saudi ambassador in Geneva); and to Mr. Nabil Bin Mohammad Al-Salih the Saudi Consul General and supervisor of the Islamic Cultural Foundation in Geneva and his colleagues for their cooperation and the Saudi Arabian Airlines; and to the Saudi Media team of the Ministry of Culture and Information and all colleagues in the League wishing all success and support and hoping that all efforts exerted are for the sake of God.