

## Secretary General leads the Delegation of Muslim Scholars to visit Kabul



In implementation of the decision of the Ministerial Council of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at its extraordinary session in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan last December, stipulated that the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) leads a delegation of the scholars of the Muslim Ummah to visit Afghanistan in order to discuss and dialogue with the current authority in Afghanistan about a number of issues and questions, such as the issue of women's education and work, tolerance and coexistence, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha

Sano, Secretary General of the Academy and the delegation of Muslim scholars, arrived on Monday, 21 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1443H corresponding to 20 June 2022G, to the Afghan capital, Kabul. The delegation participating in this first visit of its kind consists of His Eminence Prof. Qibla Ayaz, from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Her Eminence Prof. Dr. Amani Lopes, from the Republic of Indonesia, His Eminence Imam Al-Daraqutni, from the Republic of Indonesia, His Eminence Mr. Zulfi Mustafa, from the Republic of Indonesia, His Eminence Dr. Mohammed Younis Al-Zoubi, from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Eminence Dr. Omar Abdel Hamid Al-Taboush, from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Eminence Dr. Tahir Toral, from the Republic of Turkey and His Eminence Mr. Abdul Jalil Al-Bakiri, from the Republic of Turkey. The delegation is also accompanied by the Ambassador Tariq Bakheet, Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian, Cultural and Social Affairs of the OIC, Dr. Faisal Sharabi, General director of Administrative and financial Affairs,

OIC, M. Amjad Ibrahim, Head of Protocol Division, IIFA and Dr. Yasmi Adriansyah Yunus, Assistant to the OIC Special Envoy for Afghanistan. The delegation was received upon its arrival in Kabul by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, the representatives of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. HE Prof. Sano thanked the current authority for the warm reception, stressing his aspiration for fruitful meetings with scholars and senior officials from the current authority in Afghanistan in order to clarify the provisions of Shariah about issues related to tolerance, girl's education and women's work.



## Delegation of Muslim Scholars meets with the Ambassadors of the OIC in Kabul

The delegation of the Ummah's scholars visiting Afghanistan held on Monday 21 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1443H, corresponding to 20 June 2022G, a consultative meeting with their Excellencies, ambassadors and representatives of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) accredited to Afghanistan, upon its arrival in Kabul. H.E. Ambassador Tariq Bakhit, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Humanitarian, Cultural and Social Affairs and the Special Envoy of the OIC to Afghanistan, began the meeting by thanking the ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions for accepting the OIC's invitation to meet with the delegation of the Ummah's scholars who had just arrived in Kabul Under the leadership of His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, in implementation of the decision



of the Ministerial Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the OIC in its extraordinary session in Islamabad last December. Then His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy, head of the delegation, spoke about the importance of this visit, which is the first of its kind for Muslim scholars since the current authority assumed the reins of government in Afghanistan. He thanked the ambassadors and

representatives of diplomatic representations for attending this meeting, which aims to inform them about the mission of the delegation, and the message that it would like to convey to the current authority, noting in the meantime that the delegation looks forward to hearing their suggestions and ideas in order to enable them to achieve the desired goals of the visit. Subsequently, each of the ambassadors and representatives presented their views and suggestions to the delegation, wishing it success in its mission. The meeting was attended by ambassadors and representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Turkish Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Director of the OIC's office in Kabul, Dr. Muhammad Saeed Al Ayyash.

## Delegation of Muslim Scholars meets with UN Agencies in Kabul



The delegation of Muslim scholars visiting Afghanistan, met on Monday 21 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1443H corresponding to 20 June 2022G, with representatives of the various agencies of the United Nations working in Afghanistan in Kabul. The Ambassador Tariq Ali Bakheet, the Assistant Secretary General of the OIC, and the Special Envoy of the OIC to Afghanistan, thanked them for their keenness to cooperate and coordinate with the OIC in order to provide the support and assistance that the Afghan people need at this stage, especially in the relief and humanitarian fields. Then HE Prof Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano,

Secretary General of the Academy and head of the delegation, thanked representatives of various UN agencies for their commendable efforts in helping the Afghan people and supporting development and relief projects. He also assured them of the delegation's readiness to cooperate and coordinate in whatever they needed. Then he presented to the attendees a brief overview of the Academy as the supreme jurisprudential reference for the Muslim Ummah inside and outside the Muslim world, pointing out that the visit of the scholars to Afghanistan is one of the main activities and tasks carried out by the Academy which aims at enlightening and clarifying of the provisions of Shariah and the teachings of Islam. Accordingly "The scholars are looking forward to meeting with the distinguished scholars and the officials from the current authority in order to discuss with them a number of issues and questions of concern to Muslims in Afghanistan, especially the issue of tolerance and harmony between followers of religions and sects, the issue

of women's education, and the participation of Afghan women in the efforts of nation building. We hope that the delegation's meetings will contribute to achieving more progress, stability, security and safety for the Afghan people." Then the representatives of the agencies talked about the activities of their agencies, and their aspiration to cooperate and coordinate with the OIC. Subsequently, each of the representatives presented their views and suggestions to the delegation, wishing it success in its mission.





## Afghan Minister of Justice receives the Delegation of Muslim Scholars in Kabul



H.E. Mullah Abdul Hakim Shari'i, Acting Minister of Justice in the current authority in Afghanistan, received on Tuesday 21 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1443H corresponding to 22 June 2022G, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, and the accompanying delegation of Muslim scholars at the Ministry of Justice in Kabul, Afghanistan. He welcomed the delegation and thanked them for visiting Afghanistan at this difficult stage that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is going through. For his part, His Excellency the Secretary General, head of the delegation, thanked the current authority in Afghanistan for the warm welcome, and the minister for meeting the delegation at the beginning of its visit to Afghanistan. He presented an introductory overview of the Academy as the supreme jurisprudential reference for the Muslim Ummah inside and outside the Muslim world. Then he stressed that the objectives of the visit of the delegation of Muslim scholars, were to discuss with the scholars and officials of Afghanistan a number of issues of concern to the Afghan people, especially the issue of tolerance and harmony among followers of religions and the issue of women's education and work. In this regard, he spoke about the importance of spreading the culture of moderation, tolerance and coexistence in Islam, citing a number of the verses of the Noble Qur'an and the authentic Sunnah of the Prophet, that "forbid compulsion in religion, such as ((Let there be no compulsion in religion)). Consequently these verses establish coexistence and tolerance. In other words, extremism and terrorism are all crimes committed in the name of Islam, and Islam is innocent from it." Also he clarified that "education in Islam is considered a sacred and fixed right over which there is no dispute. It is also a great obligation for every Muslim in society, and it is not permissible to differentiate between a man and a woman, because the Quranic and hadith texts on this topic ordering to seek knowledge never differentiated between man and woman, nor between young and old, but rather made it obligatory for everyone to request it. Further the verse "read" is an order for the Noble Prophet, upon whom be the best prayer and peace, to read which is the request for knowledge, and this matter is an order for his

entire Ummah. Also the hadith which states that: {seeking knowledge is an obligation for every Muslim, male and female} is a clear text that seeking knowledge is obligatory for both sexes without distinction." He added that educating women is one of the most emphatic duties and the greatest of offerings that ensures the education of generations, because woman is the most influential school that should be prepared in an integrated manner, which requires concerted efforts and harnessing all capabilities in order to ensure her education in all modern educational stages and in all areas that society needs such as medicine, nursing, economics, architecture, engineering, literature, language and others. As for women's work, he explained that "work is an obligation and a duty for both sexes as evidenced by the texts of the Noble Qur'an, the honorable Sunnah of the Prophet, and the consensus of the Ummah. During the prophetic era women were allowed to do all the jobs that men used to do, such as trade, dyeing, weaving, teaching, and nursing, etc. Moreover work is



considered as an act of worship for both sexes, such as prayer, zakat, fasting, Hajj and others, and Islam never differentiated between a male and a female, or a man and a woman in performing the above-mentioned duties and obligations, likewise, it never differentiated between the sexes in the obligation to work, and therefore, preventing one of them, male or female, from carrying out this great duty contradicts the teachings of the religion that commanded it to them." Certainly, woman's work is in fact a matter of consensus among the scholars of the Ummah, and it is not permissible to leave this clear Shariah duty for considerations that contradict what is

indicated by the texts of the Qur'an, Sunnah and consensus. He clarified that "women's work is not in any way considered to be displaying, rather the forbidden displaying is the displaying of the pre-Islamic era in which women do not adhere to the Islamic veil. Also a woman's work is in no way considered a violation of the order to stay home that was mentioned in Surat Al-Ahzab ((Settle in your homes, and do not display yourselves as women did in the days of pre-Islamic ignorance)), because the command to stay home in this verse is specific to the Prophet's wives, peace and blessings be upon him, because, as the verse stipulates, they are not like any of the women, and therefore, they are commanded to wear two types of hijab, and they are: the hijab of persons, the hijab of the body, and according to the veil of persons, they are obliged to stay indoors and do not go out except for necessity, and according to the veil of the body, they must adhere to the well-known Shariah veil when they go out of necessity. As for the rest of the Muslim women, it is agreed upon that they are not concerned with the hijab of persons that necessitates staying in the homes, but with hijab of the body, which requires adherence to the Shariah rules of dress, which is the well-known Islamic veil." Accordingly, the delegation called on the current authority to do everything in its power to enable Afghan girls to quickly return to schools and to allow Afghan women to work and participate in the efforts of renaissance of new Afghanistan. HE the Minister reassured the delegation of conveying the scholars' appeal to the concerned authorities.



## Afghan Minister of Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice meets with the Delegation of Muslim scholars in Kabul

His Excellency Sheikh Muhammad Khalid Hanafi, Acting Minister of Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice in the current authority in Afghanistan, met with a delegation of Muslim scholars visiting Kabul headed by Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, at the headquarters of the Ministry in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday 22 Dhul Qi'dah 1443H corresponding to 21 June 2022G. HE the Minister thanked the delegation for visiting Afghanistan, noting that his ministry is working hard to enable the Afghan people to adhere to the teachings of Islam and Afghan traditions in all areas of life. For his part, HE the Secretary General thanked the ruling authority in Afghanistan for the warm reception and hospitality. Then he presented an introductory overview of the Academy and explained that the visit of the delegation of Muslim scholars comes in implementation of the decision of the Ministerial Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which recommended that the Academy to discuss and engage with the current authority, scholars and officials, on a number of issues and topics of concern to the Afghan people, foremost of which is the issue of tolerance, coexistence and harmony among followers of religions, the issue of women's education and work.



In order to achieve this, he spoke about the importance of adhering to the approach of moderation, and spreading the culture of tolerance and coexistence in Afghan society, in compliance with what was decided by the texts of the Qur'an, Sunnah and consensus of forbidding compulsion in religion. He also spoke about the importance of educating both sexes, male and female, and not to differentiate between them, in compliance with the consensus of the Ummah that seeking knowledge is an obligation for every Muslim, and that knowledge is an act of worship in which it is not permissible to differentiate between males and females. He also spoke about the importance of the participation of both sexes in the efforts to build the state of Afghanistan by enabling men and women to work in all areas of life that each one of them is good thus work is considered in Islam as an act of worship like knowledge and one

of the pillars of Islam, faith, and virtues mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, the honorable Sunnah. He concluded by expressing the aspiration of the delegation of scholars for the ministry, through its agencies and in cooperation with all state agencies, to enhance awareness of these topics and the aforementioned issues, in accordance with the Shariah regulations decided by the rulers in every era and state to safeguard religion and rule the country. In response to the delegation, HE the Minister thanked the delegation for the advice and of the reminder to the current authority of its responsibility before God and the Afghan people. He also promised the delegation that he would convey sincerely and honestly the suggestions and opinions presented by the scholars, calling the delegation to future visits to Afghanistan whenever the opportunity arose.



## Afghan Minister of Interior welcomes the Delegation of Muslim Scholars in Kabul



His Excellency Mullah Sirajuddin Haqqani, Acting Minister of Interior of the ruling authority in Afghanistan, welcomed the delegation of Muslim scholars visiting Kabul, led by His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), on Wednesday 22 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1443H corresponding to 23 June 2022G at the headquarters of the Ministry of Interior in the Afghan capital, Kabul. His Excellency the Minister warmly welcomed the delegation and thanked them for visiting Afghanistan. He also thanked the Ummah's scholars for their concern for the future of the Afghan people, stressing that this visit is the first visit of a large delegation at a high level to the Islamic Emirate since its arrival to power, noting in this regard the emirate's aspiration to call upon Muslim countries to recognize the ruling authority in Afghanistan as the only legitimate

authority representing the Afghan people. For his part, the Secretary General, head of the delegation, began his speech on behalf of the delegation by expressing the delegation's great pleasure and great appreciation for the generous hospitality and warm welcome, thanking him for the efforts exerted by his ministry in ensuring security and safety throughout Afghanistan, praising what has been achieved in this regard recently. Then His Excellency spoke about the Academy as the supreme jurisprudential reference for the Muslim Ummah in everything related to clarifying the Shariah rulings in calamities and issues of concern to Muslims everywhere, pointing out that it is the largest scientific institution for collective ijtihaad in the present era, which makes its resolutions and recommendations acceptable to the Ummah. He explained that the visit of the delegation of Muslim scholars to Afghanistan, led by the Academy, came in implementation of the decision recommended by the Ministerial Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), with the aim of discussing with the scholars of Afghanistan and Afghan officials on a number of issues and topics of concern to the Afghan people, especially the issue of tolerance, coexistence and harmony between followers of religions and sects, the issue of extremism and terrorism, and the issue of women's education and work. The delegation of scholars then exchanged with

His Excellency on the aforementioned topics in a friendly and frank manner, as well as on how to translate the proposals made by the delegation into a tangible and permanent reality, especially with regard to the empowerment of both sexes in education at all educational levels, and ensuring the participation of Afghan women in building and progressing efforts in accordance with the Shariah regulations, as well as working to spread the culture of moderation, tolerance, coexistence and harmony among the components of the Afghan people, with their races, sects and ethnicities. His Excellency the Minister concluded the meeting by renewing his thanks and appreciation to the delegation, promising that the Islamic Emirate will spare no effort in achieving security, safety, stability and prosperity for all members of the Afghan people without discrimination. He hoped that the delegation's visits to Afghanistan would be repeated in the future.





## Delegation of Muslim Scholars talk with Afghan Scholars in Kabul



The delegation of Muslim scholars headed by His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), held, on Wednesday 23 Dhul Al-Qi'dah 1443H corresponding to 22 June 2022G, a consultative meeting with influential Afghan scholars at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul. His Excellency Maulvi Muttaqi Amir Khan, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs welcomed the delegation of Muslim scholars and the Special Envoy of the OIC to Afghanistan, and the Director General of the OIC's Office in Kabul and thanked them for the visit, noting that this delegation is the largest delegation to visit Kabul after the Taliban came to power ten months ago. This visit is also a confirmation of the great interest of the OIC member states in the Afghan issue. He then "made it clear that the current authority needs some time to enhance security and stability throughout the country, and to meet the necessary needs of the Afghan people in terms of food, medicine, infrastructure etc".. Therefore, he appeals to the honorable scholars "to mediate with their countries in order to speed up the recognition of the ruling authority in Afghanistan as the only legitimate authority representing the Afghan people, and as the only authority that controls the entire Afghan territory without exception, as all the country's governorates (35 in total), are today under the authority of the Islamic Emirate". He also appeals to the scholars "to mediate with their countries in order to release Afghanistan's assets illegally held by some countries". In response to this, HE Prof. Sano, head of the delegation, thanked the current authority for the hospitality and warm welcome. He expressed the great gratitude of the Academy for the reverence and respect the current authority grants for scholars in confirmation of the known Afghan traditions of glorifying science and scholars, and revering saints and elders. Then he gave an introductory overview of the Academy, stressing that "this delegation represents the Ummah's trusted scholars in the member states of the OIC, and they carry with them a message of affection, and respect for the eminent scholars of Afghanistan, and their visit to Afghanistan comes within the framework of their fulfillment of their duty to clarify matters, and to give advice to the Muslim Rulers and common Muslims in compliance with his saying of the Prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him and his family: {Religion is advice, we said to whom? He said: to God, his Prophet, his book, to Muslim rulers, and common Muslims}. Their advice to their honorable fellow scholars revolves around

a number of issues that have recently raised questions and inquiries that deserve dialogue such as the issue of girls' education, the issue of women's work, and the issue of tolerance and coexistence." As for the girls' education, he said: "There is a consensus among the scholars of the Ummah that seeking knowledge is obligatory for both sexes, male and female, and there is equally a consensus that seeking knowledge is one of the most emphatic duties. The evidence for this obligation is contained in the folds of many Shariah texts in the Holy Quran and the honorable Sunnah that never differentiated between the sexes, and forbid scholars to differentiate between them as our distinguished scholars in Afghanistan know that. Accordingly, the delegation of scholars came to dialogue with their brothers on how to implement this clear divine command, especially with regard to educating Afghan girls, by removing all the obstacles that prevent this, in order to avoid falling into the forbidden of non-compliance with the command of God, which seek knowledge is compulsory upon every Muslim." As for the issue of Afghan women's work, he addressed the Afghan scholars saying, "You, our sheikhs and professors, know very well that working in our religion is a duty that God has enjoined upon every capable and adult person, where they are rewarded for their action and punishment for leaving it without excuse. There is no difference between it and other imposed Shariah duties such as prayer, zakat, fasting, pilgrimage etc.. just as there is no difference in its obligation between a man and a woman as stipulated by numerous texts from the Noble Qur'an, the honorable Sunnah, and the consensus of the Ummah, as the Almighty says: ((Tell them, O Prophet, Do as you will. Your deeds will be observed by Allah, His Messenger, and the believers)) and his saying ((Whoever does good, whether male or female, and is a believer, we will surely bless them with a good life, and We will certainly reward them according to the best of their deeds)) and others. Therefore, the scholars of the Ummah are looking forward to seeing the scholars of Afghanistan playing their aspired role in correcting misconceptions on this subject, especially those that contradict the texts and do not distinguish between the texts specific to Prophet's wives and the general texts that stipulate the obligation to work on both sexes. The Ummah's scholars hope from the scholars of Afghanistan to continue their efforts in promoting awareness of the importance of the participation of men and women in the efforts of construction, progress and development in the Islamic Emirate in compliance with the command of God Almighty". As for the issue of tolerance

and harmony among the components of the Afghan people, he explained by saying, "You, our great scholars, agree with me that this is an eternal Islamic principle, and a prophetic approach to governance, and therefore the commitment of the Islamic Emirate to this approach will achieve stability and broad participation of all segments of Afghan society in nation building, and your outstanding efforts in supporting this trend with the ruling authority are much appreciated". He concluded by renewing his thanks to the scholars for listening attentively to his advice, and to the advice given by each member of the delegation. Then His Eminence Sheikh Maulvi Muhammad Ismail, the chief of the influential scholars of Afghanistan, who in turn welcomed the delegation of Muslim scholars, thanking them for visiting Afghanistan after the Afghan people regained their independence after four decades of wars that destroyed everything. He then gave a focused overview of what the Afghan people were subjected to during four decades of humiliation that impoverished the people, widowed women, orphaned children, and impacted Afghan traditions and customs, noting that "the Islamic Emirate needs considerable time to repair what was spoiled by years of wars and foreign occupation, the distinguished scholars of Muslim world should understand these difficult conditions that the State is going through since God enabled it to extend its influence over all Afghan territories". He affirmed that the issues raised by the delegation, especially girls' education, are considered by the Islamic Emirate as one of the most important priorities of the Emirate, which fully believes in the right of both sexes to education as well as in their right to work. However, there are obstacles and difficult conditions that impede the return of some girls to school. Once these obstacles are removed, they will be allowed to return to school. As for the issue of tolerance and coexistence between followers of religions and sects, he explained that the Emirat Islam guarantees minorities the right to practice their faith freely and respectfully, and that it included in its ministries and agencies representatives of different races and ethnicities to confirm its tolerance and acceptance of coexistence. He concluded by inviting a number of Afghan scholars to comment on what their fellow scholars said. Then, HE the Minister of Foreign Affairs concluded the meeting by inviting the delegation of scholars to visit Afghanistan whenever circumstances allowed them to do so, stressing that the Emirate benefited from the good advice given by the delegation of the Ummah's scholars.

## Afghan Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs welcomes the delegation of Muslim scholars in Kabul



His Excellency Maulvi Abdul Kabir, Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs of the ruling authority in Afghanistan, welcomed the delegation of Muslim scholars visiting Kabul headed by His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), on Thursday 24 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1443H corresponding to 23 June 2022G, at the Prime Ministry headquarters in the Afghan capital, Kabul. His Excellency began his speech by welcoming the delegation of Muslim scholars and thanking them for coming to Kabul to check on the Afghan people, and to meet their counterparts from prominent Afghan scholars and officials in the Afghan government, hoping that this visit would be followed by other visits of scholars and officials from Muslim countries. His Excellency then spoke about the Islamic Emirate's aspiration to support Muslim peoples through its scholars, especially mediating with the leaders of the Muslim world in order to speed up the recognition of the ruling authority in Afghanistan, and to provide all kinds of aid that the Afghan people need after four decades of wars and turmoil.

For his part, His Excellency the Secretary General, head of the delegation, expressed the delegation's thanks to His Excellency for giving them the opportunity to meet him despite his many preoccupations. He also expressed the delegation's gratitude to the ruling authority for the great welcome, good reception, and generous hospitality, praising the historic meeting the day before, which for the first time brought together a delegation of Muslim scholars and prominent Afghan scholars. His Excellency then explained that "the visit of the delegation of Muslim scholars to Afghanistan, led by the Academy, comes in implementation of the decision of the Ministerial Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), with the aim of discussing and engaging with Afghan scholars on a number of issues and topics about which questions and inquiries were raised from the international community, especially the issue of the education of girls, the issue of tolerance and coexistence in Afghan society, and the issue of women's work and their participation in the efforts to build Afghanistan. It is known that our religion has clearly articulated its ruling on these issues, as it made seeking knowledge a duty for every Muslim man and woman, as it required work on every adult person male or female and made tolerance and coexistence a means to achieve the goal of acquaintance, synergy, cooperation and solidarity. Therefore, the delegation of scholars came in order to carry out the duty of advice, and to remind of the importance of dealing with

the mentioned issues and questions in accordance with what the noble Shariah commands." Then each member of the delegation expressed their suggestions aimed at removing all difficulties and obstacles that prevent girls from continuing their education at the intermediate and secondary levels. They also talked about the importance of enabling Afghan women to participate effectively in building society in accordance with the Shariah regulations established by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, and the importance of promoting moderation, spreading a culture of , tolerance and coexistence, and strengthening relations of cooperation and coordination with neighboring countries in order to achieve security, stability and prosperity for the Afghan people. At the end of the meeting, His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister renewed his heartfelt thanks and great appreciation to the delegation, promising that the Islamic Emirate is moving forward in establishing security, stability and achieving prosperity for all the Afghan people without distinction or discrimination.



## Afghan Minister of Minerals meets the Delegation of Muslim Scholars in Kabul

His Excellency Sheikh Maulvi Shihab-al-Din Dilawar, Acting Minister of Minerals and Energy, met on Thursday 24 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1443H corresponding to 23 June 2022G, with the delegation of Muslim scholars visiting Kabul, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Minerals in Kabul. HE the Minister thanked the delegation for the visit, stressing that this visit is a sincere expression of the great attention that the Afghan issue receives from the Ummah's scholars and thinkers. He also expressed his hope that this visit will be followed by other visits in order to strengthen the relations of affection and brotherhood between the Afghan people and the scholars of the Ummah. For his part, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, the Secretary General of the Academy and head of the delegation, expressed the delegation's thanks for the generous hospitality, praising the good efforts made by the current authority in maintaining the security and rule of law after many years of war and turmoil. Then he spoke about the position of the Academy in the Muslim world as the supreme jurisprudential reference for the Ummah that clarifies the Shariah rulings in issues of concern to Muslims in the world. He stressed that "the visit of the delegation to Afghanistan aims to dialogue with Afghan scholars and officials on a number of issues of concern to the Afghan people, on top of which are the issues of tolerance, girl's education, and women's work. He indicated that the delegation's visit to the Ministry of Minerals and Energy aims to talk with His Excellency not as Minister of Minerals and



Energy, but as one of the prominent and well-established scholars of Afghanistan with extensive experience and deep knowledge of the Holy Quran, the Noble Sunnah and Islamic heritage". He added: "The Ummah's scholars are fully confident that His Excellency and the scholars of Afghanistan share the clear and forthright Shariah opinion that seeking knowledge (=learning and teaching) is an act of worship that is imposed on everyone, whether man or woman, and that the Qur'anic and hadith texts do not differentiate between the two. The scholars of the Ummah know very well that His Excellency and the eminent scholars of Afghanistan share the same opinion that work is also an act of worship that is imposed on both sexes, and they must comply with that divine command. Finally, Muslim scholars are fully aware of the commendable efforts that His Excellency and the scholars of Afghanistan are making to correct misconceptions about women's education and work, and about the necessity of tolerance. Based on this, the delegation would like to remind

about the importance of compliance with the directives commanded by our religion namely allowing both sexes/boys and girls access to education at all educational levels, and ensuring the participation of Afghan women in the efforts to nation building and progress, and continuing efforts of promoting moderation and tolerance and harmony among the components of the Afghan people of all races and ethnicities". Then he gave the floor for the delegation members to give each their opinion on the aforementioned topics. HE the Minister renewed his thanks and appreciation to the delegation, noting that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is committed to achieving all the suggestions, explaining that the approach of the Afghanistan's scholars in da'wah for the Afghan people was and will continue to be based on the three scientific foundations that were referred to in the Almighty's saying. ((Invite all to the Way of your Lord with wisdom and kind advice, and only debate with them in the best manner)). He concluded by inviting the scholars to revisit Afghanistan in the coming days.





## Afghan Minister of Higher Education meets with the delegation of Muslim Scholars in Kabul

His Excellency Mullah Sheikh Abdul Baqi Bassir, Minister of Higher Education held, on Saturday 26 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1443H corresponding to 25 June 2022G, a meeting with the delegation of Muslim scholars visiting Kabul, headed by Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, at Kabul International Airport in Kabul. HE the Minister welcomed the delegation and thanked them for their visit, hoping that this visit would not be the last visit of the scholars and officials of the Ummah. Then, he touched on the efforts made and are still being made by the current authority in Afghanistan to enable all Afghans to receive education, noting in the meantime that universities are open to both sexes, and primary schools are also open to both sexes. As for the intermediate and secondary levels, they are still not open because of obstacles and difficulties that the authority looks forward to the cooperation and support of Muslim countries and the international community in order to remove them as soon as possible so that the girls of the two mentioned stages can resume their studies. He also affirmed that the Islamic Emirate fully believes that education is one of the basic rights of both sexes, and therefore it will do everything in its power to guarantee that right for all members of the Afghan society. He concluded by appealing to the delegation to mediate with their countries in order to provide moral support and material assistance which will help to upgrade



the infrastructure of educational institutions, and to lift restrictions on the movements of His Excellency, his deputy and some officials. For his part, His Excellency the Secretary General, head of the delegation, expressed the delegation's thanks to him for the opportunity of meeting with him despite his many preoccupations. He also expressed the delegation's gratitude to the ruling authority for the welcome and hospitality, praising the historic meeting that brought together the delegation and prominent Afghan scholars the other day. Then he clarified that the visit of the delegation to Afghanistan led by the Academy aims to discuss and engage with Afghan scholars and officials on a number of issues of concern to the Afghan people, especially the issue of girls' education and Afghan women's participation in nation building, and the issue of tolerance and coexistence among followers of religions and sects. He pointed out

that what the delegation heard from prominent Afghan scholars and senior officials on the subject of education in general and girls' education warmed their hearts and reassured them that the return of girls in the intermediate and secondary levels to their schools is only a matter of time, and will be achieved soon, after removing the difficulties and logistical obstacles that are considered the main reason for postponing the resumption of their studies. He noted that the delegation will convey with sincerity to the leaders of their countries the needs of the Afghan people and the current authority, and they will strive to meet those needs as soon as possible. At the end of the meeting, he renewed the delegation's invitation to visit Afghanistan again for consultation and dialogue on all issues and questions of concern to the Afghan people.



## Delegation of Muslim Scholars meets with Afghan Women Scholars in Kabul



His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy and Head of the delegation of Muslim Scholars to Afghanistan, met with the eminent women scholars of Afghanistan, on Saturday, 26 of Dhu al-Qa'dah, 1443 AH, corresponding to 25 June, 2021 AD, at the delegation's residence in the capital, Kabul. At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency welcomed the women scholars, and thanked them for their keenness to meet the delegation in order to discuss and exchange on various issues and issues related to Afghan women, especially girls' education, and allowing women to work and participate in the efforts of the country's reconstruction and advancement. He also thanked them for their great efforts in the field

of awareness, education and rehabilitation among Afghan women, stressing that the meetings that the delegation held with Afghan scholars and officials in the current authority were successful and reassuring, as there is a congruence between the views of the delegation and the views of scholars and officials, and the delegation did not find any opposition to the importance of girls' education and women's work. Accordingly, the problem is limited to the logistical capabilities that the authority promised to overcome them in due course in order to allow girls to return to school in the near future. As the women empowerment, the authority has begun to implement it gradually in different departments. His Excellency informed the women scholars that the delegation reminded

the distinguished scholars of Afghanistan and the honorable officials of the authority that seeking knowledge in Islam is obligatory for both sexes, as well as working for both sexes, therefore it is not permissible to prevent either sex from education or work as this is clearly stipulated in the texts of the Holy Quran, the honorable Sunnah and the consensus of the nation. His Excellency called on the female scholars to cooperate with the current authority in order to help Afghan girls and women. Then he asked Dr. Amani Lopes, member of the delegation of Muslim scholars, to address the women scholars on this occasion. Then the women scholars spoke one after another, expressing their thanks to the delegation, and pledged to continue cooperation and communication with the current authority in order to fasten the return of the girls to the schools and to enable women to work in the different departments of the Ministries within the Emirate. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad Saeed Al Ayyash, Director of the OIC office in Kabul.



## IIFA and the Islamic Cultural Center in London sign an MoU



Within the framework of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy's (IIFA) endeavor to build strategic partnership relations with scientific and research institutions and centers that work in the field of spreading the culture of moderation, tolerance, coexistence and harmony among followers of religions, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, and Dr. Ahmed Al-Dabyan, Director General of the London Central Mosque Trust and the Islamic Cultural Centre, signed, on Friday 18 Dhul-Qi'dah 1443H corresponding to 17 June 2022, a memorandum of cooperation between the two institutions, virtually via Zoom technology. This agreement aims to build a strategic partnership based on strengthening cooperation between the two institutions in order to promote moderation, spread the culture of tolerance and reject all forms of extremism, fanaticism, and terrorism, through coordinating efforts and organizing programs, seminars, conferences and activities aimed at achieving these goals. The aforementioned agreement also aims to enhance cooperation between the two institutions in relation to working together to enable Muslim communities in the United Kingdom to maintain their religious identity with strict adherence to the requirements of citizenship. After signing the memorandum, HE the Secretary

General of the Academy expressed his great pleasure in completing this important agreement for both parties, expressing his regret that he was unable to travel this time to London to sign this memorandum in person. He also expressed his confidence that "this memorandum will enable the two institutions to intensify work and coordinate efforts in order to immediately start implementing a number of provisions of the agreement, especially with regard to organizing specialized and focused scientific symposia on the current issues and problems of Muslim communities, foremost of which is the problem of the halal industry, coexistence, and the problem of intolerance, extremism, religious phobia, hate speech in all its forms and manifestations, and civil status issues in Britain and Europe in general". He added that "the Academy is very keen to play its full role in correcting the negative stereotype about Islam in the West on the one hand, and correcting misconceptions and practices that contradict the values, principles and teachings of Islam regarding the Muslim's relationship with the world around him on the other hand, noting in this context the necessity of spreading moderation and a culture of peace and tolerance, urging Muslim citizens in the United Kingdom to adhere to the requirements of citizenship and to abide by the laws of their country, as well as their full and effective participation in building their homelands, and contributing to their prosperity and stability." He concluded by expressing his admiration and appreciation for the distinguished and tangible achievements of the London Central Mosque Trust and the Islamic Cultural Centre under the wise leadership of the Director General, Dr. Ahmed Al-Dabyan, and all his colleagues, wishing them more success and affirming the Academy's

full readiness to provide the institution with full Fiqh and intellectual support so that it can carry out its tasks to the fullest and serve the Muslim community in the United Kingdom through the various services it provides to them. For his part, the Director General of the Centre expressed his sincere thanks and great appreciation to His Excellency the Secretary General for the keenness to complete this agreement between the two parties that serves Muslims in Muslim communities, praising the leading scientific position and the good international reputation enjoyed by the Academy worldwide. He also expressed his aspiration for a bright page of fruitful cooperation between the Centre and the Academy on all issues and topics of common interest, especially issues of concern to the Muslim community in the United Kingdom. He concluded by giving an official invitation to His Excellency, the Secretary General of the Academy, to visit the Centre's headquarters in London, in order to closely inspect the Centre's activities and promising programs, in addition to the great moral boost this visit will give to the Muslim community in the United Kingdom because of the international standing of His Excellency Professor Sano in Islamic circles all over the world.



## IIFA and the East London Mosque discuss Ways of Bilateral Cooperation



His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, held a virtual meeting via Zoom technology with His Eminence Sheikh Muhammad Abdul Qayyum, the first imam of the famous East London Mosque in the United Kingdom, on Saturday 19 Dhul-Qi'dah 1443H corresponding to 18 June 2022G. He welcomed the first imam and his team and thanked the management of the East London Mosque for the kind invitation to visit the mosque in London and speak to the masses of Muslims in the British capital. He also expressed his willingness and honor to communicate with them on a number of issues and questions that concern the life of the Muslim community in the United Kingdom in general. He stressed that this meeting is a real beginning of stronger and sustainable relations of cooperation between the Mosque and the Academy on common topics and issues of concern to both parties. Then he shed light on the historical importance of the mosque, and its pivotal societal role,

noting that "the mosque's activity was not and should not be limited to performing prayers and delivering sermons only, but it should also include discussing economic and social issues, as it should be a place to raise awareness, enlightenment, education and rehabilitation, which requires that the sermons delivered should discuss the problems of society and provide solutions to them. It should also explain in detail the calamities and developments of interest to Muslims citizens and residents, in order to capacitate and enable them to actively participate in the process of building their countries and to contribute to their prosperity, growth and stability." He added that he is eagerly looking forward to visiting London soon to meet the Muslim communities and intellectual institutions. He also expressed his hope that the Academy and the Mosque would sign a memorandum of understanding in order to establish a long-term strategic relationship between the two parties. For his part, His Eminence the First Imam expressed his great pleasure and great appreciation to His Excellency the Secretary General for giving the representatives of the Mosque the opportunity to meet with him and discuss a number of issues and topics of concern to the Muslim community in the United Kingdom. He also added: "The mosque is very grateful for the intellectual and jurisprudential support provided by the Academy to religious and scientific institutions within the countries of Muslim communities, and that he

personally closely follows all the activities of the Academy with interest and passion, and regularly seeks to see the Academy's periodic publications and all its jurisprudential resolutions that he personally uses in many of the jurisprudential positions he held in the United Kingdom." He also welcomed the idea of concluding a memorandum of understanding and cooperation with the Academy, given the position of this prestigious international jurisprudence institution, as it represents the scholars of the Muslim Ummah inside and outside the Muslim world. He emphasized that the Academy, for example, could help unifying the Shariah councils in the United Kingdom in order to obtain unified positions on new issues related to the halal industry, and other thorny social and family issues. He concluded by expressing the mosque's aspiration to use the scientific capabilities of the scholars and experts of the Academy in order to achieve these noble goals and objectives





## US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism visits IIFA

His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), held a meeting with a high-level delegation from the United States of America headed by Ambassador Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism on Thursday 01 Dhul Hijjah 1443H corresponding to 30 June 2022G at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At the beginning of the meeting, the Ambassador expressed her great pleasure at visiting the Academy and thanked His Excellency for welcoming her and the accompanying delegation, stressing that this visit represents the first in a series of visits that she would like to make to the region, and it also comes as an affirmation of the great importance of this great Islamic edifice that strives to promote and disseminate the values of love, tolerance and coexistence. She praised the Academy's esteemed efforts in dismantling hate speech, violence, extremism, and hostility to religions and symbols, through its resolutions and recommendations, and through seminars and conferences it organizes from time to time. She also expressed her happiness with the Academy's desire to coordinate and work together to organize programs and activities aimed at combating hate



speeches and rejecting the other, and promoting violence, extremism and exclusioFor his part, His Excellency welcomed the Ambassador and the delegation accompanying her and thanked her for allocating time to visit the Academy and learn about the work and activities it is doing in the field of combating all forms of extremism, violence and abuse of religions and symbols, including anti-Semitism and religious phobia. His Excellency seized the opportunity to congratulate the Ambassador on her appointment as special envoy to combat anti-Semitism, wishing her success in her duties, stressing the Academy's full support for all efforts and activities aimed at promoting human brotherhood and human dignity, and rejecting violence, extremism and fanaticism. His Excellency explained that the Academy's position

as the supreme religious authority of the Muslim Ummah dictates on it to harness all its capabilities, abilities and experiences in supporting and promoting a culture of moderation and tolerance and building bridges of communication and understanding between people of different religions and beliefs. His Excellency concluded by expressing his aspiration for close cooperation and coordination between the Academy and the Ambassador's office to achieve the common goals. The meeting was attended by His Excellency Mr. Faris Asaad, Consul General and Special Envoy of the USA to the OIC, Mr. Ludovic Hood, Senior Adviser to the Special Envoy, Ms. Sarah Badawi, Director of Women and Family Affairs at the Academy, and Mr. Mourad TLiLi, Adviser to the Secretary General for media.



## Secretary General participates in CIBAFI Symposium on the Women's Economics Empowerment



HE Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy delivered a keynote speech at the opening of the scientific virtual symposium organized by the General Council of Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (CIBAFI) under the title "Women's Economic Empowerment: The Role of Islamic Financial Institutions in Bridging the Current Gaps", on Monday 21 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1443H, corresponding to 20 June 2022G. He began his speech with thanking the organizers of this event for choosing the topic of the symposium, which is one of the sensitive and important topics and issues in the Muslim world and in a large number of other countries, stressing that "the issue of women's active and comprehensive participation in the development of various aspects of life socially, culturally, politically and economically, is a religious obligation, a modern necessity, and a temporal interest, because Shariah did not differentiate between a male or a female in the field of righteous deeds, but promised each one of them a good life if they did a righteous deed as the Almighty says:

((Whoever does good, whether male or female, and is a believer, We will surely bless them with a good life, and We will certainly reward them according to the best of their deeds.)) {Surat An-Nahl, Verse: 97.} Accordingly, achieving women's economic empowerment is essential to achieving prosperity and economic growth in any society. He pointed out that "Despite the great efforts that have been made over the years in many Muslim countries to empower women, provide them with the necessary skills and provide them with equal opportunities to reach economic emancipation, there is still a need for more work to bridge the gaps in women's economic integration and their participation in economic activity, whether at the level of production, investment or distribution." He added that Shariah has preserved all economic rights of women for a long time, and urged for their good education and upbringing, and their active participation in the development of the economy, and for the active contribution to the creation of national wealth. Shariah also considered her the man's partner in the process of building the nations and ordered her to perform same duties assigned to her brother the man. He affirmed, "the true teachings of Islam guaranteed women all the political, economic, social, educational and cultural rights that were guaranteed to their male brothers. The Holy Quran says: ((The believers, both men and women, are guardians of one another. They encourage good and forbid evil)) {Surat At-Tawbah, Verse: 71.} and ((Whoever does good, whether male or female, and is a believer, We will surely bless them with a good life)) {Surat An-Nahl, Verse: 97}. The true Islamic teachings had always been a forerunner to give women all their legitimate and civil rights, such as

their right to education, health and work, which means that there is no relationship between Islam and the practices and abuses that demean women and infringe on their rights and exclusion." At the conclusion of his speech, he referred to the daily challenges faced by Muslim women in social, economic and political life, or at the level of opportunities that should be exploited to enable them to contribute to advancing development. He called on Islamic financial institutions to play a pivotal role in empowering women and bridging the huge gaps that exist between men and women in this regard. He stressed that this can be done through the provision of customized financial services and digital offers that take into account the needs of women and increase their access to financing that enables them to engage in entrepreneurship and create wealth and jobs. Financial institutions can also contribute by increasing the representation of women in the workplace and creating appropriate environments for their advancement and assuming leadership positions worthy of their educational level and practical experience.





## Secretary General participates in the UN Roundtable on Religious Pluralism



On Thursday, 01 Dhu al-Hijjah 1443H corresponding to 30 June 2022G, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), participated in the virtual roundtable event of the United Nations High Level Council on Religious Pluralism organized by the Religions for Peace Foundation New York. At the beginning of his intervention, His Excellency expressed his thanks to the organizing committee and praised the good selection of the topic of the event, stressing that this meeting is a valuable opportunity to express the common visions among all religions and the solidarity of their followers and scholars, for the happiness of mankind, and renounce violence, hate speech and exclusion, in the hope to build our global

community on the basis of the values of love, brotherhood, tolerance, harmony and lasting peace. He added: "The religious pluralism and ethnic pluralism are an eternal will that cannot be ignored or prevented. Rather, we should work on dealing with it well, considering that all human beings are from one father and one mother, people are all equal, and people are either your brother in religion or equal in creation. Therefore, the followers of religions, including imams, rabbis, monks, and priests, should unite their efforts and coordinate between them and stand united against violence, exclusion and coercion, and spread the culture of moderation, love and peace and build permanent bridges of dialogue, communication and cooperation for the good of humanity." His Excellency added that human religious, ethnic and cultural diversity is inevitable and requires tolerance and love from us to embrace these differences. We urgently need to transcend the enmity and hatred that arise from difference and diversity and return to the religious foundations in general that call for fraternity, love and peace. Therefore, we must acknowledge that there are different civilizations and that they complement each other and interact culturally and socially as a source of enrichment and a factor of true unity. His Excellency stressed that guaranteeing the basic rights of human beings, such as

freedom of belief, is one of the most important pillars upon which world peace, fraternity and love between peoples and societies must be built. Religion, in its essence, is an agent of refinement and enlightenment that guides humanity to the common noble values of tolerance, love and peace. His Excellency concluded by calling for more distinguished intellectual events for senior religious leaders in the world, such as today's meeting, in order to raise comprehensive awareness of all societies around the world, and also to support and strengthen international concerted efforts for a safe and tolerant world. It should be noted that for the first time in decades, a United Nations High-Level Committee on Religions is being formed, during which more than thirty senior religious leaders from around the world share their experiences and recommendations for effective pluralism and ensuring freedom of belief as a basis for building open, pluralistic and inclusive societies for the enjoyment of their human rights. This dialogue was moderated by Her Excellency Dr. Azza Karam, Secretary General of Religions for Peace organization and Member of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Council on Effective Pluralism.

## Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the OIC visits IIFA



His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, received, on Thursday 01 Dhul Hijjah 1443H corresponding to 30 June 2022G, His Excellency Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the OIC, and his Deputy, Mr. Liaquat Ali Warrish, at the headquarters of the Academy in Jeddah. The Ambassador expressed his sincere thanks to His Excellency for the opportunity of

meeting with him directly upon his return from Afghanistan, where he headed the delegation of Ummah scholars. He stressed that his country's government, as the current chair of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the OIC, is following with great interest the course of events in Afghanistan. He also expressed once again his country's full readiness to provide full support to the Academy in order to succeed in its mission. For his part, the Secretary General thanked the ambassador and his deputy for the visit, and for his keenness to keep pace with the activities of the Academy. He also praised the continuous support provided by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Academy over the years. He then touched on the topic of the visit of the Ummah scholars' delegation to Afghanistan and briefed the Ambassador on the official meetings held by the delegation with senior officials and scholars

from the Taliban government. He conveyed to the ambassador the delegation's satisfaction with the progress of the meetings and its optimism that this first round of dialogue would yield positive results that would benefit the Afghan society. At the end of the visit the two parties agreed to continue coordination and communication regarding the Afghan topic and other issues of mutual interest, such as holding an international conference on Islamophobia in Pakistan during the last quarter of 2022.



## Permanent Representative of Japan to the OIC meets the Secretary General

His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, received the Consul General, His Excellency Mr. Izuru Shimmura, Permanent Representative of Japan to the OIC, on Sunday 04 of Dhu al-Hijjah 1443H corresponding to 03 July 2022G at the headquarters of the Academy in Jeddah. He thanked His Excellency for the opportunity of meeting with him after his return from Afghanistan, stressing that his government is following with interest the outcomes of the fruitful discussions held by the scholars' delegation with the Afghan scholars and officials, especially the issue of girls' education, noting the readiness of his country to provide material support that could contribute to enabling Afghan girls to return to school at the earliest. For his part, HE the Secretary General thanked him for the visit and for his keenness to follow



up the outcomes of the visit of the scholars' delegation to Afghanistan, pointing out that the delegation was able to hold a series of discussions and meetings with Afghan scholars and officials on a number of issues, especially the issue of girls' education, the Afghan woman's empowerment and the issue of coexistence and tolerance. He assured his guest that he is optimistic that the visit will achieve its objectives, and that the topics

discussed by the delegation with all transparency and clarity will find satisfactory solutions in the near future. Then he renewed his thanks and gratitude to the Permanent Representative for his country's sincere desire to provide material and logistical support to Afghanistan, which needs great material assistance to face the difficult conditions it is experiencing as a result of four decades of wars and turmoil.



## Secretary General participates in the Grand Hajj Symposium

His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), participated in the Hajj Great Symposium in its 46th edition in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, on 4-5 of Dhu Al-Hijjah 1443H corresponding to 3-4 July 2022G, entitled "Pilgrimage after the Pandemic... Rites and Care". The symposium included sessions, discussions, research, and lectures, in the presence and with the participation of a number of Ministers, scholars, jurists and thinkers from inside and outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The symposium was inaugurated by His Excellency the Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, who delivered the keynote speech during the opening session, in which he welcomed the Excellencies, Eminences, and specialists present and participants in the symposium. The opening session witnessed the participation of His Excellency the President of the Two Holy Mosques Affairs Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais, His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Al-Khalayleh, the Jordanian Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Holy Places, His Excellency Mr. Mufti Abdul Shakoor, the Pakistani Minister of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, and His Excellency the Minister of Religious Affairs and Awqaf of the Republic of Algeria, Mr. Youssef bin Mahdi. The session was moderated by His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Humaid, President of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, advisor at the Royal Court and member of the Council of Senior Scholars. The first main session of the second day of the Hajj Great Symposium, titled: "The Islamic Jurisprudence System and the Calamities of the Age", was attended by: His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy, Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, His Eminence the Grand Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr. Shawki Allam, and His Excellency the member of the Council of Senior Scholars in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Saad bin Nasser Al-Shathri, while the session was moderated by His Excellency the Secretary General of the Council of Senior Scholars, Dr. Fahd bin Saeed Al-Majed.



At the beginning of his speech, His Excellency the Secretary General the Academy expressed his thanks, appreciation and gratitude to the leadership, government, and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the great and accessible services they provide to Muslims around the world to enable them to perform Hajj and Umrah in the best conditions. His Excellency also thanked the Ministry of Hajj for organizing this specialized symposium, for inviting the Academy to participate, and for the well chosen topic. During his intervention, His Excellency stressed that the jurisprudential system is based on a set of principles, rules, and purposes that the mujtahid uses to clarify the provisions of Shariah in calamities and problems of contemporary life, and this system includes the sum of Shariah evidence from the Qur'an, Sunnah, consensus, analogy, interests, and others. It also includes what has become known as the major Fiqh rules such as the rule of things with their purposes, the rule of necessities permits prohibitions, the rule of no harm to either party, and others. This system also includes the purposes of the five universal principles of preserving life, religion, family, property, and intellect, in addition to that this system includes attention to the consequences of actions. As for calamities, His Excellency clarified that they are "issues and matters that do not have direct texts, and the predecessors did not deal with them because they occurred after their time and era, which opens the door for renewed and broad ijtihad.

Accordingly, the jurist must rely on this system to guide the calamities of the age, correcting them and directing them, based on the principles of inference and deduction, and based on Fiqh rules, and on the supreme objectives of Shariah, while paying attention to the consequences of actions." His Excellency added: "Given the complication and complexity of the nature of calamities and the predominance of generalities, scholars should address ijtihad through Fiqh academies, legal bodies and supreme councils, considering that ijtihad in calamities and public issues must be collective ijtihad, not individual ijtihad, and it must be undertaken by Fiqh councils and official institutions in the member states to avoid individual interpretations that could err and cause confusion, contradiction and disharmony". His Excellency indicated that "the ability of the Fiqh system to direct calamities and developments in every age and time requires its ability to consider three things, namely, keeping pace with calamities by fully absorbing them, taking into account development by making use of all available technologies and modern means, and taking into account realism through the selection of Shariah rulings that are appropriate to time and place based on the rule that does not deny the change of fatwa with the change of times, places, conditions, and situations". It is worth mentioning that the Hajj Great Symposium, one of the most prominent scientific events organized by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah annually since 1390H corresponding to 1970G, aims to discuss calamities and issues related to Hajj and the service of pilgrims.



## IIFA and the High Board of Religious Affairs of Turkey sign an MoU in Jeddah

His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, signed with Prof. Abdurrahman Hackali, President of the High Board of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, a memorandum of cooperation on Wednesday 30 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1443H corresponding to 29 June 2022G. This agreement aims to build a strategic partnership in the field of supporting the scientific and research abilities and capabilities of the two institutions, and to benefit from the publications issued by each institution. The memorandum also aims to enhance cooperation in the areas of joint organization of conferences and seminars and to represent the two parties in the conferences and seminars that are held with the knowledge of each of them in the field of common interest. After signing the agreement, HE the Secretary General stated: "We hope that this memorandum will be the beginning of a new phase of strong and fruitful cooperation relations between the Academy, as the supreme jurisprudential authority of the Muslim Ummah, and the



High Board of Religious Affairs in Turkey, as the reference for fatwas in the Republic of Turkey, with the aim of coordinating efforts and providing appropriate solutions to the problems of contemporary life, and to all issues of concern to Muslims in Turkey. The Academy will provide all scientific and intellectual support to the Council to enable it to carry out its mission". For his part, the President of the High Board commented: "We are pleased today to meet His Excellency Professor Sano, the Secretary General of the Academy, and I am honored to sign a

cooperation agreement between our institution and the Academy, this great Islamic scientific edifice. While we are proud and honored of this historic achievement, we look forward for a bright future of continuous cooperation and coordination on all issues and topics of interest to both sides. We are enthusiastic to the participation of Turkish researchers in the Academy's Sessions and pioneering scientific". The signing ceremony was attended from the Turkish side by Dr. Mustafa Bulent Dadas, member of the High Board, Prof. Dr. Haji Muhammed Konay, Professor of Islamic Thought at Sakarya University in Turkey and member of the High Board, Dr. Mustafa Jakir, economist in the High Board, and Mr. Yunus Acar, Attaché for Religious Affairs at the Turkish Consulate in Jeddah. On the side of the Academy, Mr. Mohammed Walid Al-Idrissi, Director of Media Affairs and Public Relations, and Mr. Mourad TLiLi, Advisor to the Secretary General of the Academy for Media Affairs.



## Guinean Minister of Religious Affairs visits IIFA



His Excellency Mr. Karamu Diawara, Minister of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Guinea, and his accompanying delegation visited on Sunday, 18 Dhu al-Hijjah 1443H corresponding to 17 July 2022G, the General Secretariat of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) in Jeddah, and was received by Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy. His Excellency the Minister expressed his sincere thanks and great appreciation to the Secretary General for the warm welcome and good reception, praising his pride and the pride of the authorities of the Republic of Guinea in the relations of cooperation and communication between the Academy and the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs. He also expressed his happiness, pride and gratitude for the unprecedented qualitative leap

and rapid development witnessed by the Academy's General Secretariat at all levels, since His Excellency, a prominent son of Guinea, assumed the duties of Secretary General nearly a year and nine months ago. His Excellency also praised the Academy's keenness to activate the terms of the memorandum of cooperation that it signed with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs in the capital Conakry, by inviting the General Secretariat of Religious Affairs to nominate a number of scholars and scientists of the Republic of Guinea to participate in the next session of the Academy. His Excellency concluded by praying to God Almighty to preserve His Excellency the Secretary General and grant him success and prosperity. For his part, His Excellency the Secretary General expressed his great thanks and great gratitude to His Excellency the Minister and his accompanying delegation for visiting the Academy's headquarters despite his many preoccupations and congratulated him on the success of his mission in leading his country's delegation to perform Hajj for this year, praising the excellent facilities and distinguished services provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to pilgrims each year. His Excellency also thanked his honorable guest for the generous support and great care that the Academy enjoys from the government

and people of the Republic of Guinea, to enable it to carry out its mission in the best way, stressing the full readiness of the Academy to enhance cooperation, communication and coordination with various institutions and scientific and research centers in the Republic of Guinea, chief among them the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, which is headed by His Excellency the minister. His Excellency concluded by informing His Excellency the Minister that the Academy's book of Resolutions and Recommendations has been translated for the first time into the Anko language, which is one of the most important local languages spoken by the people of the Republic of Guinea and about one hundred million people in West Africa, especially in the Republic of Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.



## Secretary General meets President of the Iraqi Sunni Waqf in Makkah



His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), welcomed His Excellency Dr. Abdul Khaleq Medhat Al-Azzawi, President of the Sunni Waqf Office in the Republic of Iraq, and his accompanying delegation, on the evening of Tuesday 13 Dhul Hijjah 1443H corresponding to 12 July 2022G at his residence in Makkah Al Mukarramah.

He thanks the President of the Sunni Waqf and his delegation for the visit, stressing the full readiness of the Academy to strengthen relations of cooperation and partnership and coordination with the Sunni Waqf Office in all issues and questions of concern to the Iraqi people. He also expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Republic of Iraq for its continuous support for the Academy from its establishment to the present day. He concluded by reiterating the Academy's readiness to sign a cooperation agreement with the Sunni Waqf in the near future to expand and define possible areas of cooperation between the two institutions for the benefit of the Iraqi People. For his part, His Excellency the President of the Sunni Waqf expressed his great thanks to His Excellency for the warm welcome to him and his delegation, praising the pioneering role of the Academy in the field of combating extremism, extremist ideology and terrorism, promoting moderation and spreading tolerance. He also

expressed his aspiration for closer cooperation and coordination between the Sunni Waqf and the Academy in all possible areas especially the exchange of scientific visits, and the holding of specialized seminars on topics of common interest. He concluded his speech by inviting His Excellency to visit the Republic of Iraq in the near future in order to sign an agreement between the two institutions. At the end of the meeting, the two sides exchanged souvenirs.



## The President of the Association of Scholars of the Sahel visits IIFA

His Eminence Dr. Abu Bakr Waler Mado, President of the Association of Scholars, Preachers and Imams of the Sahel Countries and a member of the Chadian Parliament, and his accompanying delegation visited on Monday 19 Dhu al-Hijjah 1443 AH corresponding to 18 July 2022G the General Secretariat of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in Jeddah, and he was received by His Excellency Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy. He expressed his great thanks to His Excellency the Secretary-General for the warm reception, praising the major achievements and profound changes witnessed by the General Secretariat of the Academy since he took the helm. He also expressed his pleasure at this "visit, which was full of benefit for me and the delegation accompanying me from the experiences of HE the Secretary-General, and the achievements he spoke about it. The Association extends its deepest thanks and gratitude for the great services provided by the Academy to the Ummah and



the world." The Association looks forward to concluding a cooperation agreement with the Academy with the hope of building a prosperous cooperation between the two institutions, by supporting the Council through holding joint specialized seminars on issues and concerns of African countries and the Sahel region in particular and specifically addressing issues of extremism and terrorism, and providing intensive training courses to develop and raise the level of the association's

scholars. For his part, HE the Secretary-General expressed his thanks to His Eminence Sheikh for the visit and he valued the efforts of the League of Scholars of the Sahel States to educate Muslims in the region about the danger of extremism and terrorism and the importance of spreading a culture of moderation, moderation and peace. He also expressed the Academy's full readiness to cooperate with the League in the field of joint organization of conferences and seminars that provide objective treatments and effective solutions to the problems of contemporary life facing Muslims in Africa, stressing that the Association will find all support and encouragement from the Academy. The meeting was attended by Mr. Harun Muhammad Saleh Al-Issa, Commissioner of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Muhammad Walid Al-Idrisi, Director of the Media Department of the complex, and Mr. Murad Al-Tilili, Advisor to the Secretary-General for Media Affairs.

## SG of International Council of the Arabic Language visits the Academy

His Excellency Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, received Prof. Dr. Ali bin Abdullah bin Musa, Secretary General of the International Council for the Arabic Language, on Sunday, 18 Dhu al-Hijjah 1443H corresponding to 17 July 2022G at the Academy in Jeddah. He welcomed him and thanked him for the visit, praising the highly appreciated efforts made by the International Council of the Arabic Language to preserve the language of the Noble Qur'an, and the Prophet of Islam, Peace Be upon him. Then he emphasized that the Arabic language is considered the first official language of the Academy, and its mastery is a prerequisite for ijthad and fatwas in Islam and the Academy considers it the most honorable languages, as it is the language chosen by God to embrace His great revelation and His Noble Prophet. Then he provided his guest with an overview of the



Academy, and to brief him on its programs, goals and projects. He expressed the desire to consolidate the relationship between the Academy and the Council by concluding a strategic cooperation agreement between the two parties. For his part, the Secretary-General of the Council expressed his great pleasure to HE the Secretary-General of the

Academy, "...who received us with his generous manners, and I was pleased with the efforts made by the Academy to serve Islam and Muslims, and we appreciate his great role in serving the language of the Holy Qur'an, and its importance in raising the Islamic issue. Certainly, we will be happy to cooperate and communicate with the Academy as a reference for our Ummah, and a source of our pride and appreciation". Finally he invited His Excellency to attend the International Conference on Laws, Regulations, Legislation, Policies and Language Planning, which will be organized by the Council in the period 22-25 November 2022 in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt. The meeting was attended by Dr. Omar Zuhair Hafez, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, Mr. Muhammad Walid Al-Idrisi, Director of the Department of Media, Public Relations, and Mr. Murad Al-Tilili, Adviser to the Secretary-General for Media Affairs

## A Delegation from the Iraqi Fiqh Academy visits IIFA



His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, received a delegation from the Iraqi Fiqh Academy headed by Sheikh Dr. Mahmoud Abdel Aziz Al-Ani, member of the Supreme Commission and President of the Council of Iraqi Scholars, on Wednesday, 21 Dhu al-Hijjah 1443H corresponding to 20 July 2022G

at the headquarters of the Academy in Jeddah. He thanked Sheikh and his delegation for the visit, stressing the full readiness of the Academy to strengthen relations of cooperation with the Iraqi Fiqh Academy in all issues especially with regard to spreading the culture of moderation and tolerance. Then he provided the delegation with an overview of the Academy and expressed the Academy's readiness to sign a cooperation agreement with the Iraqi Fiqh Academy in the near future to identify and outline possible areas of cooperation between the two institutions. For his part, the President of the Council thanked His Excellency for the warm welcome to him and his delegation, noting the great place that the Academy occupies in the hearts of Muslims because of its good reputation and profound impact on all aspects of their lives through sound

resolutions that it has issued over the years. He also praised the pioneering role of the Academy in combating extremism, extremist thought and terrorism. He also expressed his aspiration to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two institutions in all possible areas especially the exchange of scientific visits, and the holding of specialized seminars on topics of common interest. On the Iraqi side, the meeting was attended by Sheikh Dr. Hassan Suhail, Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Al-Mashaykhi and Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Al-Hassan. On the part of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, Dr. Abdel-Fattah Mahmoud Abnauf, Director of the International Cooperation and Planning Department, and Mr. Mohammed Walid Al-Idrissi, Director of the Department of Media, Public Relations.

## 21st Monthly Periodic Meeting of the Academy's Employees

On Tuesday, 20 Dhu al-Hijjah 1443H corresponding to 19 July 2022G, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), chaired the twenty-first monthly meeting of the Academy's employees, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat at the Academy in Jeddah. At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency the Secretary General welcomed everyone and expressed his condolences for the death of the mother of our colleague Ahmed Ali Jazouli, who passed away recently. His Excellency also thanked everyone for their regular attendance of these important periodic meetings that discuss the issues of the Academy. His Excellency also offered congratulations on the occasion of Eid al-Adha, then spoke about his participation in the Great Hajj Symposium, in which a number of Their Excellencies the ministers and eminent scholars, jurists and thinkers inside and outside the Kingdom of Saudi



Arabia participated. His Excellency the Secretary General also presented his thanks, appreciation and gratitude to the leadership, government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the great and accessible services they provide to Muslims around the world to enable them to perform Hajj and Umrah in the best and most favorable conditions. His Excellency also thanked the Ministry of Hajj for organizing this specialized

symposium, for inviting him to participate, and for well choosing its topic. After listening to the staff's opinions, suggestions and interventions regarding the preparations for the twenty-fifth session, the discussions concluded with the following points:

- The need to start reviewing the Session's research papers and to ensure its compliance with the set topics.
- Continuously updating information about the number of research papers and researchers' information such as their recent passport copies, and so on.
- Starting to write to the bodies with which the Academy has signed cooperation agreements with the aim of nominating researchers on topics in which there is still a need for research.
- Starting to print the Session's finished research papers.

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