



OIC/ICECS-36/2013/DAWA/REPORTS

**REPORTS OF
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON**

**DAWA ACTIVITIES AND REVITALIZATION
OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE COORDINATION OF
JOINT ISLAMIC ACTION**

SUBMITTED TO

**THE 36TH SESSION OF THE
THE ISLAMIC COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS**

JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDIARABIA

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I. THE COMMITTEE ON THE COORDINATION OF JOINT ISLAMIC ACTION IN THE FIELD OF DAWA (CCJIA):

- Islamic Dawa is a pivotal aspect of Joint Islamic Action, and Islamic Dawa institutions across the world – play a fundamental role in protecting the Islamic Ummah against the numerous dangers surrounding it, through reasserting and propagating the lofty principles advocated by the noble Islamic faith, foremost of which the principles of tolerance, peace, justice, cooperation and dialogue.

The Kings and Heads of State of the Muslim world have affirmed time and again all across the various Islamic Summits, their commitment to “exert every effort in favour of enhancing Islamic solidarity and rallying efforts in the defense of all Islamic causes, the protection of Islam and disseminating its message through judicious council, good example and peaceful argument”.

- Islamic governmental and non-governmental organizations and bodies have been brought together under the umbrella of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) within the framework of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action (CCJIA), which has so far convened sixteen sessions. Numerous recommendations have been adopted by these organizations and bodies on the coordination of the various activities of Islamic official and civil organizations and institutions as well as Muslim communities in OIC and non-OIC Member States. The recommendations also urged further cooperation amongst them in order to safeguard the rights of Muslim communities and minorities so as to enable them to preserve their faith and their religious and cultural beliefs and identity.
- An Experts Committee was set up and entrusted with the review and evaluation of the history and progress of the CCJIA, since its inception to date, by studying the resolutions and recommendations adopted by CCJIA itself and its experts subcommittees and by reviewing its statute, presenting proposals to overcome obstacles, and defining action mechanisms.
- The General Secretariat circulated an exhaustive profile describing the history and progress of CCJIA since its inception to date, preparatory to expressing its views on its achievements so far.

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- The General Secretariat distributed the Strategy for Joint Islamic Action in the Field of Dawa, which was adopted by CCJIA, to the Member States for their information and as guidelines to inspire them as well as workers in the field of Islamic Dawa and joint Islamic Action.
- Any future conception of OIC action in the field of Dawa requires a serious global initiative to create awareness about Islam and its unique tolerance, lofty values and objectives in different languages. It will also improve the image of Islam among other nations and peoples as well as constructive dialogue with world religions and civilizations so as to strengthen the bonds of cooperation and consolidate the common lofty ideals they all seek to achieve. The initiative should also seek to lend OIC support to Muslim minorities in their countries of residence in order to help them safeguard their identity and strengthen their effective participation in their societies so that they can provide the link between Islam and the Muslim world, on the one hand, and other peoples, religions, and cultures of the world, on the other hand.
- Pursuant to Resolution No. 1/34-D on Dawa Activities and the Reactivation of the Committee on Coordination of Joint Islamic Action which was adopted by 34th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Progress and Harmony) held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the period from 28-30 Rabiul Thani 1428H (15-17 May 2007), the 15th Session of the Committee on Coordination of Joint Islamic Action in the Field of Dawa was held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt in the period from 21-23 Muharram 1429H (30 January – 1 February 2008) and hosted by the International Islamic Charitable Organisation, Kuwait, under the patronage of His Eminence Sheikh Dr Muahammad Seyid Tantawi, Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar.
- Pursuant to Resolution no. 1/11/DW-IS adopted by the eleventh session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal on 6 and 7 Rabiul Awwal 1429H, corresponding to 13 – 14 March 2008, which approved the recommendations of the 15th session of the Committee on Coordination of Joint Islamic Action and consented to the establishment of a work group to develop an executive programme on the issues contained in the Ten-Year Programme of Action to clarify the role of Islamic organizations and institutions in dawa and relief field, the said group met in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt on 9 and 10 Jumadal Ula 1429H, corresponding to 14 and 15 may 2008, under the chairmanship of His Eminence the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar.
- Pursuant to Resolution no. 1/35-D adopted by the 35th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda from 14 – 16 Jumada Thani 1429H (18 – 20 June 2008), operative paragraph 4 of which provides thus: “Calls on the work group mandated to develop an executive programme for the issues contained in the Ten-Year Programme of Action to continue its work of explaining the role of Islamic organizations and institutions in the field of dawa and relief,” the work group met in

Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 16 and 17 May 2009. The group reviewed the items on its agenda. Following exhaustive discussion on the issue raised in the agenda, members of the group came up with a number of projects in accordance with the themes included in the Ten-Year Programme of Action, the meeting made recommendations on the following key issues:

- Women, youth, education and family;
- Cultural exchange, dialogue of civilizations and harmonization of Islamic schools of thought and human rights;
- Terrorism, extremism, violence and Islamophobia;
- Social and economic issues and relief work.

The meeting also made general recommendations, including laying emphasis on the importance of setting up a website for the Committee on the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action. Also emphasized was the need to accord more importance to translating the meaning of the Holy Qur'an, organizing symposia to rid those translations of some mistakes that could impact on the understanding of the Qur'an.

- Pursuant to resolutions adopted by summit and foreign ministerial conferences, in particular resolution no. 1/11/D-(IS) on the reactivation of the coordination committee on joint Islamic action in the field of dawa, adopted by the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, and pursuant to resolution no. 1/37 – D on Dawa and the reactivation of the coordination committee on joint Islamic action, adopted by the 37th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan from 4 – 6 Jumadal Thani 1431H (18 – 20 May 2010), which calls for all Islamic organizations, bodies and civil society institutions in Member States to cooperate with the Committee on Coordination of Joint Islamic Action to promote solidarity and unite efforts to defend Islamic issues; pursuant to resolution 1/37 – D which calls on the work group set up by the Committee on Coordination of Joint Islamic Action in Field of Dawa to continue to clarify the role of Islamic organizations and institutions in the field of dawa and relief in implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action; aware of the need of Islamic institutions, societies and bodies active in the field of dawa to coordinate their activities with a view to avoiding duplication, overlap and dissipation of efforts in a bid to have a more effective joint Islamic action; recalling the approval of the Islamic Dawa Centre in Latin America to host the 17th session of the Committee on Coordination of Joint Islamic Action in the Field of Dawa, the OIC General Secretariat addressed invitation to members of the committee to hold the session in Sao Paulo, Brazil from 17-19 Jumadal Thani 1431 H (31 May – 2 June 2010).
- The Committee discussed its own role and that of its affiliated organizations in the implementation of the Ten Year Programme of Action to meet the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in twenty-first century, adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah on 7 and 8 December 2005.

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- Apart from members of the Committee, other participants in the session included members of the diplomatic corps in Brazil and representatives of Islamic centres in Latin America. We single out for mention representatives from Venezuela, Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Mexico City, Republic of Bolivia, Britain, USA (CAIR), and Panama. Others included some international Islamic institutions and people with an interest in Islamic cultural affairs in the region, as well as heads of universities and research centres.

The meetings of this session were characterized by the active participation of some dawa and cultural institutions in Latin America. Their representatives made interventions on the cultural contribution of Muslims in Latin America, and gave practical proposals and ideas to enhance joint Islamic action in the continent.

- Over the course of two days, the Committee discussed a number of issues focused on civilisational and cultural contribution in Latin America, women, Islamic perspective on culture, evaluation and improvement of the coordination mechanism in Islamic work, the foundations of dealing with Islamophobia, and brain drain and how to utilize it.
- Some of the positive outcomes of the CCJIA meetings are as follows:
 - The World Islamic Call Society and the World Assembly of Muslim Youth agreed to establish shortwave (SW) and frequency modulated (FM) radio stations to broadcast to Africa.
 - The International Islamic Relief Organisation, Jeddah and the International Islamic Charitable Organization, Kuwait, expressed their readiness to finance the establishment of the radio stations in Africa under the umbrella of the CCJIA.
 - The Islamic Development Bank agreed to establish an Arabic language centre in Africa. Members of the Committee are expected at their next meeting to consider the adoption of projects aimed at developing the Islamic communities especially in the areas of dawa, education, science and culture.
 - The Director General of Posts in the City of Sao Paulo, Mr Antonio Rabilo announced the release of a postage stamp on the occasion of 17th session of the Committee on Coordination of Joint Islamic Action. The stamp carries the logos of the OIC, the Islamic Dawa Centre in Latin America and the Sao Paulo de Campo Municipality. The stamp was put into circulation on 5 June 2010 and was distributed to all post offices in Brazil and the representations of all OIC Member States in Latin America.
 - The Islamic Centre in Latin America expressed its readiness to broadcast media materials in Portuguese, Arabic, Spanish and English languages on the Centres radio and television to explain the activities of the OIC and its role in creating awareness about Islam in Brazil and the neighboring countries.

- The General Secretariat received an invitation from the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought, Tehran, stating the Forums wish to host the 18th session of the Coordination Committee on Joint Islamic Action. Communication is ongoing between the General Secretariat and the Forum to determine the appropriate date to hold this session.

Pursuant to Resolution no. 1/37 adopted by the 37th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan from 4 – 6 Jumadal Thani 1432H (18 – 20 May 2010), which, inter alia, called on the work group set up by the CCJIA to continue its work to clarify the role of Islamic organizations and institutions in the areas of dawa and relief, in implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action, the work group convened its third meeting in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt on 25 and 26 January 2011, with the generous hosting by World Islamic Call Society, Libya. The group reviewed the items of its agenda, and following exhaustive discussion of the Issues, the members decided to come up with a number of projects, in line with the themes contained in the Ten-Year Programme of Action.

The meeting made a number of recommendations on the following central issues:

- Role of Islamic organizations and institutions in the field of dawa and relief in the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action.
- Organizing joint projects under the umbrella of the Committee on Coordination of Joint Islamic Action to achieve the slogan “solidarity in action” among member institutions and organizations in the short and long terms with a view to developing the Islamic societies, especially in the area of education, sciences and culture.
- Developing coordination mechanisms in Islamic work.
- Coordination among Islamic institutions and organizations to organize dawa, relief and humanitarian work.
- Within the framework of implementing the objectives of the Committee on Coordination of Joint Islamic Action in the Field of Dawa (CCJIA), and in response to the recommendations issued by the 3rd meeting of the work group established by the Committee at its meeting in Cairo on 25 and 26 January 2011, which provide for the organisation of joint programmes among members of the Committee, especially in the field of information, the first training session for information officials in the member organisations of the CCJIA was held in Cairo on 5 and 6 March 2012, hosted by the World Assembly of Muslim Youth and in coordination with the World Islamic Council for Dawa and Relief. The session aimed at improving media performance among institutions under the umbrella of the CCJIA. It formulated viewpoints and

ideas which would contribute to enhancing their information action in creating awareness about the religion, culture and civilization of Islam.

- With reference to Resolution No. 1/37-DW adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dushanbe, Republic of Kazakhstan, which called inter alia called on the Work Group established by the Committee on Coordination of Joint Islamic Action in the Field of Dawa to continue its work to clarify the role of Islamic organizations and institutions in the field of Da'wa and relief in the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action, the joint meeting of the Work Group Developing Operational Programs for Issues Contained in the Ten-Year Programme of Action and the Experts Committee on the Challenges Facing the Islamic Ummah in the Twenty-first century met in Cairo,

- Pursuant to Resolution 2/38-DW adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers at the 38th session held in Kazakhstan from 28 – 30 June 2011, and Resolution No 2/39-DW adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti from 15 – 17 November 2012, both of which inter alia called on the Experts Group considering the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah with a view to proffering ways to confront those challenges to continue with the assistance of experts in economics, education, information and other fields. The Committee also recommended consideration of some issues, notably globalization, ideological and psychological challenges as well as modernity and secularism. A joint meeting of the work group developing operational programs for issues contained in the Ten-Year Programme of Action and the experts committee on the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in the twenty-first century was held in Cairo on 15 and 16 May 2013. The participants continued their discussion, from various aspects, of the issues before them in the light of political and social changes witnessed in the Islamic arena recently, taking into account many developments with direct impact on the future of the Ummah. (Report and recommendations of the meeting are attached).

II. EXAMINATION OF THE CHALLENGES FACING THE MUSLIM UMMAH IN THE 21st CENTURY

- In implementation of Islamic resolutions at Summit and Foreign Ministerial levels, an Experts Committee comprised of experts and specialists was set up in order to examine the challenges facing the Muslim Ummah in the 21st century.
- The Experts Committee has held five meetings in Cairo, Bamako, Tripoli, Tehran, and Khartoum.
- Islamic Summit and Ministerial Conferences called on the Experts Committee, comprised of experts and specialists, to continue its examination of the challenges facing the Muslim Ummah in the 21st century, and ***“to take further practical and constructive steps in order to meet these challenges; refute adverse campaigns; remove and rectify every misperception; and present Islam in its true image as a religion of peace, compassion, and freedom”***.
- The Committee reviewed the various challenges, their different categories, and their implications for the future of the Muslim Ummah. It also examined the required working methodology and necessary plans to confront these challenges as well as the nature of these challenges with their daily and ever mutating aspects, which requires flexibility, awareness, and diligent presence in that process.
- Pursuant to resolution no. 1/11 – D (I.S.) adopted by 11th session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Dakar, and resolution No. 2/39–D, 39th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti from 15 – 17 November 2012. Both resolutions inter alia called on the group of experts to continue to explore the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century and ways of meeting them, seeking assistance from experts in economics, education and information. Pursuant to both resolutions, the General Secretariat is working to hold the Sixth session of this committee in the second half of 2013. The General Secretariat with liaise with some experts and specialists who might assist in the work of the committee.

III. ORGANIZING MORE SYMPOSIA ON ISLAMIC CULTURE, DAWA, AND CIVILIZATION IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE CIVILIZATIONAL IMAGE OF ISLAM IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD

- Pursuant to Islamic summit and foreign ministerial resolutions, the most recent being resolution 3/39 –D on Islamic activities, adopted by the 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, from 15 – 17 November 2013, on revitalizing Islamic Dawa and reactivating the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action (CCJIA), which stipulate as follows: *“to mandate the Secretary-General to work to convene more symposia on Islamic Culture and Dawa,”* the General Secretariat has endeavored to organize several international Islamic symposia in many parts of the world.
- The General Secretariat organized international Islamic symposia in Niger (1992), Malaysia, Moscow, Australia, Canada, Brazil, South Africa, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden and Toronto, Canada.
- More than 200 delegates representing heads of Islamic associations and centers, university lecturers, Muslims and non-Muslims, and scholars and politicians have participated in the proceedings of each of these symposia. Some of these symposia were inaugurated by prime ministers or their representatives.

The objectives of these symposia are as follows:

- Correcting the image of Islam in the outside world.
- Building relations of fraternity, understanding, and dialogue between Islam and all academic, cultural, and information media forums.
- Portraying the true image of Islam and removing any aspersions cast on its tolerance.
- Promoting ties among Muslim communities to synergize efforts to protect their cultural and religious identity.
- The General Secretariat received correspondence from several Islamic associations and organizations around the world, including the Islamic Cultural Centre (ICC) of Australia, the Central Islamic Organization of Guyana (CIOG), the Chinese Muslim Association (CMA) in Taipei, and the Islamic Foundation in Great Britain, expressing their desire to convene symposia on Islamic Culture and Dawa in order to correct the image of Islam in the outside world; to work towards a better understanding of Islam and improved relations between Muslims and non-Muslims; and promote the socio-economic development of Muslims.

- The desired vision of the Organization of the Islamic Conference's future work in the area of organizing symposia requires working to create awareness about Islam in all languages. It also requires focusing on rectifying the image of Islam in the outside world in order to refute aspersions seeking to question its tolerance, by organizing more Islamic and other specialized symposia on dialogue among the world's major civilizations and religions in order to achieve a rapprochement between the different perspectives and thus confront the hostile campaigns of defamation waged against Islam and Muslims (Islamophobia). Finally, it requires work to support Muslim minorities in Western societies with a view to preserving their Islamic identity, particularly with respect to younger and future generations.

IV. RAISING AWARENESS IN PILGRIMS TO THE HOLY MOSQUE ABOUT HAJJ AND WORSHIP RITES BEFORE THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE HOLY LANDS

- In view of the huge numbers of pilgrims arriving from more than 150 countries to perform the duty of Hajj, pilgrims should be fully aware, before their arrival, of their performance of the duty and rites of pilgrimage in order to be able to complete their practice easily and smoothly. This requires the Member States to activate the role of the competent authorities in their countries in order to promote awareness in pilgrims about pilgrimage before their arrival in the holy lands, in view of the paramount importance of such awareness.
- Because awareness-raising involves a global understanding and ongoing action with established scholarly methods and must be taken as a key objective, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) tries to deepen that understanding and inculcate such concepts by *“urging Dawa and Islamic Cultural Centers in the world to raise awareness in pilgrims to the Holy Mosques about the practices and worship rites of Hajj before their arrival in the holy lands to perform the duty of pilgrimage”*.
- Successive resolutions, most recent of which is Resolution 4/39-DW adopted by the 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Djibouti from 15 – 17 November 2012, have stipulated as follows in: *“To stress the necessity of urging Dawa and Islamic Cultural Centers to raise awareness in pilgrims to the Holy Mosques about Hajj duties and practices before their arrival in the holy lands to perform the duty of Hajj”* (Operative Para. 2).
- The General Secretariat has been continuously transmitting notes to Member States in order to stress the importance of raising awareness in pilgrims about Hajj rites before their arrival in the holy sites.

Vision:

Islamic dawa is a key pillar of joint Islamic action. The Organization of the Islamic Conference believes that dawa work must be based on effective, positive, flexible and objective strategy which would enable the Islamic Ummah to achieve its objectives.

Pursuant to OIC resolutions at the levels of the summit and the Council of Foreign Ministers which called for the need to spread Islamic teachings to boost Islamic solidarity and unite efforts to defend Islamic causes, it is important to embark on serious initiatives across the world to create awareness about Islam in various languages and to highlight its unique tolerance, the lofty values it calls for and to set up constructive dialogue among followers of world religions and civilizations in order to foster cooperation and strengthen common grounds through the following:

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1. Creating a link between Islamic communities and the rest of the world through symposia and conferences to clarify the civilizational image of Islam and Muslims in the outside world.
2. Contribution by the Committee on Coordination of joint Islamic Action to building bridges of brotherhood and cooperation among contemporary civilizations to achieve peaceful coexistent for the benefit of humanity as a whole.
3. Conducting further research on the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in the 21st century and how to confront them.
4. Responding to aspersions on Islam and Islamic civilization.
