

FINAL STATEMENT

CONFERENCE

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

**۱۱ – ۱۲ SHAWWAL ۱۴۳۰ H
SEPTEMBER ۳۰TH – OCTOBER ۱ST ۲۰۰۹
GENEVA -- SWITZERLAND**

In the Name of God, Thanks are due to Allah and peace and blessings be upon all His Messengers

With the grace of God the conference of the “Initiative of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosque on dialogue and its impact on disseminating human values”, organized by the Muslim World League on ۱۱-۱۲ Shawwal ۱۴۳۰ H corresponding to Sept. ۳۰th Oct. ۱st ۲۰۰۹ concluded its proceedings The conference was attended by a group of religious and academic personalities representing different faiths and cultures. The Conference was addressed in its opening ceremony by Mrs. Muriel Berset, the Advisor to the Swiss Delegation at the European Headquarters of the UN, on behalf of His Excellency the President of the Swiss Confederation Hans Rudolph Meyers who praised the influence of

religions in disseminating lofty principles, praising the initiative of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques and emphasized the longing of the Islamic World for peace.

Both the Reverend Doctor Samuel Kobia, the Secretary General of the World Church Council in Switzerland and Doctor Nava Natheem Pillay , the High Commissioner for Human Rights gave speeches stressing the importance of the royal initiative on inter religious and civilizations on dialogue that propagate human values in human societies.

His Excellency Doctor Bandar Bin Mohammad Aleban, the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission in Saudi Arabia reported the greetings and appreciation of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques to the participants, stressing King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz interest in the success of the conference and the achievement of

His Excellency, Dr. Abdullah al-Turki mentioned in his speech that humanity is suffering today from international conflicts and facing threats and challenges prompting wise people to give their utmost attention to cooperate to establish common human values as stressed by the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz al-Saud; His Excellency stressed the keenness of the Muslim World League to follow up on the initiative of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques through practical programs, and called on religious, cultural and social foundations on all international levels to heed its call and to apply it through practical means, as the world- which has long suffered from conflicts- is in a dire need for it.

As the conference reviewed the reactions generated by the initiative of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques on dialogue, the participants were pleased with the response from religious, political and media leaders around the world who praised it for its conscious and important visions worthy of achieving world peace; they asserted that:

- All Divine Messages came to instill in humans the idea of worshipping their creator, according to what he has decreed and to rid humanity of the scourges of injustice, racial discrimination and racial superiority, and called for establishing human values that reinforce social justice.
- The considerable influence exerted by faiths on cultures and civilizations compels religious leaders to cooperate in strengthening the commitment to human values that constitute a common human legacy consistent with the innate nature.
- The initiative of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques originating from the heart of the Islamic world and the cradle of the Islamic message stems from a common concept in human relationships among the followers of religions. Inspired by the principles of Islam that call for a world where justice, security and peace reign supreme, it expresses the desire of Muslims for a peaceful coexistence and harmonious coexistence and positive interaction with all the followers of different religions and cultures. The participants also call for the deepening of a positive endeavor in civilizational relationship among the peoples of the world.

The conference called the leaders of all faiths and civilizations in the world for further reflection and interaction with the initiative of King Abdullah on dialogue, and benefit from its content drawn from lofty principles calling for positive understanding

among people of the world vying for a better world. Among its important premises are:

- a) Rejection of racial discrimination and racial superiority. People are equal in human dignity; they are not superior by race, color or gender.
- b) Diversity among human beings should result in mutual understanding and cooperation.
- c) Differences in human beings and diversity of ethnicities, races and religions is a fact permitted by God; it is thus incumbent on the wise people – despite their differences – to seek common grounds through which to achieve mutual respect and understanding for the happiness of humanity.
- d) To meet common social challenges in a world obsessed by material life, family disintegration and the decay of moral values that call for close cooperation to alleviate these problems through sharing our experience and expertise that contribute to effective solutions.

The Conference reviewed the existing relationships among the various human civilizations, and stressed the importance of addressing the profound misunderstandings that disturb their normal course, stating that religions are not the source of crises that disrupt intercultural relations, even if some people tend to define them as such; differences stem from conflicts of interests and the predominance of selfish interests.

The Conference also called on the concerned States and relevant institutions to implement international conventions, especially the United Nations resolutions and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Conference affirmed its support for the establishment of an International Dialogue Center that would pursue the historical initiative of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, and implement more programs in order to achieve a harmonious human society characterized by mutual respect and mutual understanding.

The Conference also confirmed the importance of implementing the “Appeal of Makkah” that called for the establishment of a Global Islamic Commission involving major organizations concerned with dialogue to follow a common strategy and to coordinate and cooperate with relevant bodies.

Realizing the importance of the media and their impact on relations between different human societies, the Conference appealed to the media to do its part in propagating the culture of dialogue and to promote its goals and institutions, and recommended the following:

- It’s necessary for the media to be objective and credible and to document the items that deal with issues that have high impact on human societies, and to avoid sensationalism and excesses that adversely affect human relations.

- To keep away from promoting the culture of violence and showing violent art productions, and to strive to find alternatives that will enhance religious principles that achieve a peaceful coexistence and strengthen the culture of dialogue.
- To refrain from denigrating religions and their symbols, given the impact on social peace generating hostility and violence.
- The Muslim World League will provide names of spokespersons who participated in the dialogue to the international media.

The Conference called on the Muslim World League to convene a world conference on “The Mission of the International Media in the Dialogue between the followers of religions and civilizations.

The Conference also viewed the humanitarian suffering of people and their humanitarian and economic repercussions, and stressed the following:

- To support dialogue initiatives around the world particularly the initiative of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques and called the attention of the cultural institutions to the contents of the texts of the international law which prohibits propagation of hatred and racial discrimination.
- The serious cooperation to meet modern challenges, especially poverty, ignorance, diseases and global disasters and to provide aid to those affected.
- To support social associations and institutions working to establish human values in human societies.
- The participants appreciate the inclusion of more women and youths in future programs.

At the closing of the Conference, the participants expressed their appreciation and support for the efforts exerted by the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on dialogue, and stressed the importance of following it up to achieve and realize the goals set by the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques which fulfill cooperation, stability and peace among human societies of diverse cultures.

They thanked the government of the Swiss Confederation for its effort for the success of the conference; and the Kingdom’s permanent delegation and its president in Geneva for their endeavor and cooperation with the Muslim World League in holding this conference.

The participants appreciated the efforts of the Muslim World League in pursuing the initiative of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques and implementing its activities. The participants also stressed the importance of responding to the call for more gatherings, conferences and symposia due to the positive impact in promoting the culture of dialogue and the promotion of common values.

Issued in Geneva

Thursday: Shawwal ١٢, ١٤٣٠ H
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