



Final Statement and Recommendations of the First Scientific Forum

**Towards a Scientific Partnership between the Academy
and Shariah Boards of GCC-based Banks and Financial
Institutions for strengthening the Islamic Financial
Industry**

held by the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in Jeddah

via videoconference

13 Jumada Al-Akhira 1442 / January 26, 2021

In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful

First: Final Statement

Praise to Allah Who by His grace has made all things perfect, and may the blessings and peace be upon whom He sent as a mercy to the worlds, our master Muhammad, upon his family, companions, and those who follow them with kindness until the Day of Judgment.

With Allah's grace, the Secretariat General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation organized the first scientific Forum entitled:

Towards a Scientific Partnership between the Academy and Shariah Boards of GCC-based Banks and Financial Institutions for strengthening the Islamic Financial Industry

Held through videoconferencing on Tuesday morning 13 Jumada al-Akhira 1442 corresponding to 26 January 2021, the Forum brought together many chairmen, secretaries and members of the Shariah boards and committees of GCC-based Islamic banks and financial institutions, (list of the participants' names attached).

The Forum opened at ten o'clock with a recitation of the Holy Quran by Mr Abdullah bin Omar Al-Tamimi, director of the conferences and symposia department at the Academy. H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, President of the Academy, advisor to the Royal Saudi Court and member of the Council of Senior Scholars delivered the opening address. H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, delivered the keynote address of the Forum.

At the opening session, the key participants delivered short statements on the importance of the Forum, including a considerable amount of proposals and ideas to improve cooperation and coordination between the Academy, Shariah boards and committees of GCC-based banks and financial institutions. Participants included the following:

-H.E. Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Muhammad Al Mutlaq, advisor to the Royal Saudi Court, member of the Council of Senior Scholars, and chairman of several Shariah Boards based in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

-H. Em. Sheikh Dr. Khaled bin Madkour al-Madkour, chairman of the Shariah Supervisory Board at the National Bank of Kuwait.

-H. Em. Sheikh Dr. Nidham Muhammad Saleh Yaqoubi, executive member of several Shariah Boards in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

-H. Em. Sheikh Dr. Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al-Haddad, Grand Mufti of the Emirate of Dubai, and executive member of the Shariah Supervisory Board of the United Arab Bank in the United Arab Emirates.

-H. Em. Sheikh Dr. Majid bin Muhammad Al-Kindi, Shariah Council member of the Charter of Islamic Banks at the Sultanate of Oman.

-H. Em. Dr. Muhammad Ali Al-Qari, chairman of several Shariah Boards based in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Furthermore, eminent and honourable personalities made distinguished interventions and constructive comments, including proposals to achieve the Forum's objectives such as strengthening partnership, cooperation and coordination between the Academy, Shariah boards and committees of GCC-based Islamic banks and financial institutions.

After the interventions and comments, Their Excellencies and Eminences concluded the following recommendations:

Second: Recommendations

1) Commending the efforts of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in clarifying the Shariah provisions concerning the topics and issues of contemporary life, especially in finance and business. Hence, the total number of the resolutions and recommendations of the Academy has reached two hundred and thirty-eight (238) jurisprudential resolutions, including more than one hundred and twenty (120) resolutions on finance and business, rendering it the most respected scientific source and the most important

jurisprudential reference in the jurisprudential Ijtihad and Shariah resolutions that advise, lead and counsel the activities of banks and financial institutions.

Participants also lauded the publication of the fourth edition of the Academy's book of resolutions and recommendations after an eleven-year hiatus.

2) Calling to establish a permanent scientific partnership between the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, Shariah boards and committees of GCC-based banks and financial institutions, where the reference in Ifta and clarifications on financial and business matters should be based on the resolutions and recommendations of the Academy.

The resolutions and recommendations of the Academy shall be forwarded to the members of Shariah boards and committees. The Academy shall invite them to its annual sessions, general conferences, and specialized symposia to participate in the study of the developments in the Islamic financial industry and enrich the sessions and contribute to the drafting of the resolutions and recommendations.

3) Promote cooperation and coordination between the Academy, Shariah boards and committees by providing a practical scientific model for the Islamic financial sector based on monitoring developments and changes in order to advise and guide them in accordance with the Shariah provisions, its financial and business objectives. This is based on the mission entrusted to the Academy by the leaders of the Muslim world, which is to present Islamic law correctly and moderately, emphasizing its advantages and full capacity to deal with all the problems of life and to achieve happiness, stability, security, peace and safety of humankind in this world and beyond.

4) Calling upon the Secretariat General of the Academy to regularly organize more scientific meetings, aiming to unite ranks and efforts to refute opinions and fatwas violating the established principles of Shariah, confiscating the recognized rules of Ijtihad, and causing disruption.

5) Calling upon the Secretariat General of the Academy to communicate and coordinate with the universities, colleges, institutes and scientific centers in the Gulf Cooperation Council, in order to seek the assistance of reliable scholars and experts of these scientific institutions, especially from the

younger generation, by involving them in the sessions of the Academy, its conferences, seminars, and its various activities, in order to enable them to train and familiarize themselves with the methodology of deduction, analysis, derivation, consultation, and counseling.

6) Calling upon the Secretariat General of the Academy to establish more cooperation and coordination relations with the Shariah boards of the bodies involved in the advancement and development of the Islamic financial industry, such as the Shariah Council of the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), Islamic Banking Services Board, General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions, and other equivalent bodies and councils, based on the fact that these bodies and councils should collaborate with the Academy by following its resolutions, recommendations and statements.

To achieve this objective, the Forum welcomed the creation of the Permanent Committee for Islamic Economics and Finance within the Secretariat General of the Academy to ensure coordination between the Academy and Islamic bodies, committees, banks and financial institutions by holding periodic consultation and coordination meetings.

7) Calling upon the chairmen, secretaries and members of Shariah boards and committees to urge the owners of Islamic banks and financial institutions, whom they assist in consultation and counseling, to allocate a fixed percentage either from charitable income accounts or from set-aside funds to help finance the activities of Academy's strategic plan whose annual cost is estimated at about fifteen million U.S. dollars.

The International Islamic Fiqh Academy is a legitimate body to which these revenues and funds can be donated, to enable it to conduct research and studies and organize scientific conferences and seminars that clarify the Shariah provisions regarding issues of concern to Muslims inside and outside the Muslim world, and that provide appropriate and practical solutions to the problems of contemporary life.

8) Urging states, peoples and charities inside and outside the Muslim world to contribute with substantial, financial and real estate support to the Waqf Fund

of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, which was established by a ministerial decision of the OIC Foreign Ministers Conference in 2017 to provide a permanent and stable source funding for the Academy and to cover its budget deficit.

In conclusion, the participants in this Forum expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to Their Majesties and Highnesses the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council for the enormous patronage given to the Islamic economy in general, and to Islamic banking and finance in particular, asking Allah the Almighty to reward them and perpetuate security, peace, stability, prosperity and development for them and their people.

On behalf of the OIC Secretary General and the President of the Academy, the Secretariat General of the Academy expresses its sincere thanks and deep appreciation to their Excellencies and Eminences for their participation in the Forum, asking Allah the Almighty to assist everyone to what is in the good of our religion and our world, and that we shall all enjoy good health and well-being, and asking the Almighty to accelerate the end of the pandemic, for He is the Guardian and the All-Capable.

May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon our master Muhammad, his family and his companions.