

OIC/JIA/DW-15/2008/REP.DEC.FINAL

**Report and Recommendations
of the
15th Session of the Committee for the
Coordination of
Joint Islamic Action in the field of DAWA**

**Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
30 January – 1 February 2008**

- In implementation of Res.1/34-D on the Dawa activities and reactivation of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action, issued by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers at its 34th session (Session of Peace, Progress and Concord) which was held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 28-30 Rabiul Thani 1428 H (15-17 May 2007).
- Given that an offer was kindly made by the International Islamic Charitable Society in the State of Kuwait to host the 15th session of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action in the field of Dawa, H.E Prof Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference addressed invitations to the said Committee's members to convene the session in question in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 21-23 Moharram 1429H (30 January – 1 February 2008).
- In a drive to adopt practical steps to coordinate joint Islamic Action between the Islamic institutions and organizations in all intellectual, political, developmental, economic, social and scientific spheres to be in line with the vision and expectations of the Ten-Year Programme of Action, the said session was held under the high patronage of the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar, Dr. Mohamad Seyed Tantaoui, Chairman of the World Islamic Council for Dawa and Relief.
- The Meeting discussed the role of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action and its various organs, in the implementation of the substance of the Ten-Year Program of Action to face up to the challenge confronting the Islamic Ummah in the 21st century, which was issued by the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in Makkah Al Mukarammah on 7-8 December 2005.
- The session's proceedings were attended by representatives of the Islamic institutions and organizations, members of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action (annexed).

- At the opening session, H.E Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC delivered a statement in which he welcomed all the participants and wished them full success in their deliberations. His Excellency stated that it was high time for us to devote adequate time for an overall assessment of the Committee's work from all its aspects, as a preliminary step for a study of the recommendations issued by it and for a revision of its statute as well as a review of the Islamic resolutions issued in its respect at the level of the ICFM and the Summit. To this end the General Secretariat prepared a comprehensive file on the progress of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action in the field of Dawa since its establishment to this date, to be presented as part of this session's documents and form an aid for the Committee members when they come to discuss and analyse this subject and identify the achievements realized and the obstacles that may have stood in the way.

In his speech, the Secretary General indicated that after the evaluation stage we should move on the stage of examining ways and means to activate the Committee so that it may be in alignment with the new vision that has been evolved in the Ten-Year Programme to face up to the challenges that confront the Islamic Ummah in the 21st century, as issued by the 3rd Extraordinary Summit held in Makkah in December 2005.

His Excellency was to add that it was incumbent upon the Dawa people and Dawa Organization and institutions to work on the internal front to enlighten the Muslim societies and point them in the right direction of the authentic Islamic tenets which are rooted in the Islamic civilizational spirit of enlightened moderation in harmony with progress. This could only help consolidate Islam and strengthen its foundations, as a religion that seeks to facilitate rather than complicate human life, projecting an authentic image to the outside world, making it even more appealing to others. He addressed that it was high time for us to seriously consider initiatives for joint projects within the framework of the Committee for the coordination of Islamic Joint Action in the field of Dawa, to be implemented in the short and long terms with a view to develop the Muslim communities, particularly in the fields of education science and culture, such as to raise future generations filled with a spirit of creativity, innovation and productivity (annexed).

- His Eminence the Grand Sheikh of Alzhar, Dr. Mohamed Seyed Tantaoui then delivered a statement in which he welcomed the Committee's convening in the Arab Republic of Egypt and called for the activation of the Committee so that it may achieve the tasks assigned to it.
- HE Sheikh Yussef Gassem Al Hadji, delivered a speech in which he review the efforts contributed by the Committee for the coordination of Joint Islamic Action in the field of Dawa and the effort, of the OIC through the consultative meeting recently held in Qatar in preparation for the summit meeting of humanitarian organizations and institutions due to be held in Dakar (Senegal) ahead of the OIC Eleventh Summit in March 2008.
- Dr. Abdussalam Al Abadi, Secretary General of the Hashemite Jordanian Charitable Society, delivered a statement on behalf of the participants in the meeting in which he addressed thanks to the Arab Republic of Egypt, its President, people and government for hosting the meeting, and to His Eminence the Grand Sheikh of Al Azar, Dr. Mohamad Sayed Tantaoui for his kind patronage of the meeting. His Excellency called, in his concluding remarks for the statement of HE the Secretary General to be adopted as an official document of the session.
- All speakers at the opening ceremony recalled the efforts of the late Mr.Kamel Al Sharif, the former Secretary General of the World Islamic Council for Dawa and Relief and his outstanding contributions, and prayed to Almighty Allah to grant his soul peace and bountiful rewards in the hereafter.
- The Committee reviewed the papers, statements and interventions submitted by the participants in accordance with the program established for the session (copy attached).

- The Committee's discussions were exhaustive and cognizant of the size of the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah and the need for the Islamic action approaches to rise to those challenges on all fronts.

Following the discussions and exchange of views on the session's agenda items, the following recommendations were reached:

I. Role of Islamic Organizations and Institutions Active in the field of Dawa and Relief, in the implementation of the Ten-Year Program of Action.

- In view of the importance of the issues and subjects addressed in the ten year program of action and their need for an implementation mechanism and adequate formulas, the Committee recommends that a working group be set up to be comprised of the members of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action, to work out an implementation plan of action for all the issues and subjects covered in the ten year program establishing the role of Islamic Dawa and Relief Organizations and institutions in the implementation of the said program issued by the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit, such as to have this executive program submitted to the 10th session of the Coordination Committee. It has been suggested that the Group be comprised of:

1. HE Dr. Abdullah Omar Naseef, as Chairman, and the following, as members:
2. HE Marshall Abdurrahman Siwar ul Dahab,
3. HE Dr Mohamed Ahmed Al Sherif,
4. HE Dr. Abdussalam Al Abadi
5. H. Eminence Sheikh Mohamad Ali Taskheri
6. H. Eminence Dr. Hamed Bin Ahmed Al Refai

7. H. Eminence Dr. Salah Al Waheibi
8. Amb/Dr. Fathi Maraie
9. Dr.Mohamad Al Beshari

The OIC General Secretariat

10. Amb/ Salem Al Houni
11. Dr. Ahmed Al Basit

II. Coordination between Islamic Institutions: Spheres, requirements, mechanisms (active solidarity)

- Consolidating coordination mechanisms between the organizations members of the Committee such as to avoid duplication and overlapping of efforts and achieve complementarily between their programs without any prejudice to the specificities of each.
- Emphasizing the importance of coordination and cooperation for the establishment of a data centre that would serve as a reference in the planning and execution of projects.
- The need for earnest endeavour to execute joint projects among the Committee members and the OIC in the field of Dawa and relief.

III Challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century and ways to confront them.

- The Committee calls for particular interest to be accorded to studies, researches and recommendations issued by the Expert Group assigned to study and explore the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in the contemporary era and to establish the necessary mechanisms for the implementation of the suggested solutions and ideas so as to form a shared Islamic guide, and to hold a special symposium under the OIC auspices to which a number of organizations and institutions members of the Committee would be invited for participation.

IV Islamphobia: manifestations, dimensions and mechanisms for combating it.

- The Committee calls for cooperation and coordination with the OIC General Secretariat's Islamic Observatory and for the Committee member institutions to extend their support to the latter so that it may fulfill its objectives.
- Scientific and objective response to any misperception or accusations raised by the enemies of Islam around our noble faith.
- Exposing the false opinions and practices put forward or perpetrated in the name of Islam which in fact has nothing to do with them.
- Clarifying the authentic and radiant image of Islam for the West through publications and translations and through the vast array of communication means available today including the internet and satellite.
- Encourage the production of works of art on Islam as a faith, culture and civilization.
- Organize training sessions for those working in the field of Dawa and information in non-Islamic societies, such as to evolve a modern-day Islamic discourse.
- Supporting Muslim Communities and Minorities non-OIC Member States so that they may play their proper role in educating others about Islam in its authentic image.

V Dialogue with the other, forwards a unified Islamic vision

A. Stressing the importance of Intra-Islamic dialogue in order to:

1. Expanding and developing the Fiqh of Purposes such as to meet modern-day developments and challenges.
 - a. Defining and anchoring the purposes and objectives of dialogue.

2. Elaborating the principles and tenets of dialogue.
3. Anchoring the principle of human brotherhood.
4. Anchoring the principle of preserving and not spoiling the environment.
5. Anchoring the values of peaceful coexistence between human communities.

B. The Duty of dialogue with the other, in all its facets, which needs:

1. Anchoring the principle of competing with and exceeding each other in good deeds.
2. Anchoring the principle of civilizational quest and cooperation among cultures to promote good and forestall evil.
3. Stressing the concept that justice remains the solid foundation of every society's stability and security and the most secure guarantee for the development and prosperity of nations.

C. Bridging Governmental efforts and people's action, so as to:

1. Evolve a unified stand, and diagnose the difficult challenges facing the Ummah.
2. Identify the practical priorities in facing the challenges
3. Establish a methodical approach for the complementarity of efforts in dealing with challenges.

VI. **Establishing Criteria for acceptance of new members to the Coordination Committee**

- The Committee examined the working papers relative to this subject and recommended that the criteria presented therein regarding accession to the Committee's membership be approved.

VII. General Recommendations

- Adopting the Secretary General's address as an official document of the Fifth Session of the CCJIA.
- Stressing the need to reactivate the CCJIA and to ensure its sessions are held on a regular basis.
- In view of the prevalence of poverty, disease, ignorance and refugee problems, in the Islamic world, and given the importance of the role of Zakat in combating these phenomena, the Committee calls for the attention to be given to the establishment of an international institution for Zakat and mutuality to address this matter within and outside the Islamic world.

Words of Thanks

- The Committee expressed its profound gratitude to the international Islamic Charitable Society in the State of Kuwait for sponsoring the session
- The Committee expressed its deep appreciation to Prof Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, for his sustained efforts to promote joint Islamic action towards wider and better horizons for the benefit of the Islamic Ummah. The Committee commended His Excellency's course of action in undertaking the necessary reforms within the OIC.
- The meeting decided to send a cable of thanks to H.E. President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt for his valuable support to the OIC and his defense of the issues of interest to the Islamic world.
- The Committee expressed its deep appreciation and gratitude for the offers it has received for the hosting of its coming sessions, from:

- H.E. Dr. Mohamad Ahmed Al Sherif, Secretary General of the International Islamic Dawa Society in Tripoli.
 - Mr. Ahmed Ali Al Saifi, Director of the Islamic Dawa Centre in Brazil.
 - His Eminence, Sheikh Mohamad Ali Taskheri, Chairman of the World Academy for Rapprochement between Islamic Schools of Thought
- The Committee agreed to convene its coming sessions in the following venues:
- Sixteenth Session in the city of Tripoli, Libya.
 - Seventeenth Session in Brazil.
 - Eighteenth Session in Tehran, Iran.
