



ملتقى القيم المشتركة بين أتباع الأديان
Forum on Common Values among
Religious Followers



رَابِطَةُ الْعَالَمِ الْإِسْلَامِيِّ
MUSLIM WORLD LEAGUE

Declaration on the Common Human Values

Issued by

**“The Forum for Promoting the Common Values
among the Followers of Religions”**

Organized by

THE MUSLIM WORLD LEAGUE

Attended by prominent and influential global religious
leaders, dignitaries, international organizations and
institutions with interest in the theme of the forum

Wednesday, Shawwal 10, 1443.
May 11, 2022.
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

At the invitation of the Muslim World League, the resolve and determination of global religious leaders, prominent figures, organizations and influential institutions around the world converged to promote harmony in our world and peace within national societies.

They convened in an atmosphere of mutual love and understanding at the “Forum for Promoting the Common Values among the Followers of Religions” in Riyadh, the capital city of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Wednesday Shawwal 10, 1443, corresponding to May 11, 2022.

The Forum’s collective objectives were to reach a universal consensus within the context of a common civilizational vision that would enhanced cooperation and trust between global spiritual leaders, leverage their commonalities by placing them at the forefront of common principles of human values, promote the values of moderation and harmony, effectively support efforts to advance tolerance and peace, and set rational intellectual-frameworks to immunize against the dangers of extremist ideology and behavior - regardless of its source.

The participants also reviewed recent global events and developments and stressed the increasing need for our world to utilize international conflict resolution tools through a sincere will, strong determination and the adoption of wise measures.

They reiterated the importance of remembering past historical experiences in order to benefit from their lessons and remain vigilant against history’s tragedies and painful disasters. This is a responsibility that falls upon all the stakeholders from around the world – at the national, international and human levels.

The participants saw this fraternal meeting as an opportunity to express their common visions. They also saw this an opportunity to help correct the path that much of humanity is currently on - by helping liberate humanity from the shackles of selfishness, materialism, and arrogance and by instead competing in doing acts of goodness, embracing solidarity, , bringing happiness to one another and rebuilding the planet based on the values of love, forgiveness and tolerance.

Based on common religious principles, international conventions calling for the embodiment of human values in a sincere and honest spirit and the obligation entrusted upon religious leaders, religious icons, religious

entities and the significant impact they have on the conscience of peoples, the efforts of the select group participating in this forum have resulted in several important declarations and aspiring recommendations. They embody the common spiritual values and humanistic objectives (of all conference participants).

Areas of agreement between Conference Participants:

- Religion is central to every civilization, given its influence in the formulation of ideas in human societies and how it spiritually inspires those who believe in it.
- Religion should be separated from the damaging acts committed by some of its followers (regardless of the nature, aim and size of these acts). It is unfair to the followers of any religion to be held accountable for the consequences of such isolated incidents.
- Religion should not be taken advantage of in achieving any ends that deviate from its spiritual and reformative purpose, which deviates from the special values it carries in its teachings and the general values that represent common religious values shared with others, or general human common values.
- The unique characteristics of each religion or sect should be appreciated. They should each be recognized as a form of human diversity that reflects the Creator's wisdom in creating such differences in the first place. Each person has their own conviction and belief through which they worship God, and they communicate this to others through the wisdom of dialogue. Followers of different religions and cultures must be respected given the Creator honored them by making them partners in humanity and in all that is required to achieve effective and fruitful brotherhood.
- Humans, regardless of their communities and affiliations, have the same origin. As humans they are all equal. They all possess dignity to spread love, mercy, forgiveness and tolerance, and to extend bridges of dialogue and cooperation for the greater good of all. Moreover, they possess the dignity to promote genuine and practical peace initiatives with sincere and wise human cooperation - all under the umbrella of one human family.

- Effective dialogue takes on a civilized approach and is deemed by religions to be the best way to resolve conflicts, bridge differences, and overcome fears, misconceptions and prejudices, including dismantling the theory of the inevitable clash of civilizations. Such dialogue can promote trust, empower love and establish cooperation among all.
- Coexistence is a necessity of life. It is based on recognizing that the human family is one unit, which reflects the importance of promoting human brotherhood in a tangible way, and overcoming fear of the other, selfishness, and all forms of hatred, division and violence.
- The fact that human diversity is inevitable requires us to possess tolerance, forgiveness and to embrace differences. We must preserve human dignity by respecting the other, their right to exist and their civilization. We must transcend the animosity that arises from being apart, that grows because of fear and not knowing the other on the one hand - and because of injustice and arrogance on the other.
- Effective and fruitful human fraternity is the best hope for a peaceful and harmonious existence amongst people. It is one of the most important tools in overcoming challenges facing our human family. This fraternity can transcend the basic meaning of brotherhood and come to stand for 'peace in our world and harmony within national societies – motivated by an authentic inner conviction'. All people are part of one family due to their having the same origin. By extension, all people have an obligation to pursue the sublime qualities of that union.
- Followers of religions and cultures agree that freedoms that are regulated by respecting the common-law are a human right, dictated by religious laws, international charters, and guaranteed by national constitutions. No one can deprive a person of their legitimate freedom.
- Human rights are a central and integral value for every human conscience that stands against discrimination based on religion, gender, color or any other such factors. Human rights are guarded by religious teachings, and their violation is criminalized by international laws.
- The thesis of an inevitable civilizational clash, and attempts to achieve religious, cultural, political and economic advantage over others without respecting rights or ethics, are forms of extremism and arrogance, and an embodiment of racism driven by a superiority

complex. It demonstrates an ignorance about the power that the Creator possesses over us - which is evident from human history. The true advantage (irrespective of which discipline it is achieved in) comes organically through 'ethical' power that is made possible through tangible, sincere and noble intentions.

- The alliance and integration of civilizations is the best model for ridding our world of the dangers of a possible clash of civilizations and all the negative notions that accompany such a prospect – particularly the policies of prejudice and exclusion based on hate and racism.
- Effective dialogue and rapprochement with good intentions and tangible impact on building bridges of understanding and cooperation is the best way to address extremist ideologies.

In addition, effective dialogue is also the best way to overcome the impact of negative perceptions resulting from historical animosities.

- Hate and racism are violent sentiments that expose a major flaw in the understanding of religious, national and civil concepts. These sentiments are the biggest instigators of violence, terrorism and division. They are also the main reasons for why the cohesion of the human moral system is compromised.
- The relationship between the East and the West has a profound history. It is a rational relationship that continually renews. It has contributed to the flourishing of human civilization through positive openness, mutual trust, and effective dialogue. This reaffirms a total conviction that each civilization needs the other. It also affirms the unique characteristics of each civilization and its right to exist without offending the followers of the other with hatred, mistrust, the spreading of conspiracy theories, negative generalizations, the reckless opinions and interpretations held by some, or the reckless actions carried out either by institutions or individuals. Such actions only represent those who execute them and should not be generalized. It is also important our world realizes that common sense and lessons learned from history directs us towards to acknowledging that possessing an advantage of any kind over others is governed by the divine laws of the Creator. This is an innate rationale for why such advantages over others must be exercised in a fair and ethical way.

Findings and Recommendations:

- We call on the awakened consciousness of the world to forge an international alliance through an honest, just and effective resolve to serve humanity - while protecting all of its rights and maintaining the common values that bind humanity together.
- All human beings must acknowledge that there are different civilizations, and they complete each other. These cultures are diverse, and they socially interact. They should also acknowledge that these civilizations have resulted from the cumulative efforts and experiences of nations and their achievements - which have enriched humanity as a whole. It is important we leverage human diversity as a source of enrichment and hold onto the true belief that unity is in diversity and that through this diversity we share, we trust, we love, and we cooperate.
- In addition, we must take into consideration the unique differences in each religion and culture, and refrain from exercising any form of arrogance or exerting any forced imposition over another religion or culture. Respecting these unique differences must be at the forefront of the concepts of human rights that nations and peoples around the world, with their different cultures and institutions, understand and uphold.
- Relevant national institutions and United Nations organs must work diligently to protect freedoms within the framework of relevant international and national laws. We in the international community, must not allow societal sentiments to be incited in a way that ignites hostility and division, and undermines national unity by pursuing impulsive or hostile practices - including deliberately spreading misleading and false information
- We call upon national institutions and UN organs to confront all forms of discrimination and exclusion against religious, cultural and ethnic minorities; And work to create strong and effective legislation to promote values of love, forgiveness, tolerance and acceptance of the other as brothers and sisters that share the same nation and a common humanity.

- We call upon national institutions and UN organs to protect the unity of the family as it represents the nucleus of society. We also call on national institutions and UN organs to pay attention to the quality of education, as both of these are important institutions in soundly molding the minds of young people.
- We call upon various platforms of influence; especially the media, to remain mindful of the moral responsibility entrusted upon them, as they are the most influential institutions in forming public opinion. All the attendees must remind the world of the lessons of history – especially to anyone who harbors ill will toward others under any pretext.
- We appeal to all countries and the international community to do all they can to provide adequate protection for places of worship, to ensure free access to them, to preserve their spiritual role, and to distance places of worship from intellectual and political conflicts and sectarian strife.
- We call on religious institutions around the world to advance values that highlight forgiveness and religious tolerance and their impact on strengthening bonds of solidarity and fraternity among human societies, and that reject extremism that incites hatred and takes advantage of religion to create crises and fuel conflicts.
- We condemn all extremist, violent and terrorist practices against followers of any religion, call for the sanction of any act that would undermine religious symbols and all that religious communities' hold sacred, and support all sincere initiatives that would ward off such practices.
- Launching a global forum called: "Religious Diplomacy Forum for Building Bridges" based on the influential role of religions in human societies, and the important role of religious followers in bridging the relationship between the followers of different religions and cultures to strengthen their civilizational alliance beyond mere dialogue. The Secretariat-General of this forum is entrusted with making the necessary arrangements for launching of this forum.

- To work on issuing an international compilation under the name: “The Encyclopedia of Common Human Values”. The Secretariat-General of this forum is entrusted with the task of making the necessary arrangements for the Encyclopedia, selecting the writers, having it evaluated by religious, intellectual, cultural and academic personalities and institutions, and then launching it globally.
- Inviting the United Nations General Assembly to adopt an international day for “Common Human Values”. This will lay the common ground to help build the foundations of a human fraternity that builds bridges between followers of different religions and cultures, wards off negative concepts and practices that turn differences between human beings into barriers preventing them from knowing one another, facilitates dialogue and cooperation and enshrines mutual respect for each other and one another’s right to exist with dignity.

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