



## ACADEMY NEWS

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THE SECOND ISSUE

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# Adoption of The amended Statute of The Academy in Niger

Following his participation in the meetings of the 47th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of Muslim countries, held by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Niamey, capital of the Republic of Niger, on Friday and Saturday 12-13 of Rabi' al-Akhir 1442, corresponding to 27-28 November 2020, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano announced that the amended Statute of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy was approved. Hence, the nomenclature of the Secretariat of the Academy changed into the Secretariat General of the Academy, and the name of the Secretary of the Academy into the Secretary General. The amended statute included a precise adjustment of the vision, mission, core values, objectives, and means of



the Academy, as well as a precise formulation of its tasks, functions and prerogatives of the organizational structure. The new statute shall be embodied by the Executive Bureau, the Scientific Council, the Divisions, as well as the Secretariat General of the Academy.

It is worthy to mention that the first Statute of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy was also adopted in Niamey during the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Muslim Countries held in August 1982. The then meeting adopted the nomenclature of the Secretariat of the Academy as Secretariat General of the Academy, and the Secretary of the Academy as its Secretary General.

The situation lasted for almost a quarter of a century (24 years) until 2006,



when the nomenclature of the Secretariat General of the Academy was modified into the Secretariat of the Academy, and the Secretary General of the Academy into the Secretary of the Academy, due to the considerations mainly subjective.

However, after fourteen years, thanks to Allah the Almighty, the Academy regained the original nomenclature namely the Secretariat General of the Academy as well as the Secretary General of the Academy, also approved in Niamey, in the Republic of Niger.

## H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Humaid chaired the first Scientific Forum between the Academy and Shariah Boards of Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions at the headquarters country

The Secretariat-General of the Academy held on Tuesday 23 Rabi' al-Awal 1442, corresponding to 9 November 2020, the first scientific Forum entitled "Towards a scientific partnership between the Academy and Shariah Boards in the Islamic banks and financial institutions in order to strengthen the Islamic Financial Industry".

H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Humaid, President of the Council of the Academy, Adviser to the Royal Court of KSA, and Imam-Khateeb at the Grand Mosque chaired the Forum, which was attended by the heads, secretaries and members of the Shariah boards of banks and financial institutions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Humaid delivered the opening speech speaking of the importance of this Forum to build bridges of cooperation and coordination between the Academy and scientific councils and institutions in the host country KSA. His Excel-



Dr. Saleh bin Humaid



Dr. Abdullah Al-Mutlaq



Dr. Koutoub Sano



Dr. Abdullah bin Manea

lency also thanked the attendees for their participation and their valuable contributions and suggestions.

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, delivered a speech in which he commended the full support and continuous assistance from the Saudi leadership to the Academy. He also expressed his thanks and gratitude to H.E. the Secretary General of the

OIC, and H.E. the President of the Scientific Council of the Academy for his constant guidance. His Excellency then thanked the attendees for their positive response to the invitation of the Academy to participate in this Forum, which is considered to be the first of the periodic scientific meetings planned with the major institutions and scientific councils in the host country. During the meeting, Their Excellencies Sheikh Abdullah bin Manea and Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mutlaq, Advisers to the KSA Royal Court and members of the Council of Senior Scholars, both spoke in the Forum. Honorable participants also took the floor such as Dr. Muhammad Ali Al-Qari, Dr. Abdullah bin Khanin, Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Atram, Dr. Yousef Al-Khalawi, Dr. Omar Zuhair Hafez, Dr. Al-Ayashi Fadad and Dr. Abdullah Al-Ammar. Following the deliberations and comments, the Council issued a statement and recommendations, which is published in this newsletter.

# 4th Meeting of the Supervisory Board of the IIFA Waqf Fund



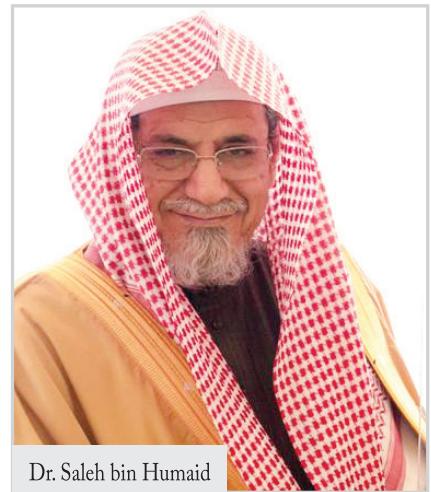
Dr. Omar Hafez



Dr. Ahmed Ali



Dr. Koutoub Sano



Dr. Saleh bin Humaid

On the morning of Thursday 26 Rabi Al-Awal 1442 corresponding to 12 November 2020, was held the 4th meeting of the Supervisory Board of the Waqf Fund of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy under the

chairmanship of H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Humaid, Advisor to the Royal Court of KSA and President of the Scientific Board of the Academy, with the presence of H.E. SG of the Academy H.E. Prof. Koutoub

Sano, and all the members of the Supervisory Board including Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali, Dr. Omar Zuhair Hafez, and Dr. Youssef Al-Khalawi. The Board discussed several issues, notably

the adoption of the investment policy in force at the Islamic Development Bank Group. The Board also welcomed the first Shariah instrument (saq) for the first Islamic endowment (waqf) for the Waqf Fund

## The Permanent Representative of France to the OIC visits His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy

His Excellency the Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy Professor Koutoub Moustapha SANO received on Monday 29 from Rabi' al-Thani 1442, corresponding to December 14, 2020, in his office at Jeddah, the Consul General and Permanent Representative of France to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Mr. Moustafa Mihrage.

His Excellency, the secretary general of the Academy welcomed his guest, who came to congratulate him on having taken up his duties as secretary general of the Academy, and in order to discuss the ways and means to enable strengthen cooperation and partnership between the Academy and institutions responsible for the management of religions in France. After thanking his host for his congratulations and for his visit at this time when France's relations with the Islamic world are experiencing turbulence and an uncomfortable turn, His Excellency the Secretary General spoke of the intellectual and scientific responsibility entrusted to the Academy as the jurisprudential arm of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and as the premier reference for the Islamic world and Muslim societies around the world in relation to the clarification of Sharia provisions and rulings relating to matters that concern Muslims. His Excellency also spoke of the importance of knowing the biography of the Messenger of Islam, Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Hail be upon Him and His family). This Prophet was a unique model of mercy, justice, honesty, purity and clarity, for there is nothing in his biography that one could be afraid to show



it or of which one would not be proud of highlighting it. Accordingly The Prophet remains a model for Muslims and others in terms of fairness, humanism, justice, affection and love.

His Excellency said in his intervention that those who are insulting this noble Prophet are due to their blatant ignorance of his real life which was filled with success and his exceptional humanism. To this end, it will be necessary to strengthen the cooperation between the Academy and scientific and intellectual organizations in France in order to make known the real biography of the Prophet, and to explain the teachings of which the message of Islam consisted which are based on moderation, openness and rejection of exaggeration, extremism and violence. In addition, His Excellency also expressed to his guest the categorical opposition of the Academy to any attempt to use Islam and its teachings in order to settle political scores or fuel conflicts and clashes between the peoples of the world, empha-

sizing the absolute sanctity of blood, and Islam's rejection of all who shed blood in its name or those who advocate violence in all its forms in its name.

Also His Excellency affirmed to his guest the will of the Academy to contribute through its members and its experts known for their moderation and their knowledge to the correction of the false stereotype on Islam, its essence and its messenger, whether by those who ignore it or by those who exploit it for suspicious purposes, as well as the will of the Academy to get in touch with the Muslim community of France in order to fight extremism and violence under all its manifestations and forms in thought or behavior, and in order to correct any concepts which create a conflict with the fundamental principles and purposes of Islam.

The Permanent Representative of France thanked His Excellency for the additional information he had provided on the mission of the academy and the important

role it plays in the field of awareness, guidance and correction of concepts. He also expressed to His Excellency France's commitment to strengthen relations of cooperation and communication with the peoples of the Muslim world, noting his deep regret for the inaccurate interpretation of the words of the President of the French Republic, who he described as respectful of Islam and of all religions practiced by French citizens, asserting in this regard that France is neither against Islam nor against Muslims, and the greatest proof of this is that Islam is the second religion in France. There are approximately six million French Muslims who are fully integrated with the values and principles of the French Republic, and that 99% of these Muslims in France do not disagree with the state, and that a real confrontation exists between the State and groups which do not believe in the principles and values of the Republic, in particular the principle of freedom of expression and the secularism of the State.

Finally, the permanent representative warmly welcomed the academy's willingness to further strengthen collaborative ties with the French government and the Muslim community in France in order to promote harmony and positive integration.

At the end of his visit, he told His Excellency that he would seek to organize a working visit and a special meeting between His Excellency the Secretary General and the French authorities responsible for the Islamic religion, in the hope of fruitful cooperation and good relations between the Academy and France.

## Meeting of the SG of the Academy with the Secretaries of AAOIFI, General Council for Islamic Banks & Financial Institutions (CIBAFI), & Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB)

In striving towards further coordination and cooperation with general bodies and councils of Islamic banks and financial institutions, the Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, held on 7 Rabi' al-Aakhir 1442, corresponding to 22 November 2020, a coordination meeting via videoconference with their Excellencies Dr. Abdulilah Belatik, SG of the General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions, Prof. Omar Mustafa Al Ansari, SG of the Accounting and Auditing Organization of Islamic Financial Institutions of Bahrain, and Dr. Bello Lawal Danbatta, SG of the Islamic Financial Services Board of Kuala Lumpur. His Excellency Prof. Sano opened the meeting by thanking the participants for responding to the Academy's invitation and initiative. His Excellency also conveyed to them the greetings of the President of the Academy's Scientific Board, H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Humaid.

In his welcome address, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano emphasized the importance and necessity of coordinating efforts among Islamic financial organizations and institutions on the one hand, and between these organizations and institutions and the International Islamic Fiqh Academy on the other hand. His Excellency mentioned that one of the most important objectives of the Academy is working towards close integration, transparent cooperation and permanent coordination among the fatwah bodies and councils, whether the fatwahs are related to financial transactions, family, education, thought, and culture, in view to realize the vision of the Academy as the first jurisprudential reference to the Muslim world and Muslim societies, assigned with clarifying the provisions of Shariah on issues of concern to Muslims in all areas of life. His Excellency said that during four decades, the Academy, thanks to Allah the Almighty, has been able to issue 238 jurisprudential resolutions on various issues of our times.

His Excellency invited the secretaries of the Shariah councils and committees to participate in the sessions of the Academy, particularly in the coming 25th Session. His Excellency also invited these bodies to suggest topics and titles to include in the next Session.



Dr. Koutoub Sano



Dr. Blue Dunbata



Omar Al-Ansari



Dr. Abdul Ilah Bel Ateeq

His Excellency concluded by stressing that the Academy is ready to support and coordinating the efforts of the scientific bodies at all levels, and by calling on the bodies to take advantage of the Academy's resolutions, which have been issued by the jurists of Muslim schools of law, as these resolutions are considered meticulous and flawless.

In his speech, H.E. Dr. Abdulilah Belatik congratulated H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano on taking office as Secretary General of the Academy, wishing him every success in his duties, and also thanked His Excellency for this meeting, which is needed from time to time by financial bodies and institutions. H.E. confirmed the readiness of the General Council for Islamic Banks and Institutions to cooperate with the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, and stressed in this context the importance of creating an open platform for coordination and cooperation to enable everyone to benefit from publications in the field of Islamic banking and finance.

For his part, H.E. Dr. Bello Lawal Danbatta, SG of the Islamic Financial Services Board, said that the Council has coordinated with the Islamic Development Bank Group on many of the standards it conveys to the regulatory and supervisory boards. H.E.

also commended cooperation with the Academy in all areas in response to the initiative of the Secretary General of the Academy, which was well appreciated by H. E. Dr. Danbatta.

Speaking during the meeting, H. E. Mr. Omar Mustafa Al-Ansari, SG of the Audit and Accounting Authority for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), congratulated the Secretary General of the Academy wishing him continued success. H.E. stressed the importance and necessity of cooperation and coordination with the Academy. H.E. suggested the establishment of a Global Shariah Council under the umbrella of the Academy to coordinate among the Islamic financial councils for the benefit of the Muslim Ummah and to achieve harmony and integration between

financial bodies and institutions.

At the end of the meeting, the Secretary General of the Academy, thanked everyone for their participation and suggestions; and vowed to hold more symposia and meetings to strengthen cooperation and communication ties.

It is worth noting that the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) is an international standard-setting committee for regulatory and supervisory bodies, and the Accounting and Auditing Organization is concerned with setting Shariah and accounting standards for Islamic banks and financial institutions; both bodies benefit from the resolutions and recommendations of the Academy.

## H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano receives the delegation of the Islamic Economics Institute of King Abdulaziz University

H.E. Prof. Moustapha Sano received in his office a delegation of the Islamic Economics Institute of King Abdul Aziz University (Jeddah), on Monday 8 Rabi' Al-Aakhir 1442, corresponding to 23 November 2020. The delegation was headed by H. E. Prof. Abdullah Qurban Turkistani, Dean of the Institute, alongside several professors of the Institute, including H. E. Dr. Hassan Makhethi, Vice-Dean of the Institute for Graduate Studies, H. E. Dr. Omar Zuhair Hafez, H. E. Prof. Ibrahim Abulola, and H. E. Dr. Abdulrahim Al-Saati. The Secretary General of the Academy welcomed the delegation and thanked them for their visit. His Excellency briefed the delegation on the efforts of Academy in responding to contemporary issues and clarifying the Shariah provisions regarding these issues based on the collective Ijtihad in which cooperation takes place between jurists and experts, as well as between jurists of recognized legal schools. His Excellency spoke about the great impact of the resolutions of the Academy, particularly those related to Islamic economics in general and Islamic banking in particular. He also informed the delegation that

the Academy managed – in four decades – to issue 238 resolutions, including more than a hundred resolutions in the field of Islamic economics, such as banking, insurance, sukuk etc, in addition to other resolutions on different subjects such as family, women, children, ideological security, denunciation of fanaticism, as well as the fight against extremism and terrorism.

H. E. Prof. Abdullah Qurban Turkistani expressed his contentment with this meeting, praising the efforts of the Academy in the field of Islamic economics. H.E. invited the Secretary General of the Academy to give a lecture on the jurisprudence of transactions as part of the "Wednesday Debate" held regularly by the Institute for years now. His Excellency, the Secretary General of the Academy, accepted the invitation and thanked the Dean of the Institute for this honor.

At the end of the visit, His Excellency stressed to the delegation the need to activate the cooperation agreement concluded years ago. H. E. Prof. Abdullah Turkistani presented to His Excellency a collection of the Institute's publications.



Dr. Abdullah Qurban



Dr. Koutoub Sano



## Final Statement and Recommendations of the First Scientific Forum between the Academy and the Shariah Boards of Banks and Financial Institutions of the Headquarters Country

### First: The Final Statement

In the Name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful  
All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds, may the blessings and peace of Allah be upon our master Muhammad, the seal of prophets, on his family, and all his companions  
By grace and help of Allah, the Secretariat-General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held a scientific forum entitled: Towards a Scientific Partnership between the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and Shariah Boards to Strengthen the Islamic Financial Industry, through videoconference, on Monday 23 Rabi Al-Awal 1442, corresponding to 09 November 2020.

Eminent jurists and experts participated in the Forum, as follows:

- H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Humaid.
- H.E. Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Munea.
- H.E. Sheikh Dr. Abdulla Al-Mutlaq.
- H.E. Prof. Koutoub Mustapha Sano .
- H.E. Dr. Muhammad Ali Al-Qari
- H.E. Dr. Abdullah bin Khanin .
- H.E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Atram.
- H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-Shubaili, member of the Shariah Council of Bank Al-Bilad.
- H. E. Dr. Omar Zuhair Hafez, former Secretary General of Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions.
- H.E. Dr. Al-Ayashi Fadad, Senior Shariah Specialist, Islamic Research and Training Institute, Islamic Development Bank.
- H.E. Dr. Abdullah Muhammad, Senior Specialist in Financial Product Development, Islamic Research and Training Institute, Islamic Development Bank.
- H. E. Dr. Yousef Al-Khalawi, Secretary-General of the Islamic Chamber of Industry and Commerce.
- H. E. Dr. Hamza Bawazir, Executive Vice-President of the National Commercial Bank (Al-Ahli Bank)
- Dr. Abdulqahir Qamar, Director of Research, Fatwah, Encyclopedias and Printing at IIFA.

The Forum took place on Monday 23 Rabi Al-Awal 1442, corresponding to 09 November 2020, with an opening speech by H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Humaid, President of the Scientific Council of the Academy, Advisor to the Royal Court in KSA, member of the Council of Senior Scholars, and Imam-Khatib of the Grand Mosque in Mekkah. His Excellency's opening speech included a preamble of the scientific and methodological framework through which a scientific and operational partnership between the Academy and the Shariah Councils of banks and financial institutions in the headquarters country can be established.

His Excellency stressed the importance of coordination and communication between the Academy and the Shariah boards and commended the generous support and attention the Academy receives from the leadership of the headquarters country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and his trustworthy Crown Prince, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud.

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, delivered a speech on the importance and objectives of

the Forum, and asserted that the opening speech of H.E. the President of the Scientific Board of the Academy should be seen as a strategic action plan to achieve the desired coordination and communication between the Academy and the Shariah boards of banks and financial institu-

Academy financially. H.E. Dr. Abdulrahman bin Saleh Al-Atram likewise spoke about the importance of cooperation and coordination with AAOIFI and strengthening the idea of communicating with the Shariah boards, by assigning –for

important jurisprudential reference in the jurisprudence of Ijtihad and in the area of Shariah resolutions that direct, guide and counsel the activities of banks and financial institutions all over the world.

- Call for the establishment of a close scientific partnership between the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and the Shariah boards in banks and financial institutions in the headquarters country, wherein the IIFA shall act as the reference in the fatwas and the clarification of the Academy resolutions. The suggested topics shall be included in the topics list of the Academy's Sessions. Furthermore, specialized symposia shall be held in partnership between the Academy and Shariah bodies.

- Referring to the Academy's commitment to fulfill its mission, achieve its objectives and implement its projects and programs in the desired method despite its scarce resources and means. The Forum invites the Shariah boards to establish a practical partnership based on the counseling of the Shariah boards of banks

and financial institutions, by transferring a percentage of their set-aside () funds to the International Islamic Fiqh Academy. The Academy is considered one of the deserving Shariah institutions to which these revenues should be channeled as it is one of the scientific institution responsible for the preparation of research, studies and encyclopedias; dissemination of knowledge and clarification of Shariah provisions to Muslims worldwide.

- Work together to introduce a practical, integrated, homogeneous, coherent and harmonious scientific model for the Islamic financial industry that shall become a reference model to Muslim countries in particular and to the world at large.

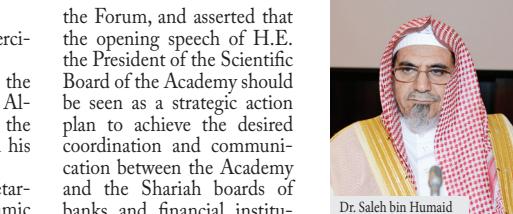
- Endorse holding this meeting between the Academy and the Shariah bodies regularly to strengthen the Islamic financial industry and keep abreast of its developments and challenges, and to strengthen the cooperation and coordination relations between the Academy and the Shariah bodies.

- Calling on states, peoples and different industries to support the Waqf Fund of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy which has recently been established to cover the deficit and difficult financial conditions that the Academy has suffered from for decades.

At the end of the meeting, the Secretariat-General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy expressed its sincere thanks and gratitude to the participants for their valuable contributions, counseling and direction, praying Allah the Almighty to grant them more success, assistance, full health and welfare.

The participants also extended their sincere thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, headquarters country of the Academy, in which this Forum was held via videoconferencing in several of its cities, and to the International Islamic Fiqh Academy for its efforts in organizing this Forum.

May the blessing and peace be upon our master Muhammad, his family and all his companions



Dr. Saleh bin Humaid



Dr. Ayashi Fadad



Dr. Muhammad Al-Qari



Dr. Abdulla Al-Mutlaq



Dr. Abdullah bin Munea



Dr. Koutoub Sano



Dr. Yousef Al-Khalawi



Dr. Yousef Al-Shubaili



Dr. Omar Hafez



Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Atram



Dr. Abdullah bin Khanin

### tions.

H.E. Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Munea, Member of the Council of Senior Scholars, displayed the stages of the emergence of Islamic finance, as well as the popularity and success of Islamic banks, and said that Islamic finance is a huge responsibility in our hands. His Excellency emphasized the reexamination of several products and the crucial role of the Academy in terms of guidance, consultation, and observation.

H.E. Sheikh Dr. Abdulla Al-Mutlaq addressed the importance of cooperation and communication with the Academy, to streamline and direct the efforts of AAOIFI (the Accounting and Auditing Organization of Islamic Financial Institutions), as well as the importance of fulfilling the duty of rapprochement between Islamic schools of law, converging opinions and Ijtihad, in addition to exerting Ijtihad on several emerging issues. His Excellency suggested the creation of a committee within the Academy to be known as the Islamic Banks Committee. He also referred to the need to take advantage of modern technologies and means of communication.

H.E. Dr. Muhammad Ali Al-Qari spoke about the importance of reviewing the structural operational model of the Academy, particularly with regard to the research submitted to the Academy Sessions so that the main issues shall be concentrated and solutions shall be submitted to these issues, while saving time and effort in the preparing research.

H.E. Dr. Abdullah bin Khonein spoke about the importance of building bridges of cooperation, exchange and communication with the Shariah boards, especially through the direct invitation of researchers and workers in the banking sector. He emphasized strengthening cooperation between the Secretariat-General of the Academy and the Secretariats of Shariah boards to study new developments in the banking and financial sectors, jurisprudential controversial issues as well as to conduct continuous review and research on the resolutions of the Academy. His Excellency also emphasized the importance of supporting the Academy as "a model of beneficial knowledge", and communicating with donors and philanthropists to support the

instance- the organization of this Forum annually to one of these Islamic banks and financial institutions. His Eminence also called for strengthening ties with donors and philanthropists.

H. E. Dr. Youssef Al-Khalawi addressed the need to create a single open database, while H. E. Dr. Omar Zuhair Hafez spoke about the importance of establishing an Islamic Finance Committee within the Secretariat-General of the Academy.

H. E. Dr. Al-Ayashi Fadad spoke about the crucial importance of cooperation and communication with AAOIFI (the General Council of Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions), the Islamic Banking Services Board and other bodies. He emphasized that the drafting committees in the different Sessions of the Academy should be composed of experts capable of drafting an appropriate formulation and revision of the resolutions of the Academy. He also called on the Shariah boards to support the Waqf Fund of the Academy, whether through set-side funds or other forms of donations.

H. Dr. Abdullah Al-Ammar spoke about the importance of cooperation and communication with the scientific departments of the universities whose eminent scientific minds can be very useful, whereas H. E. Dr. Hamzah Bawazir addressed the importance of investing funds received by the Academy to realize self-reliance and financial independence.

After discussions, comments, and debates, the participants issued the following recommendations:

### Second: Recommendations

- Call for more permanent coordination and closer cooperation between the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and the Shariah boards of banks and financial institutions in the headquarters country, as recognition and appreciation of their outstanding scientific efforts and concrete practical results.
- Appreciate the efforts of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in the service of the issues and problems of contemporary life, especially business and financial issues, as its resolutions have reached 238 shar'ee resolutions, including more than 120 resolutions on finance and business, which makes it the largest scientific source and the most



## Secretariat-General of the Academy mourns the death of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa – May Allah have Mercy on Him

To Allah we belong and to Him we return With the heart believing in the fate and destiny of Allah the Almighty, and with great sadness and sorrow, the Secretariat-General of the Academy received the news of the death of the forgiven – by the permission of Allah – His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain. On behalf of the Secretariat-General of the Academy, its scholars and personnel, we extend our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Monarch of the

Kingdom of Bahrain – may Allah preserve and protect him – , and to the people and government of the guarded Kingdom of Bahrain.

We pray to Allah the Almighty to grant the deceased His great mercy and make him abide in His vast paradise among the prophets, the truthful, the martyrs, the righteous and these are the best companions.

We also ask Allah the Most High, to bestow patience and solace to his family and loved ones.

Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano  
Secretary-General of the Academy

## H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano participates in the meeting of the Islamic Advisory Group and the International Islamic University of Malaysia



The Secretary General of the Academy participated through videoconferencing in the consultative meeting held between the Islamic Advisory Group, represented by Dr. Yaqub alMajroui and the International Islamic University of Malaysia, represented by the Honorable Rector Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak.

The meeting is part of the Academy's efforts aiming at strengthening coordination and cooperation among institutions and centres working for the dissemination of authentic Islamic knowledge and raising moderation based on awareness of the principles of the Islamic teachings.

Again, the meeting discussed ways and means of cooperation in the field of academic studies and research based on evidence and principles of Shariah in the high priority areas of health for Muslim countries and societies. The meeting also discussed the importance of coordination and the need for cooperation in order to build



Professor Zulkifli Abdul Razzaq



Dr. Yaqub Al-Mazraa

ies generally. His Excellency also suggested to the parties the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions, in order to define and monitor the framework and areas of cooperation envisaged between the two parties.

This memorandum shall define ways and means to achieve what is agreed upon between them.

Yet, it should be noted that the Islamic Advisory Group is a medical consultative body which is entrusted to providing advice and support to the

World Health Organization's efforts in polio eradication as well as to providing advice on health care issues to Muslim countries. The Group includes representatives from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, the Islamic Development Bank Group and Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, with the Academy and Al-Azhar Al-Sharif as co-chairs.

bridges of productive and constructive collaboration between the International Islamic University of Malaysia and the Executive Committee of the Islamic Advisory Group. In his speech, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano stressed the need to move towards a comprehensive integration in the field of public health particularly and medical stud-

General Supervisor  
**Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano**  
Secretary of the International Islamic  
Fiqh Academy

Editor-in-chief  
**Dr. Ayman Mohammed  
Abdul Karim**

Manager of Public  
Relations and Media  
**Muhammad Walid  
Al-Idrisi**

Photography  
**Amjad Mansi**  
Translation  
**Jawzi Lardjane**

For more information, Please visit us at the  
following addresses:

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia P.O. Box 13719, Jeddah 21414  
Phone: (+96612) 6900347/6900346/2575662  
Fax: (+96612) 2575661/6979329

## H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano participates in the press conference of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary-General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, participated on Monday 01 Rabi' al-Akhir 1442 corresponding to 16 November 2020, in the virtual press conference of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), held within the framework of the ceremony announcing the fatwah of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy to the UNHCR, which allows it to receive funds from Zakat (obligatory charity) and Sadaqa (voluntary charity) from all over the world and distribute them to deserving people such as refugees and displaced people.

This conference coincides with the launch of the biannual report of the UNHCR on Islamic charities, which shows that the Refugee Zakat Fund received \$46 million in Zakat and \$9.2 million in charitable funds between January and June 2020, despite the repercussions of the Covid 19 pandemic. This major charity project aims to save the lives of more than 1.8 million refugees and displaced people throughout the year.



المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة  
لشؤون اللاجئين



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano stated that the International Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation considers participation in managing and/or providing the necessary support to deserving and needy displaced people and refugees as a Shariah duty, a moral responsibility, and noble human objective, as our true Islamic faith teaches us cooperation, compassion and solidarity. Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam, which aims at providing assistance and support to the needy at all times and in all places, based on the principles of

mercy, solidarity and compassion that the Prophet called for, may the prayers and peace of Allah be upon him.

His Excellency appealed to affluent people, whether individuals or groups around the world, to provide support and assistance to refugees and displaced persons who are struggling against death and suffering from poverty, diseases and urgent needs. His Excellency also expressed the hope that the fatwah issued by the Academy, which allows the UNHCR to receive Zakat and charity funds, will be the beginning of a long-term partnership

between the Academy and UNHCR, in the hope of expanding the scope of support and outreach to individuals and families in need.

In his part, Mr. Khaled Khalifa, UNHCR Representative in the Gulf Co-operation Council countries and its Advisor on Islamic Finance, expressed his thanks and appreciation to H. E. Prof. Koutoub Sano for his participation in this press conference, and to the International Islamic Fiqh Academy for the fatwah authorizing the UNHCR to receive Zakat and charity funds.

UNHCR requested an additional \$211.3 million to meet the needs of approximately 3.8 million refugees and displaced persons in the MENA region, especially as the winter season approaches. It should be noted that the UNHCR is leading an international campaign to protect those who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflicts and persecutions by providing them with shelter, food, water, and safety.

## The Secretary General of International Islamic Fiqh Academy attends the virtual meeting of the Muslim Council of Elders



A virtual meeting of the Muslim Council of Elders (MCE) took place on October 26th 2020 chaired by His Eminence Grand Imam Shaikh of al-Azhar Dr. Ahmed al-Tayyib the Chairman of the Board of the MCE. H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, the Secretary General of International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) participated in the meeting as member of the Council. The attendees debated the current affairs of the Muslim world and the vicious attacks aimed at the Prophet (PBUH) from a



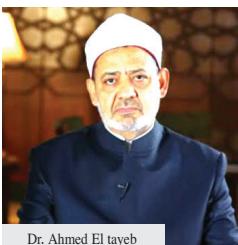
few international media outlets. The meeting also covered the projects the Council plans to execute in the next three years including issuing a book answering the most common hundred questions asked about Islam and Muslims. At the end of the meeting the Council issued a statement declaring the formation of a legal committee to sue the newspapers smearing the Muslim holy symbols especially the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

# 7th Annual Meeting of the Islamic Advisory Group under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen, with the participation of H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Humaid

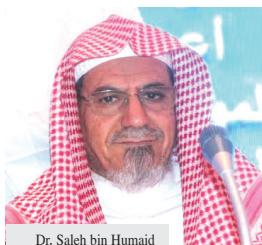
Under the patronage of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and with the participation of the Secretariat-General of the Academy, the Rectorship of Al-Azhar al-Sharif, the Islamic Development Bank and the World Health Organization, the Islamic Advisory Group held its 7th annual meeting via videoconferencing on 22 Rabi' al-Aakhir 1442 corresponding to 7 December 2020.

This meeting came at a critical time due to the persistent outbreak of poliovirus in Afghanistan and Pakistan, which raises global concerns about the health of children in these two countries. The meeting urged the governments of both countries to accelerate efforts to eradicate the disease as quickly as possible. The meeting also confirmed its commitment to this global initiative and its alignment with the OIC's Strategic Health Action Programme.

In his opening speech, H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen, OIC-SG, said that while states and peoples continue to fight this severe health emergency of the modern era, it is important not to neglect the main objective of the work of the Advisory Group, which is to ensure the eradication of polio in other countries of the OIC.



Dr. Ahmed El tayeb



Dr. Saleh bin Humaid



Dr. Yousef Al-Uthaimeen



Dr. Bandar Hajjar



Dr. Koutoub Sano

H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Humaid, President of the Academy, also stated in his speech that despite the painful impact of the corona pandemic in the world, which has resulted in the death of more than one and a half million people in addition to restricting many activities in the daily life of the public, has still raised awareness of health issues, and has strengthened their commitment to preventive mea-

sures and made them more grateful for the favors of their Creator such as good health and well-being.

Prof. Muhammad Abd al-Rahman al-Dhawini, the representative of the Grand Imam and Sheikh Al-Azhar, condemned the voices questioning the validity of polio vaccination campaigns. For his part, Dr. Mansour Mukhtar, representative of the President of the Islamic Development Bank, affirmed the IDB's commitment to continue coopera-

tion with all partners to help Member states in achieving the third of the sustainable development objectives related to health and welfare for all OIC Member states. Mr. Yaqoub Al-Mazrou presented a detailed report on the activities of the Advisory Group since its last meeting.

At the end of the meeting, the Secretary-General of the Academy, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, delivered the final statement of the meeting calling on Muslim states and peoples to support the efforts of the Islamic Advisory Group by implementing the wise guidelines and constructive suggestions included in this statement, which are capable of eradicating polio and eliminating measles as well as other types of diseases and epidemics.

It should be noted that the Islamic Advisory Group is an Islamic federation established in 2013 under the co-chairmanship of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and Al-Azhar Al-Sharif to support the World Health Organization in its efforts to eradicate polio and provide health services to the OIC Member states.

## Via teleconference. The Secretary General attend the Fifteenth International Conference of Sharia Specialists in Islamic Finance

At the invitation of the International Academy of Sharia Research in Islamic Finance (ISRA) in Malaysia, the Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, Professor Koutoub Moustapha SANO, delivered the keynote address of the 15th International Conference of Sharia Specialists in Islamic Finance held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Tuesday and Wednesday 23-24 Rabi' al-Awwal 1442 AH corresponding to November 10-11, 2020.

The title of His Excellency's speech was emphasized on the foundations of the application of Islamic jurisprudence on contemporary financial transactions.

His Excellency addressed in his speech the most important foundations from which the contemporary jurist should start when he/she wants to apply the established rules of Sharia on modern financial transactions and new contracts. These methodological foundations relate to three sub-



jects, namely:

ensuring that there is a close link between new transactions on the one hand and the Shariah objectives relating to transactions on the other.

These objectives boil down to preservation of the wealth, its circulation, justice, clarity and stability. The legality and illegality of a new contract or a new transaction depends on its link with these objectives.

As for the second foundation, it is represented in the imperative need to compare between the interests and the evils resulting from the new transaction or the new contract. As for the third foundation, it is represented through taking into account the consequences which would result from the legality or the prohibition of modern transaction. The effects and results of the new transaction or the new contract shall determine whether a transaction could be allowed or prohibited.

His Excellency provided extensive information on this topic and its importance to better clarify the provisions of the Shariah relating to new transactions. His Excellency's keynote address was widely appreciated and commented on.

## Within the series of the regular administrative meetings

### 2nd Periodic Meeting of the Heads of the IIFA Departments

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano chaired the 2nd periodic meeting of the heads of the Academy's departments, held on Thursday 25 Rabi Al-Awal 1442, corresponding to 12 November 2020.

His Excellency opened the meeting by reminding the attendants that the Academy was established to be the Shariah arm of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). His Excellency called for all officials to adhere to the corporate values of the Academy. He also called on the administrative and financial affairs department to provide an appropriate working environment within the Academy to enable each employee to be creative in his work.

His Excellency also suggested to cooperate with external translators to translate the



publications of the Academy and distribute them to non-Arabic speaking countries. His Excellency asked each department to provide its financial budget proposal as soon as possible, and approved the proposal made regarding the launching of a monthly prize for the ideal employee in the Academy.

His Excellency also approved the proposal

to write the biographies of the colleagues who worked at the Academy to showcase their efforts in the service of this outstanding Islamic edifice. He instructed the IT Division to prepare a comprehensive vision for the technological needs of the offices to modernize and improve performances. His Excellency also assured that all the publications of the Academy will be distributed free of charge to legal and academic institutions around the world at the Academy's expense.

At the end of the meeting, His Excellency greeted and thanked all departments for their efforts, who are all promising well for the significant positive changes expected by the end of the first 100 days of his tenure as Secretary General of the Academy.

### The Departments' Directors 8th weekly Meeting



H. E. Prof. Koutoub Sano held by videoconferencing the eighth weekly meeting of the directors of the Academy's departments, on Monday 15 Rabi' al-Akhir 1442 corresponding to 30 November 2020.

After greeting the participants, His Excellency spoke of the great success of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member states in Niger on Friday and Saturday 12-13 of Rabi al-Akhir 1442, corresponding to 27-28 November 2020, by auguring well to the Secretariat General of the Academy that the amendments to the Statute of the Academy has been approved. The most important amendments concern the change of the name of the "Secretariat of the Academy" to "Secretariat General of the Academy" and the name of the "Secretary of the Academy" to "Secretary General of the Academy".

His Excellency commended the outstanding efforts of the late H.E. Prof. Abdulsalam al-Abbad and his team which led to this fruitful and blessed change. His Excellency also congratulated the personnel of the Academy for completing the brochure in the three languages as well as the newsletter which was widely distributed among the attendees.

His Excellency thanked Mr. Mohamed Silla Al-Bachir, Head of the Warehouse and Library Division, for his remarkable efforts to facilitate the procedures and the successful participation of His Excellency in the Conference of the Foreign Ministers.

The meeting reached some decisions, the most important of which are the following:

- To organize the first scientific forum between the Academy and the members of the Shariah councils in the banks and financial institutions of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in January 2021.

- To Organize a specialized jurisprudential economic symposium on the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on contracts, transactions, marriage, criminal matters and treaties.

- To Organize a specialized symposium on the sanctity of blood to respond to several crimes committed by extremist terrorist organizations and groups in the name of religion. This symposium will act like a Forum to affirm the sanctity of the blood of different people, whether in religion or doctrine.

- To inform the official authorities of the headquarters country and those of the OIC Member states about the approval of the amended statute of the Academy in its final form.

### 6th Weekly Meeting of the Directors of Department

Under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, the sixth weekly meeting of the Academy's departments was held on Sunday 29 Rabi 'Al-Awal 1442, corresponding to 15 November 2020.

H. E. Prof. Koutoub Sano opened the meeting by inviting the participants to continue the work and efforts to realize the vision of the Academy and fulfill its mission and objectives by diligently pursuing and coordinating hard work in implementing its programs and activities. His Excellency addressed the importance of cooperation and integration in enhancing performance and promoting the Academy to become – in fact – the first reference in jurisprudence for the Muslim world and Muslim societies.

His Excellency also spoke about the importance of accelerating the finalization of an integrated conception of an urgent and focused scientific symposium on "the Sanctity of Blood" in Islam, in response to the



mistakes that terrorist organizations and groups commit in the name of religion and who exploit it to justify their ends. This symposium will be a platform to affirm the sanctity of the blood of all people from different religions or doctrines.

The meeting resulted in several decisions, notably the following:

- Calling on the Department of Research and Studies to present an integrated plan for a specialized symposium on the sanctity of blood, to be organized in cooperation

with centers, councils, and major academic institutions inside and outside the Muslim world.

- To organize the first scientific forum between the Academy and the heads and secretaries of Shariah boards of Islamic banks and financial institutions in the GCC in December.

- To organize a coordination and consultation meeting between the Academy and coordination bodies, such as the General Council for Islamic Banks, AAOIFI, Islamic Financial Services Boards and the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI-IDB).

- To organize a consultative meeting with the King Salman Center for Moderation to identify possible methods and means of cooperation between the center and the Academy in the field of combating extremist ideologies.

### Within the framework of periodic administrative meetings, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano chaired the 7th weekly meeting of departments directors

Under the chairmanship of H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, the seventh weekly meeting of the directors of the Academy's departments was held on Tuesday, 09 Rabi Al Thani 1442, corresponding to 25 November 2020. His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and thanking them for their continuous efforts in implementing the decisions of previous meetings as this enables the Academy to realize its vision, fulfill its mission and achieve it in a distinctive manner.

His Excellency congratulated the participants in the publication of the first monthly newsletter entitled the "Academy News", which aims at publishing the activities of the Academy on a monthly basis and at familiarizing the world with the past and future activities of the Academy. His Excellency particularly commended Dr. Ayman Abdel Karim, Media and Finance Advisor to the SG, Media, Public Relations and I.T Department, the Translation Division and all the staff of the Secretariat for their contribution to the publication of this newslet-



ter, the first of its kind since the Academy has been created forty years ago.

His Excellency informed the participants that a quarterly magazine will be published to record the activities of the Academy every three months, in addition to an annual magazine to document its activities on an annual basis.

His Excellency confirmed that the resolutions and recommendations of the Academy would be ready for printing after all revisions and proofreading are made, and also thanked the Department of Research, Studies and Encyclopedias for completing

the revision of the resolutions and recommendations from the 2nd to 24th sessions. The meeting reached a number of decisions, notably the following:

- To hold the 25th session of the Academy towards the end of October 2021, in sha Allah.

- To hold the first scientific forum between the Academy and the members of the Shariah councils in the banks and financial institutions of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in January 2021.

- To Organize a specialized jurisprudential economic symposium on the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on contracts, transactions, marriage, criminal matters and treaties.

- To Organize a specialized symposium on the sanctity of blood to respond to several crimes committed by extremist terrorist organizations and groups in the name of religion. This symposium will act like a Forum to affirm the sanctity of the blood of different people, whether in religion or doctrine.