

The Declaration of Common Human Values: Religion Central in All Civilizations

The Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers Promotes Moderation and Tolerance

Saudi Arabia: Harbinger of Global Peace

Why it is Necessary for Religious Adherents to Share Values



MWL Hosts Forum on
Common Human Values
Among Religious Followers
In Riyadh

THE
MUSLIM
WORLD
LEAGUE
JOURNAL



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**Undersecretary for Corporate
 Communications**

Abdulwahab Al Shehri

Chief Editor

Dr. Osman Abu Zeid

Managing Editor

Nayef Alturki

Editorial Secretary

Abdullah Khalid Bamusa

P.O. Box 537
 Makkah, Saudi Arabia

Tel: 0096 66 (012)560 0919

Email: mwljournal@themwl.org

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The conferees denounced theses of “civilizational clash” and attempts to impose religious, cultural, political, and economic hegemony.

Under the Auspices of the MWL

The Declaration of Common Human Values: Religion Central in All Civilizations



His Excellency Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League, Speaks at the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers in Riyadh.

Riyadh - MWL

👍👍 The activities of the interfaith forum “Common Values Among Religious Followers” have concluded in the Saudi capital, Riyadh. Under the umbrella of the MWL, Muslim scholars, including scholars from countries of Muslim minorities, hosted representatives of followers of all world religions in a significant international religious event.



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



His Excellency Sheikh

Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkairm Al-Issa

In his speech to the forum

**On Common Values Among
Religious Followers**

01

This forum is an expression of a religious will that has an abstract spiritual goal, without any indication that does not correspond to this spiritual goal. None of the participants is a representative of any ideology or politics. All of them came from brotherly and friendly countries, with whom we have close relations in our Islamic world.

02

Everyone has the right to search for their own interests, but within the advocated religious and humanitarian values, whose main features included international charters, treaties and norms.

03

Today, no one can ignore the influence of religious moderation on societal coexistence and global peace. Our human history proves that the most significant events had motivators or slogans with immoderate religious goals.

04

Most coexistence problems between diverse individuals are due to negative concepts of religiosity. People stopped at religious specificities of individuals and societies, and they ignored their commonalities.

05

We hope that the attendees of this forum, who are active and influential religious and intellectual figures, would collaborate to issue a "global encyclopedia of common human values", that would become like a comprehensive human constitution with a spiritual concept.

06

Faith-based diplomacy within the framework of its spiritual awareness makes the difference in difficult times. There is no doubt that the power of "enlightened" faith-based diplomacy is the soft power that addresses both minds and hearts, with sincere intentions.



Dr. Al-Issa

The forum expresses a religious will with an abstract spiritual goal

Based on common religious principles and international conventions calling for the embodiment of human values in a serious and honest spirit, the forum issued the Declaration of "Common Human Values", in which the participants agreed to affirm the centrality of religion in every civilization due to its influence in "shaping the ideas of human societies". They stressed the need not to link religion and erroneous actions of some of its followers, and not to employ religion for worldly purposes.

They agreed that the world's growing need to activate international mechanisms for conflict resolution through "a serious will, strong determination and wise measures." They also see their fraternal meeting as an opportunity to express their common visions, and to effectively contribute to



No one among the participants presents themselves as a representative of any ideology or political stance

correcting the contemporary human path. The participants believe that the unique characteristics of every religion or sect should be understood and recognized to represent the human diversity that reflects the Creator's wisdom in creating such differences.

The conferees denounced theses of "civilizational clash" and attempts to impose religious, cultural, political, and economic hegemony. They deemed "hate" and "racism" the greatest instigators of violence, terrorism and division. They called for an international alliance through an "honest, just and effective resolve" to serve humanity while defending its rights and maintaining the universal values that bind humanity together.

Participants called for relevant national and international institutions to work diligently to guarantee free-



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His Excellency Sheikh
Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkairm Al-Issa

In his speech to the forum
**On Common Values Among
Religious Followers**

07

Undoubtedly, the major cause of hatred and racism cases is the lack of awareness of family and education roles, and religious and social influencing platforms. Therefore; it is important to educate people about human commonalities around the world since these commonalities can help them understand their human bond, and the wisdom of the Creator in diversity.

08

Religious moderation is an important element in solidarity of our human family in the face of threats, and even the threats of our planet. Threats such as epidemics, depletion of resources, and the absence or weakness of common values seem to have a major role today in: hatred, racism, division and others. We, in the Muslim World League, have successful international experiences in addressing a number of these problems, the latest of which is our contribution in equally distributing COVID-19 vaccine.

09

"We are all the same in our creation, and we have human feelings and needs that distinguished man from other creatures. All of this created common values between everyone."

10

It is important for our world to realize that it has no choice but the option of understanding, cooperation and peace. History teaches us that the consequences of religious and cultural clash are extremely dangerous for everyone, and that the winner in the beginning loses at the end, whatever his loss was.

11

All attempts to undermine the spiritual side throughout modern human history have been unsuccessful, even if they obtain temporary gains. Eventually, things go back to the way they were, even if they appeared in different forms.

12

Religious leaders become the strongest when they ally around their commonalities, which "represent the foundations of building bridges between them". By their alliance, they contribute effectively to create a prosperous future for humanity.

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His Excellency Sheikh

Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkairm Al-Issa

In his speech to the forum

**On Common Values Among
Religious Followers**

“
All attempts to
undermine the
spiritual aspect
throughout the
human history have
failed

13

We will not pay attention to those who ignore, or deny, the necessity of peace and coexistence between followers of religions, the necessity of having mutual respect between them, and their right to exist with dignity. We will not pay attention for any wrong interpretation or one that seeks to undermine the noble and abstract human purpose of peace and respect among followers of religions, who share existence, responsibility for world peace, and the harmony of its societies, without compromising any legitimate right.

15

We prove with our sincere intentions that our spiritual moderation unites and does not divide, that we enrich our world with peace and security, that our actions precede our words, and that verbal and psychological extremism, do not represent religion. Extremists only represent themselves just like non-religious extremist ideologies only represent those who believe in them.

14

Followers of religions communicate with each other with sincere and pure intentions. They have a pure religious relationship full of respect, love, appreciation, and cooperation for the benefit of all.

16

We are pleased that most national societies have become more aware that religious influence does not come merely by stirring feelings and emotions, and strict attitudes; or changing between those positions “from time to time” for deceptive goals, while their extremist ideology remains open to opportunities.

doms within the framework of relevant international and national laws. They also called on these institutions to protect the unity of the family that represents “the nucleus of society” and pay attention to the quality of education. They called upon various platforms of influence, especially the media, to remain mindful of the moral responsibility entrusted on them as the most influential element in forming public opinion.

“
Religious moderation
as a motivator is an
important element in
the solidarity of our
human family

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لِإِطَاعَةِ الْعَالَمِ الْإِسْلَامِيِّ
MUSLIM WORLD LEAGUE 



Dr. Mohammad Al-Issa, Secretary General of the MWL, and Swami Brahmovihari, head of international relations for Baps Swaminarayan Sanstha

They appealed to countries and the international community to make all possible efforts to provide adequate protection for places of worship, ensure free access to them, preserve their spiritual role, and to distance them from intellectual and political conflicts and sectarian strife.

The conferees also called upon religious institutions around the world to encourage moderate discourse and reject extremism that incites hatred; and condemned all extremist, violent and terrorist practices against followers of any religion, calling for the sanction of



The Forum's General Secretariat Prepares for Issuing the Encyclopedia of Common Human Values

any act that undermines their symbols and sanctities and supporting sincere initiatives aimed against such acts. The participants announced the launch of a



The participants called for relevant national and international institutions to exert their best efforts to safeguard freedoms within the framework of relevant international and domestic laws.

global forum themed: “Religious Diplomacy Forum for Building Bridges”; based on the influential role of religions in human societies and the important role of followers of religions in bridging the relationships between different religions and cultures. They also announced a plan to issue an international encyclopedia themed: “The Encyclopedia of Common Human Values”. The secretariat-general of the forum is entrusted with making the necessary arrangements to carry out the task, including selecting the writers and having the document evaluated by religious scholars, academic personali-



No one can ignore today the level of influence religious moderation has on societal coexistence and world peace

ties and institutions, before launching it globally.



Dr. Al-Issa: "The unity of origin and the [unique] human sentiments and requirements have formed common values among all."

The participants invited the United Nations' General Assembly to establish a world day for "Common Human Values" as it would lay the foundation of common ground for achieving human fraternity.

His Excellency the Secretary General of the MWL, Chairman of the Association of Muslim Scholars, Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, announced the forum's launch with an opening speech, in which he expressed his pleasure to meet with a group of the world's prominent religious leaders who came to "contribute to strengthening the peace in our world



The absence of the awareness-raising role of the family and education is among the most prominent causes of cases of hatred and racism

and the harmony of its national societies." He said that the most important common



Highlights from the speech of His Excellency

Sheikh Abdallah ibn Bayyah

Chairman of the Emirates Fatwa Council, UAE . President of the Forum for Promoting Peace
in Muslim Societies

In the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers

The forum is a new step in joint religious action.

This great forum reflects sincere belief in the value of cooperation for good, and deep awareness that we are like passengers on a ship united by destiny, and the only salvation for humanity is solidarity and cooperation.

All of our roles should complement each other to help restoring the moral conscience of humanity, which restores values of mercy and relief, and the meanings of cooperation and charity.

Values are the soul of religion and its universal language. Therefore, it is the right premise to believe in and value commonalities, which would bridge gaps, clear misunderstanding, and reduce differences.



Sheikh bin Bayyah:

The forum represents a new
step on the path of joint
religious action

ground for everyone aiming to achieve this global goal is that all people belong to one origin “from which our human family was formed.”

Dr. Al-Issa said, “The unity of origin and the [unique] human sentiments and requirements have formed common values among all,” noting that at the forefront of these sentiments and requirements are religious values that have a spiritual impact on many societies around the world, a matter which raises the importance of highlighting its commonalities. He said that most issues of coexistence that arise among members of diverse societies “are caused by a wrong understanding of being religious,” which causes individuals to stop at the religious differences that represent the special identity of individuals and societies and ignore the commonalities shared by all of them.

Dr. Al-Issa said the absence or insufficiency of the awareness-raising role of the family, education, and platforms of religious and social influence is a global problem, deeming it the most prominent cause of cases of hatred and racism, leading to the promotion of the theory that a clash of civilizations is inevitable. He stressed that education around the world must have an interest in [teaching] human commonalities, which can be an important motivation for believing in the one human bond.



His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah, Chairman of the Emirates Council for Shariah Fatwas, speaks at the Forum in Riyadh.

Dr. Al-Issa affirmed that everyone has the right to search for their interests, but that must be done in accordance with common religious and humanitarian values.

He said no one can ignore today the level of influence of religious moderation on societal coexistence and global peace. Human history testifies that the most important events were triggered by slogans that are motivated by religious goals, but they were no longer moderate.

Dr. Al-Issa said that all attempts to un-



It Calls on the United Nations to Establish a Global Day of Common Human Values

dermine the [importance of the] spiritual aspect [in societies] in modern human history have failed, noting that these failed attempts have been going on for thousands of years, however, the spiritu-



The Grand Mufti of Egypt Sheikh Dr. Shawki Allam.

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Highlights from the speech of His Excellency

Dr. Shawki Ibrahim Allam

Grand Mufti of Egypt through Dar al-Ifta al-Misriyyah

In the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers

We come together on a common word and agenda for the benefit of the country and people. and we value the vision of the Muslim World League in dealing with the challenges of the human reality.

Building earth and benefiting from its bounties could not be achieved if the relationship between people of religions was of disharmony and hatred.

The moral and religious responsibility, incumbent on the world's religious leaders, towards the cause of promoting the values of coexistence among religions is a great responsibility.



Head of the Hindu Religious Administration:

Dialogue can succeed in what wars have failed. I am proud to be one of the participants in this forum

al conviction remained influential and effective in souls and societies.

Dr. Al-Issa said that a spiritually mindful "religious diplomacy makes the difference in hard times, noting that "enlightened" religious diplomacy can be the soft power that speaks simultaneously to minds and hearts.

He expressed his hope that the "religiously and intellectually influential figures" attending this forum would agree to issue a "global encyclopedia of common human values" to serve as a comprehensive human constitution with a common spiritual concept.

"This forum expresses a religious will with an abstract spiritual goal and with no connotation that does not correspond to this spiritual purpose," he said. "We will not look at those ignoring or denying the necessity of understanding and coexisting among the followers of religions, the necessity of mutual respect among them, and their right to exist with dignity," he added. "The forum is distinguished by the fact that none of the participants presents himself here as a repre-

sentative of any ideology or policy whatsoever.”

His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah, Chairman of the Emirates Council for Shariah Fatwas, Chairman of the Forum for Promoting Peace for Muslim Societies, stated that the forum represents a new step in the path of common religious action, whereas representatives of various religions gather to reflect their agreement on the universal values of peace, solidarity and justice, and search for ways to apply that agreement through practical initiatives.

Egypt’s Grand Mufti, Sheikh Dr. Shawki Allam, praised the efforts of the MWL in organizing this event, calling on the conferees to “come together” and agree on a shared agenda that benefits the peoples of the world. He said that achieving flourishing earth and benefiting from its resources could not be realized “if the relationship among followers of religions was one of disharmony and hatred.”

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the archbishop of Constantinople, said that “the most appropriate way to peace and reconciliation is sincere interreligious dialogue and mutual respect.” He affirmed his firm rejection of the theory of the “inevitable clash of civilizations.” He stressed that cooperation is essential for a sustainable world, and that “dialogue and openness are the antidotes to fundamentalism,” adding that “openness to the “other” does not threaten our particular identity; on the contrary, it deepens and enriches it.” He highlighted the role of religion in making peace as



Grand Mufti of the Republic of Azerbaijan:
Calls of hatred that lead to aggression and violence are now a threat to humanity

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



Highlights from the speech of His Holiness

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I

New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

In the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers

Religion is not about human fears; it is about human civilization and respect for humanity and dignity .

We believe that we have a great reserve to make peace in our religious heritage .

Opening up to the other does not threaten our identity . it rather strengthens our identity more and more

Religious heritage is an inspiring source for humanity in this world . and we strongly reject the «inevitable clash of civilizations» theory .



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Speaks at the Forum on Common Values among Religious Followers in Riyadh.



Final statement:

Religion inspires communities and plays a key role in building civilizations

he believes “there are potential and inexhaustible reserves of peacemaking in the great religious traditions.”

Pastor. Rev. Mr. Walter Kim, president of the National Association of Evangelicals in the United States of America, described the event as a “historic occasion” and a “hopeful” one as it does not merely discuss the differences that existed in the past “but it looks to the future; a future in which there is an opportunity for peacemaking, bridge building, and goodwill.” He said the world has “profound needs that the religious communities must rise and meet.” He stated that global poverty has seen an unprecedented increase during the recent years of the pandemic, stressing that “Religious people have a mandate in



The Grand Mufti of Egypt Sheikh Dr. Shawki Allam (left) and Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah, Chairman of the Emirates Council for Sharia Fatwas.

this moment.”

Sheikh Idris bin Ahmed, Minister for Religious Affairs of Malaysia, believes that enhancing coexistence and building strong bonds across a community requires the following of fundamental principles. He said these principles include “strengthening the Islamic brotherhood among Muslims;” “strengthening the national brotherhood between Muslims and others;” and “strengthening the human brotherhood among all people.” He stressed the younger generation must be taught about “tolerance and coexistence” in schools, adding that re-



The conferees announced the launch of a global forum themed: “Religious Diplomacy Forum for Building Bridges”

ligious leaders “are obliged to educate their followers.”

His Excellency President of the Supreme



Mr. Rashad Hussain, United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom.

Council and former Minister of Islamic Affairs and Endowments in Algeria, Professor. Bouabdallah Mohamed Gholamallah, expressed his hope that religious leaders would confront fanaticism and denounce all forms of hatred, as tolerance is a great moral, and forgiveness is one of the attributes of Allah the Almighty. He said all human beings are brothers whether in religion, race, homeland or humanity.

Chief Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni, Chief Rabbi of Rome and Vice President of the Conference of European Rabbis in Italy, said that in comparison to the conflict taking place in Europe currently, the conference represents a “front of friendship, mutual respect, research of a common mission.” The gathering at the conference, he stressed, should work on spreading the “right message and the right commitment” around the world. Religions have the “power of spirit” and “the power of values,” he added.

In his speech at the forum, Lama Hamandeshwar Swami Vадisan, Head of the Hindu

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



Highlights from the speech of Cardinal

Pietro Parolin

Vatican Secretary of State

In the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers

This historical event is unique because it gathered religious followers on Saudi soil for the first time.

Genuine Interreligious Dialogue focuses more on convergences without ignoring the differences.

Moderation is an expression of wisdom and maturity, the quality of showing restraint, and avoiding extremes.

Hate discourse is linked to the threat of extremism, and it is very vital to counter extremism with a sound education of the youth.



Cardinal Parolin:

Moderation is an expression of wisdom and rationality, self-restraint and avoidance of extremism

Religious Department said:
 "Dialogue can succeed in what wars have failed. Therefore, I am proud to be one of the participants in this important forum organized by the MWL, led by peacenik His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa.

Panjala Obatisa Therou, a Buddhist official in Sri Lanka and Japan, emphasized that hatred is not killed by hatred, but by love. Therefore, every religion calls for the avoidance of violence in all its verbal and physical forms.

His Excellency Secretary-General of the Council of Senior Scholars in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, member of the Supreme Council of the MWL and member of the Islamic Fiqh Academy, Sheikh Dr. Fahd bin Saad Al-Majed said, "This meeting that we are attending today is an intellectual acquaintance, which is no less important than the political meetings held by political institutions in order to build bridges for peace and to serve humanity.

Grand Mufti of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Head of the Adminis-



Rabbi David Saperstein, Former United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom.

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



Mr. Walter Kim

President of the National Association of Evangelicals

In the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers

This is a historic event that makes us optimistic about the future, which holds an opportunity for peace and building bridges of love. Our goal to achieve justice, mercy and modesty is what everyone needs.



Pastor. Rev. Mr. Walter Kim:

We are in a historic and hopeful occasion that looks to the future



Swami Brahmavihari, Head of International Relations for Baps Swaminarayan Sanstha (left) and Sheikh Mohamed Al Hafiz Al Nahawi, President of the Islamic Cultural Association in Mauritania and West Africa.

tration of Muslims of the Caucasus, Dr. Allah Shukur Pashazade, conveyed the greetings of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, to those present at the conference. He indicated that calls of hatred that lead to aggression and violence have become a threat to humanity today, stressing that the danger lies in the politicization of religion and hatred speech.

Prime Minister and Secretary of the Vatican State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, described the conference of “Common Values among Religions” as a “historic and positive”. He stressed that the real dialogue among religions is the one that focuses on the denominators without neglecting the differences, noting

the need to protect young people from the influence of hatred speech that leads to extremism.

Head of the Spiritual Department of the Muslims of Kazakhstan, Grand Mufti of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nurizbay Taganuli Utbenov said: “We all here represent religions, and we have come together with one word, which is peace among religions. We are all from Adam, and Adam is created from dust.” He praised the sincere efforts of His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa in spreading peace and moderation among religions.

His Excellency Minister of Islamic Affairs and



Scholar Mohamed Ali El Husseini

Religious Affairs of Pakistan, Sheikh Mufti Abdul Shakoor said: "We live in a turbulent world full of enormous challenges so we should work for truth and justice, and reject injustice and the oppressors, so that we can support the truth".

Then the main session was resumed after a short break, which focused on completing the speeches of a number of leaders of fatwa houses, heads and ministers of Islamic agencies, councils, jurisprudence and fatwa bodies, in which a number of non-Islamic religious leaders shared their speeches.

The forum sessions continued, which included working papers and interventions by a

number of participants, including many of the proposed initiatives and programs. The forum concluded by announcing the items of the Common Human Values Project in light of the speeches, interventions, initiatives, dialogues and suggested programs that took place in the forum. The Islamic presence constituted the majority of the attendance of this forum, as it was attended by a distinguished group of senior Muslim scholars in all Islamic countries and minority countries, who highly praised the idea of this forum. They considered the forum an important addition to Islamic awareness in a changing world that requires such awareness, especially in the face of successive campaigns led by ignorance and extremism against Islam.



From the speech of His Excellency Sheikh

Idris bin Ahmad

Religious Affairs Minister - Malaysia

In the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers

We must activate the jurisprudence of coexistence and tolerance, and all religious leaders should communicate and exchange knowledge with each other.



From the speech of

Mr. Riccardo di Segni

Chief rabbi of Italy - Orthodox Conference of European Rabbis

In the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers

Religion has power which is the power of the spirit and the power of values, and it must have a positive role in spreading peace.

I commend the efforts of Dr. Mohammad Al-Issa in spreading peace and tolerance among followers of religions, and "we will see in years how these seeds will grow on planet Earth."



From the speech of

Dr. Ghaleb Bencheikh El Hocine

Chair of the World Conference of Religions for Peace

In the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers

I express our gratitude to the organizers of this event, headed by the honorable brother, Ibn Abdulkarim, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Issa and his assistants.

It is important to devote the tolerant spiritual values in religious teachings, which are also supported by intellect and philosophy.

We are facing great challenges, but we are all cooperating for the success of this cause, which has civilized and human dimensions.

We believe that moral values and openness to others are in line with aesthetic values and focus on arts and literature. We strive not to employ religion for political purposes.



From the speech of

Mr. David Saperstein

Director of Union for Reform Judaism

In the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers

I value the efforts of His Excellency Dr. Al-Issa, and the efforts of everyone who worked in organizing the Forum on Common Values, which was held in Riyadh as an unprecedented historic event.

Today, humanity has reached a crossroads, where people must decide whether to continue treating each other with violence until they start a nuclear war, or find a way to resolve their differences, so that they can live in peace.

I do not think that we have ever, at any point in human history, witnessed this level of collaboration between religions, as we are witnessing today, it remains for us to invest in these positive relations for a better future.



From the speech of His Excellency Sheikh

Dr. Fahad bin Saad Al Majid

Secretary-General of the Council of Senior Scholars, Saudi Arabia

In the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers

Human acquaintance will not be fruitful and will not progress unless it is based on pillars. The most important pillar is the common values pillar, for which this forum was held.

Humanity faces challenges, but it also has aspirations, that necessitate meeting and cooperating with each other to achieve good for all humanity.

We are grateful to the Muslim World League for its great and continuous efforts to bring humanity closer to their values and goals that achieve their common good.



From the speech His Eminence Sheikh

Dr. Abdullah Saeed Waisi

Head of the Union of Scholars of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

In the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers

What we heard in this forum brings us joy and happiness. Having such conferences and meetings indicates that there is a common ground among all religions. We must continue to have such forums from time to time in different places, and I hope different religions would do the same.

I call for establishing a global center for moderation run by various religious leaders.

I thank His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, and the Muslim World League, for their tremendous efforts to bring together the hearts of different religions, to discuss the issues of the nation and their unity.



From the speech of

H.H Acharya Mahamandeshwar Swami Awdeshanand Giri

Head of the Hindu Religious Department

In the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers

Man has made progress in the field of technology, and it is time to make progress in the field of coexistence.

This event, which is a beautiful initiative, that Riyadh hosted, will solve problems that wars and conflicts are unable to solve.



Highlights from the speech of His Excellency

Mr. Bouabdellah Ghlamallah

President of the High Islamic Council, Former Minister of Religious Affairs and Wakfs Algeria

In the Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers

Tolerance is a great character, and forgiveness is one of the attributes of the Creator, Glory be to Him.

I hope religious leaders stand up to all manifestations of hatred and intolerance.

Every human being is a brother to man in religion, race, homeland or humanity.



The participants called the United Nations' General Assembly to establish a world day for "Common Human Values" as it would lay the foundation of common ground for achieving human fraternity.

The Forum on Common Values Among Religious Followers Promotes Moderation and Tolerance

Riyadh - MWL

“ The Forum on “Common Values Among Religious Followers” which was hosted by the MWL earlier in May, in the city of Riyadh, gathered a large number of religious leaders and scholars from different world religions.

Abdulwahab Al-Shehri, MWL's Undersecretary for Corporate Communications, said the forum is in accordance with the goals of the MWL to consolidate its global role as an independent, international non-governmental organization concerned with promoting the values of Islam that call for the welfare of humanity. The MWL aims to cooperate with all to enhance common human values for a more cooperative and peaceful world and harmonious societies, he added.

"The forum is founded based on the teachings of our great religion that calls for dialogue and cooperation, especially within the all-encompassing human commonalities that ensure the optimal coexistence in a diverse world," Al-Shehri said. It was in this context, he added, that the modern international system was established under the auspices of the UN, comprising international organizations, groups and programs around which all peoples can converge, including the UN Alliance of Civilizations, in which Islamic countries, through their scholars and thinkers, play an active role.

"Among the main themes of this forum is the clarification of the facts of Islam, which came as a mercy to the worlds, and which values were conveyed to all people by our noble Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) whose great morality enabled him to spread Islam," Al-Shehri said. Although extremism around the world tried to distort those Islamic values, the valuable guidance and positive openness of these values have reached the world and eliminated the attempts of distortion, quenching



Abdulwahab Al-Shehri:

The forum is founded based on the teachings of our great religion that calls for dialogue and cooperation

them in their infancy," he added.

"Today, we are witnessing those attempts resuming, from one place to another, which unfortunately resulted in concepts, theories and slogans of Islamophobia," he added.

Al-Shehri highlighted the solid foundation upon which the forum has been founded.

"The forum was also based on the guidance of the Constitution of Madinah, which our Prophet (PBUH) established in Madinah with religious diversity, highlighting the noble meanings



Muslims, having the power of truth, are the pioneers of dialogue



Guests of the forum are distinguished leaders who have been known to respect Muslims and have great positions worthy of appreciation

of the wisdom of Islamic legislation in dealing with everyone," he said.

"Islam was positively open to followers of religions to clarify its message that calls for the good of humanity and to address any wrong concept, method or practice that does not serve understanding and coexistence of all in peace."

Al-Shehri said the religious leaders and scholars attending the forum are completely independent of any orientations outside the religious framework. He stressed that the MWL does not adopt any ideological or political goals whatso-

ever; an approach that is also followed in such events where there are no goals other than the declared one.

Referring to invited guests of the forum, including senior representatives of other religions, he said: "The guests of this meeting are distinguished leaders who have been known to respect Muslims and stand with them on a number of issues with positions worthy of appreciation." Communicating with these figures, he noted, serves to further build bridges to reach the desired goals.

Al-Shehri continued: "This important and key context requires the wisdom of Islamic scholars - who are the majority of the conferees in this forum - to continue to dialogue with others to further clarify the truth about the values of Islam." Muslims, having the power of truth, are the pioneers of dialogue, he added.

The forum's opening session was followed by three discussions, the first of which focused on "Human Dignity: Just Equality Among Human Beings; the second was entitled "Bridging Humanity for the Common Good of Humanity; and the third dealt with the topic entitled: Moderation and Understanding Others.





The Interfaith meetings attended by leaders of major religions serve as platforms for addressing vital issues faced by their followers.

Saudi Arabia: Harbinger of Global Peace

Interfaith Dialogue Forums: Major Humanitarian Investment for Posterity

P.K. Abdul Ghafour

“ Today, Muslims are almost everywhere in the world. They even reached the Arctic (land of bears), in pursuit of decent living, despite its very harsh environment and extreme living conditions.

The Arctic is a vast region, covering almost 14.5 million square kilometers from the Arctic Circle (at 66° latitude from Ecuador where latitude is 0) up to the geographic North Pole (at 90 latitude), the northernmost point in the world.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been a harbinger of peace and harmony ever since its foundation in 1932 as it adopted the UN resolutions for reinforcing global peace and security, worked as a mediator to end conflicts between countries and narrow the differences between political and religious parties, and organized a number of interfaith dialogue conferences in different world cities to achieve peaceful coexistence of the followers of different religious faiths.

The Forum on Common Values among Religious Followers, hosted by the MWL in Riyadh, comes as part of the Saudi drive to strengthen global peace and stability. More than 100 prominent religious leaders and scholars representing Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism as well as other cultures participated in the Forum, which called for building bridges of understanding among the followers of religions for the welfare of humanity.

MWL Secretary General Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa presided over the Forum and highlighted its objectives of promoting human dignity and religious tolerance. "The followers of all religions have the right to exist with dignity and respect," he told the gathering. "We reject attempts to undermine coexistence of the followers of different religions," he said while emphasizing the fact that the religious leaders were invited to find solutions for the pressing issues of mankind, without any political motives.

The League's Undersecretary for Corporate Communication, Abdulwahab Al-Shehri, said the Riyadh meeting comes in line with MWL efforts to raise awareness about the values of Islam, which include cooperation to enhance common values and build a better and more peaceful world and harmonious societies.

People want peace

People all over the world, irrespective of their

religion, nationality, caste and creed, seek peace and security in order to spend their valuable time, money and energy on constructive activities and accelerate the progress and prosperity of themselves and their countries. They hate wars and conflicts that kill human beings and destroy their properties, heritages and achievements.

The First World War (1914-18) left more than 20 million soldiers dead and 21 million more wounded. More than 60 million people died in World War II (1939-45), including 13 to 20 million from war-related disease and famine. Recent wars and civil wars involving several countries killed at least five million people and made several million people homeless and refugees.

Islamophobia is rampant

The Riyadh Forum also comes at a time when Islamophobia has reached a level threatening the very existence of Muslims in some countries. There were attempts to burn copies of the Holy Qur'an and insult Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) who is revered by more than two billion Muslims. Some governments have been trying to suppress Muslims by destroying their homes and properties, threatening to nullify their citizenship and kick them out of the country, and banning hijab and adan (call to prayer).

Forums attended by leaders of major religions are significant as they create platforms to address vital issues and problems faced by their followers in various countries. Many minorities including Muslims and Christians face hate crimes as a result of hatred created by the print and electronic media as well as social media, which often portray Muslims as terrorists and extremists. This situation has developed a kind of fear among non-Muslims about Islam and Muslims.

Interfaith forums would certainly contribute to reducing such hate crimes as they provide



As seen in the photo, from left: Metropolitan Emmanuel Adamakis, President of Orthodox Episcopal Assembly in France; Sheikh Bouabdellah Ghlamallah, President of the High Islamic Council, Algeria; Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Hasan Taha, Chairman, Iraqi Jurisprudence Council; Archbishop Prof. Thomas Paul Schirmmacher, Secretary General, World Evangelical Alliance in Germany; Dr. Azza Karam, Secretary General of Religions for Peace.

an opportunity for religious leaders to meet, exchange ideas and remove misunderstandings about one another. Most people do not know the religious teachings and customs of others. An Arabic proverb says: "People are enemies of that which they do not know." At the same time, there are individuals and organizations who deliberately try to spread hatred and lies about other religions and their followers.

Interfaith forums are vital

Interfaith forums have great importance in the modern era as they promote intercultural values and peace-building initiatives in order

to lay the foundation for peaceful coexistence among the various religious communities. Such forums must be encouraged to promote the shared values of love, compassion, mutual understanding, respect and tolerance without harming the identity of others.

Islam, which stands for peace, encourages dialogue to settle disputes peacefully. Dialogue is the way of those who are civilized and want to narrow differences by exchanging thoughts and ideas. Dialogue provides an opportunity to listen to the opinion of others on the issue and explore prospects of a peaceful settlement. The Holy Qur'an encourages Muslims to engage in constructive dialogue with

people of other faiths.

Peace and harmony constitute the soul of Islam. The Quranic vision of peace does not confine to Muslims and Islamic countries but transcends to the whole of humanity. The Qur'an teaches its followers the eternal principles of mutual respect, honesty, justice and equality that are required to establish a peaceful society.

Shared values

Former US President Barack Obama said in his historic speech at Cairo University that his country was seeking a "new beginning" with Muslim communities around the world based on the shared principles of justice, progress, tolerance, and the dignity of all human beings. Obama believed that "the interests we share as human beings are far more powerful than the forces that drive them apart." His message echoed a verse in the Qur'an: "O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another." Qur'an 49:13. Obama's speech was widely welcomed by Muslim leaders.

The time is now ripe for those political and religious leaders who support and understand the importance of peaceful coexistence between believers of different faiths, and those who recognize such coexistence as a cornerstone to global peace and justice. They must now take the initiative to support those who are working desperately to prevent fanaticism, conflict, and violence.

Experts say a step-by-step approach was needed to achieve the objectives of inter-faith dialogue. First of all, venues should be created for the followers of different religions to meet, speak and get to know each other, discovering their commonalities while respecting their differences.

Respecting people of other faiths and their beliefs is an essential prerequisite for inter-faith dialogue to flourish in our societies. When Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) set out the first constitution of the Islamic State in Madinah, he acknowledged Judaism and declared that the Jews and Muslims in the city formed one nation.

The Qur'an allows Muslims to discuss religious matters with the people of the Book in the following Quranic verse: "O people of the Scripture: Come to an agreement between us and you, that we worship none but Allah, and that we associate no partners with Him, and that none of us shall take others as lords besides Allah. Then, if they turn away, say: "Bear witness that we are Muslims." 3:64

Dialogue makes it possible for parties involved in the talks to identify common ground in their civilizations and cultures. It leads to cultural exchange, common understanding, and positive and peaceful coexistence, and enhances mutual cooperation in political and economic sectors. Such a tolerant atmosphere paves the way for establishing trust and strengthening ties and cooperation between the various religious communities and countries.





As seen in the photo, from left: Monsignor Khaled Akasheh, Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue in the Vatican; Rev. Father Daniil Matrusov, President of the Patriarchal Council for Relations with Islam in Federal Russia; Sheikh Abdassamad El Yazidi, Secretary General, Central Council of Muslims in Germany; Dr. Ghaleb Bencheikh El Hocine, President of the Foundation of Islam in France; Rabbi Michel Serfaty, President, Jewish-Muslim Friendship of France; Sheikh Naim Ternava, President of the Islamic Community and the Grand Mufti of Kosovo.

Why it is Necessary for Religious Adherents to Share Values

By Dr. Ahmed Ali Suleiman

Member of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs

“ With every passing day, it becomes clearer, for those who are fair-minded, that humanity is in desperate need for a spiritual force to sow the seeds of brotherhood, peace, and harmony, as it is facing enormous, complicated and growing challenges that are frequent and fast paced.



As seen in the photo, from left: Swami Brahmavihari, Head of International Relations for Baps Swaminarayan Sanstha; Sheikh Mohamed El Havedh Ennahoui, President, Cultural Islamic Association in Mauritania and West Africa; Rev. Johnnie Moore Jr., President, Congress of Christian Leaders.



Common Values among Religious Followers can Steer the World Toward the Survival and Success of Humanity

Although the human civilization has achieved unprecedented levels of scientific advancement, it has adopted notions that are detached from faith, which requires it to reassess its relationship with its Creator.

Advanced civilizations of the world traveled to the moon and were able to put satellites in space, install Internet cables in the depths of seas and oceans, and spread technology and frequencies everywhere. This advancement also resulted in the invention of war machinery and weapons that can harm hundreds of thousands, rather, millions of people, as well as living beings of the planet. This calls for the entire world to search for a safe way to secure the survival of humanity. Common values among religious followers can steer the world toward the survival and success of humanity.

The MWL did well when it attached great impor-

tance to this topic and held this important global forum, for which it harnessed its resources and experiences to make it a success and implement its resolutions. With the participation of religious leaders from Arab, Islamic, and global organizations, the event took place on Shawal 10, 1443 H, corresponding to May 11, 2022 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the goal of reaching a global consensus within a shared vision that benefits from human commonalities in promoting cooperation and fraternity among worldwide religious followers.

The forum brought together representatives from many countries around the world to one table—under the umbrella of the MWL, an organization well-known for promoting tolerant Islam and peace and for having an inclusive vision of human beings – to discuss an important issue: The revival of common values among religious followers; the values that are considered common denominators that can bring the whole world together.

The conference declared Islam’s clear perspective on the topic: All religious followers have the right to exist with dignity and respect; any intentional or unintentional incorrect interpretations (of religious texts) that undermine coexistence among

followers of religions is rejected.

The forum prompted the world to search within its different traditions, cultures, beliefs, and values to bring out all that can contribute to achieving tolerance, human brotherhood, and integration, and thus, global peace.

It called attention to the fact that the world and its economy can take no more wars and conflicts; it must turn off the gunshot and explosion noises.

The entire world needs a tremendous spiritual power that promotes love, coexistence, and peace and supports the notion of global citizenship and shared universal responsibility for the safety of human beings, the universe, and life. This power is inherent in the values governing human thought and behavior; the most important of these values is tolerance, a great Islamic and human value that – when implemented in life - will contribute to the creation of a tolerant and cooperative global environment that leads the ship of humanity to the shores of safety.

Inner ethics and values can be the most effective control and can be the foundation for constitutions and laws that govern social relations.

When a value derives its sanctity from deep religious feelings, its presence in one's life becomes stronger; and perhaps this explains the significance of promoting the values shared by followers of religions.

Reviving and implementing these values help protecting life at all levels: The individual, the family, the groups forming a society, and the whole of humanity. It contributes to reducing conflicts and eliminating motives of revenge and stubbornness, thus ensuring the stability of human life that must be based on the acceptance of the principle of difference and pluralism.

When it implemented and put into action at the global level, the forum's outcomes can contribute in preparing humanity for practicing tolerance and inclusive values; they can help build new generations capable of human interaction,



The Conferees' Interaction and Effective Dialogue Laid the Foundation for a New Phase of Global Integration

equipped to live in a world of diverse cultures, religions, creeds, and ethnicities, and able to work together to counter the dangers threatening the world. All while preserving the particular beliefs and cultural heritage of each country and people.

It is important to use such a global event to take organized steps to eliminate the phenomenon of Islamophobia in the West. This can be accomplished by highlighting the experiences of the Islamic civilization that is full of comprehensive models in terms of diversity and tolerance. These models can be used and built on to spread peace throughout the world.

The forum will help prepare present and future generations to learn about different countries' cultures, nature, lifestyles, traits, and civilizations, which is critical in terms of rapprochement, understanding, collaboration, and solidarity between peoples and nations.

It is important to reconsider the approaches followed in the creation of educational, media, and cultural content intended for children. Electronic games and animation films can be used to teach children the values of tolerance and coexistence within the context of common ethical denominators and shared values.

The conferees' interaction, effective dialogue, integration of visions and practical initiatives, and the final communique containing the Declaration of Common Human Values, have pleased everyone, and laid the foundation for a new phase of global integration; and this necessitates the formation of working committees and strong follow-up to ensure the implementation of the conference's outcomes.



Elder Anthony D. Perkins, President, Middle East and North Africa, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Days Saints (left) with Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Saeed Wise, President, Union of Islamic Religious Scholars in Kurdistan Region, Republic of Iraq.

Interfaith Dialogue and Meetings

Dr. Abdullah bin Saleh Al Jumaili

Researcher and Academic

For years, the MWL adopted a dialogue approach with religious followers all over the world, thanks to the efforts of its Secretary General Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa.

These efforts helped the MWL play a more pioneering and leading role in bringing the views of different sects closer. Today, the MWL has carved itself a global name throughout the world.

The MWL approach was that monotheistic religions are all based on monotheism and they encourage people to follow good values, refraining from sin. This is what Moses and Jesus told people, as well as our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The interfaith discourse and the Interfaith Leadership Forum seek to highlight common noble human principles, most notably valuing and acknowledging the human individual and his rights.

They also seek to reject religious hatred and intolerance among adherents of these religions, as they represent a genuine possibility for peaceful coexistence, allowing a culture of love, peace, and brotherhood to replace hatred, intolerance, and extremism.

The significance of the religious leaders' gathering in Riyadh is reflected bringing shared values closer to achieve common visions with respect to confronting humanity, so that peace is achieved and promoted.

According to what we know, Islam is the religion of tolerance, love, and peace, as our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "I was sent with the straight and true religion; the religion of ease," implying that

tolerance has a high value in Islam stemming from tolerance in the full sense of the word. It means brotherhood and solidarity without the superiority of one race over another, as this calls for belief in all other religions, as Allah says in the Noble Qur'an, Surate Al-Baqarah, Verse: 285: "The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying], "We make no distinction between any of His messengers."

The MWL thus progresses from the stage of interreligious dialogue to a global forum where religious leaders from various parts of the world are convening, reaffirming that coexistence among followers of other religions and cultures is an urgent need required by the interests of all in the face of hatred, racism, extremism, and slogans of civilizational clash.

The MWL Secretary General clarified this attitude when he remarked, "It is better for a brother to be close to his brother... Having goodwill, accepting one's brother's apology and understanding why Allah made us diverse and different. We should express our beliefs with wisdom without defamation or calling someone a 'kafir'."

This is how the MWL fulfills its noble objective throughout the world., and thanks be to Allah for what has been granted and provided to us.





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



رابطة العالم الإسلامي
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.

**Issued in Riyadh
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