



16&17 September 2017

## **FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ**

### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

# **«CIVILIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ISLAMIC WORLD»**

## **ORGANIZER**

### **MUSLIM WORLD LEAGUE**

**NEW YORK - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (25-26 DHUL-HIJJAH 1438  
H CORRESPONDING TO 16-17 SEPTEMBER 2017)**

## In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

The International Conference on "Civilizational Communication between the United States of America and the Islamic World", held by the Muslim World League in New York City, United States of America, concluded on Saturday and Sunday (25-26 / 12 / 1438H). The participants comprised of a distinguished elite of academics, researchers and religious, political and social leaders of science, thought and opinion from around the world.

His Excellency the Secretary General of the Muslim World League Dr. Mohammed Bin Abdulkarim Alissa inaugurated the conference, welcoming the event's guests and the participants. He started his speech by stressing the authentic meanings of peace and mercy in the Muslim conscience stemming from the correct and pure concept of Islam in its moderate and temperate dimensions. He also highlighted the Muslim World League's attention-with its influence, weight and broad relations with the Islamic institutions and peoples – to communicate with the world at large spanning the bridges of positive coexistence with its peoples and countries, and cooperating with all civilizations and cultures to achieve noble ideals and human values, thwarting all plans of conflict, extremism and hatred. "He pointed out the profound cultural heritage between the United States of America and the Muslim world and its contribution in the humanitarian and moral fields. This unshakable tradition wasn't swayed by the desperate vile attempts of extremism and hatred to impact its stand. The Secretary General pointed out the event of the American Islamic Summit held in Riyadh on 25 Shaban 1438 H/ May 21, 2017 and its international input in promoting civilizational link between the two sides.

The participants acclaimed the plans of civilizational cooperation between the Islamic World and the United States of America and praised the establishment of the Global Center "Etidal" for Combating Extremism. The latter was inaugurated by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in the presence of US President Donald Trump at the Islamic Summit in Riyadh. They commended the Center's competencies and highly advanced technologies, which will be used in combating extremism with the latest innovative methods and means, intellectually, digitally and mass media.

The conference discussed the working papers presented in its topics:

- ❖ The cultural contribution between the United States of America and the Islamic world ... reality and expectations.
- ❖ The Islamic contribution in promoting world peace.
- ❖ Muslims in the United States of America ... Integration and citizenship.
- ❖ Ideological trends in empowering religious freedoms.
- ❖ Knowledge communication between the United States of America and the Islamic world.
- ❖ Shared civilizational and humanitarian values.
- ❖ Joint exchange between the United States of America and the Islamic world.
- ❖ Combined human values and shared civilizational edifice.
- ❖ Analytical reading of the US – Islamic World relations.
- ❖ Towards (civilizational strategy) relations between the United States of America and the Islamic world.

The participants emphasized the following:

- 1- Islamic civilization and its pioneering historical experience are clear evidence to the conscious openness of Muslims to other civilizations, their passion to communicate with the peoples of the world, and support and promote global peace initiatives.
- 2- Muslims today are concerned with economic, intellectual, cultural, social, scientific and other fields of humanitarian involvement, which will serve humanity and achieve its happiness.
- 3- Islam is the religion of mercy for all mankind, it holds universal humanitarian principles capable of realizing man's happiness, hopes and solve his problems. Muslims today are called upon to administer these principles and make them a real life through contact with others. They must establish a world where justice, peace and compassion reign supreme; they must turn a positively new leaf in the relationship among civilized nations and peoples based on mutual respect, cooperation in rebuilding earth, and ensure man's security and dignity.
- 4- Religious and cultural diversity in human societies call for the establishment of a fair partnership and positive communication within a social contract

approved by all concerned. Such undertaking will strive to involve various visions aimed at enriching civil and cultured life and achieving comprehensive development.

- 5- The meaningful and serious dialogue between the Islamic world and the United States of America is necessary to understand the real message of Islam. The Islam that extremism has attempted to hijack and falsify the meaning of its texts; and at the same time address the calls of hatred, exclusion and egotism. Our world must be free of violence, extremism and counter-extremism. True and honest coalitions promoting the correct understanding of the other and advance this partnership for the benefit of man must be established.
- 6- Cultural communication and direct dialogue among the various components of society will lead to the recognition the other through his real origins away from misleading propaganda and misconceptions that sow discord and hatred.
- 7- The challenges faced by mankind threaten the future of humanity and jeopardize its existence, civilization and values. Thus, religious leaders and politicians must take the lead in identifying the common principle that will bring people together and cooperate to realize the sublime purposes for our own good. These challenges must be met through the concept of equitable partnership taking advantage of the achievements of human civilization.

#### Recommendations:

Based on the conference's speeches, discussions and work papers, the participants concluded with a number of recommendations calling for:

First: To develop a long-term strategy to initiate civilizational and cultural communications. A spirit of tolerance and equality among peoples must be promoted along with a cooperation that will promote sustainable development programs, and provide a secure, stable and prosperous environment that protects young people from extremist ideas.

Second: Intensify Islamic meetings with other civilizations to discuss outstanding issues and set up common concepts; and work diligently to free ourselves from the effects and influence of the historical clash (of civilizations).

Third: To strengthen the links and cooperation between the Islamic organizations in the United States of America and the official and popular bodies in the Islamic world in every fields to learn and educate.

Fourth: To make effective international efforts to achieve man's dignity and preserve his rights, achieve actual justice and accomplish peaceful coexistence among human societies.

Fifth: To establish the Forum for American-Islamic Cultural Communication to promote intellectual, cultural and scientific links between Islamic peoples and the American people, and deepen the cultural ties between the two sides.

Sixth: To develop a comprehensive and integrated strategic plan for coordination between organizations, centers, universities and media institutions to oppose extremist ideology and protect societies from its effects, consequences and repercussions on other parties.

7. Promoting a culture of co-existence and communication within Islamic and Western societies, encouraging research and studies that would establish the principle of effective communication, highlight the importance of both sides. Publishing and translating books of both sides must be encouraged, while avoiding the claims of the clash of civilizations and warning against the phenomenon of Islamophobia.

Eighth: To encourage the media to contribute in spreading a culture of peace and understanding, to be credible and objective. A culture of violence and hatred must be totally avoided, and producing information materials that fuel religious, sectarian and intellectual conflicts must be shunned.

The Conference called on the Muslim World League to:

Cooperating with associations, organizations and universities in the United States of America to implement joint programs aimed at achieving positive interaction between Islamic and American civilizations. Developing inter-dialogue programs that will take into account common interests and address the problems of contemporary societies.

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