

OIC Secretary General chairs IIFA Bureau Meeting



His Excellency Ambassador Hussain Ibrahim Taha, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and Chairman of the Bureau's Council, chaired on Thursday 05 Jumada II 1444H, corresponding to 29 December 2022G, the second meeting of the Bureau's Council 2022G, via visual communication technology. His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Hamid, Advisor at the Royal Court, member of the Council of Senior Scholars, the imam and khatib of the Grand Mosque, president of the Academy, deputy head of the Bureau's Council, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), and secretary of the Bureau's Council, participated in the meeting. The distinguished members of the Bureau's Council also participated in the meeting, namely Sheikh Dr. Abu Bakr Doukouri, representative of the African Group, Prof. Ajeel Al-Nashmi, representative of the Arab Group, and Sheikh Taqi Al-Othmani, representative of the Asian Group. The meeting was followed by a number of cadres of the OIC and the Academy. His Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC started the meeting by expressing his sincere thanks and great appreciation to the Excellencies and Eminences for their participation and their continuous support for the Academy, praising the great role played by the Academy in spreading the culture of moderation and tolerance, and combating extremism, fanaticism, terrorism, violence and exclusion. In this context, His Excellency called upon the Academy to quickly launch an international campaign to gather all the voices of scholars and religious authorities in the Muslim world and mobilize them against the Taliban government's decision to suspend girls' education at university level, pointing out the seriousness of the Taliban government's justification for preventing girls from studying and dismissing female faculty members from their positions on the grounds that this contradicts Shariah. This claim is in fact incorrect and not based on any evidence, but rather it contradicts Shariah and its clear teachings on this subject.



Therefore, this issue is considered another challenge before the Academy, in addition to the issues of minorities, the escalation of feelings of hostility towards Muslims in Western countries, and other pressing issues. His Excellency stressed, by the way, the priority of the Afghan file on the agenda of the OIC and the Academy, pointing out that the Taliban's decision is not based on Shariah texts, and that a delegation of scholars visited Afghanistan last June and held extensive meetings with Taliban scholars and a number of members of the government, where there was agreement that Islam granted women all their rights, including the right to education and work, explaining that the Taliban's decision to deprive girls of education deepens the fallacies that are falsely spread about Islam. For his part, His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, President of the Academy, expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC for his strong and continuous support for everything that the Academy does. He also expressed his gratitude



to the members of the Bureau for their presence and active participation in the blessed march of the Academy, then praised the results and achievements achieved by the Academy under the leadership of His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy and his assistants, indicating that what was stated in the report of the General Secretariat of the Academy presented to this meeting is considered the best witness to that. In his speech, His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy, Prof. Koutoub Sano, expressed his thanks and gratitude to His Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC for the support and care of the Academy, praising His Excellency's precious confidence in the Academy and in his humble person to once again lead the Islamic efforts, by heading a new and expanded delegation of scholars of the Ummah to Afghanistan or other member states in order to dialogue and discuss with the current authority and scholars of Afghanistan on the subject of gender education and the participation of Afghan women in the process of building the nation.



He expressed his confidence in the ability and competence of the Ummah's scholars to succeed in their endeavors in order to do everything that is in the interest of the Afghan people, and also to respond to the abnormal opinions that contradict the teachings of Islam and the approach of the Prophet, may prayers and peace be upon him. Suspending and preventing the education of girls and boys is one of those abnormal views that contradict the consensus of the Ummah throughout the ages. His Excellency also touched on the Academy's obtaining the royal approval from the host country in order to hold the 25th Session at the end of February 2023. And on this occasion, His Excellency extended his sincere thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, king, government and people for the continuous support and care and for all the distinguished facilities and services which it still extends to the Academy to enable it to perform its role ably and with ease. The meeting then discussed the items on its agenda, which included approving the minutes of the previous Bureau meeting,



reviewing the arrangements for the 25th Session of the Academy, the cooperation and understanding agreements signed by the General Secretariat of the Academy with many ministries, councils and scientific institutions inside and outside the OIC states, and the administrative and financial report and arrears of contributions of member states to the budget of the Academy for the current year. At the end of the meeting, His Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC, Chairman of the Bureau, and their Excellencies and Eminences the members of the Bureau, expressed their great gratitude and appreciation for the great efforts of the Academy and its great achievements in all directions and at all levels, especially those blessed efforts made by His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy in order to hold the 25th Annual Session with self-efforts for the first time in the history of the Academy.

Guinean Foreign Minister visits IIFA Headquarters



on Tuesday 09 Rajab 1444H corresponding to 31 January 2023G, His Excellency Dr. Maurice Kouyaté, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Guineans Abroad, visited the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) in Jeddah, where he and his accompanying delegation were received by His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy. His Excellency the Secretary General warmly welcomed the senior guest and his companions, thanking him for honoring the Academy with this kind visit, the first of its kind by a high-ranking official from Guinean diplomacy. For his part, His Excellency the Minister expressed his extreme happiness with this visit to the largest Fiqh institution in the Muslim world, pointing to his pride and the pride of all Guineans that His Excellency assumed the honor of leading this institution, and congratulated him on the good management and

leadership of the Academy with distinction and competence, praising the great results achieved since he took office. He also conveyed to His Excellency the Secretary General the greetings of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Guinea, Head of State and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Colonel Mamady Doumbouya, and his wishes for continued success and accomplishment in his duties, which are a source of pride not only for every Guinean but also for all the peoples of the African continent and the Muslim Ummah. His Excellency the Minister also assured his Excellency the Secretary General of the Guinean government's full support for His Excellency, and its willingness to provide more support to the Academy in all its benevolent efforts and brilliant projects. He concluded by recording his impression in the book of honor, saying, "I am happy and proud to visit this renowned institution under the enlightened leadership of His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy, and I thank God for his success, and I express the full support of the Government of Guinea to His Excellency, may God protect him." For his part, His Excellency Professor Sano thanked His Excellency the Minister and his accompanying delegation for these expressions of love, appreciation and support, taking the opportunity to express his great gratitude and appreciation to the Republic of Guinea as president, government and people for their continuous support to the Academy.

His Excellency also assured the honorable guest of the Academy's determination and aspiration to support and consolidate the strategic partnerships it has established with scientific and religious institutions in the Republic of Guinea, by activating all the provisions included in these agreements and ensuring the participation of Guinean scholars and thinkers in the major scientific events organized by the Academy in order to make the most of their visions to address the issues that concern the peoples of the region and the entire African continent. In conclusion, His Excellency the Secretary General entrusted his guest with a message of thanks, gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Guinea and his government from the Academy and all its employees, and their wishes to the Guinean people for further progress, prosperity and development.



Secretary General receives Singaporean Minister of Social and Family Development



His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), received His Excellency Mr. Masagos Zulkifli, Minister of Social and Family Development, Second Minister of Ministry of Health, and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs in the Republic of Singapore, on Tuesday 17 Jumada II 1444H corresponding to 10 December 2023G, at the headquarters of the Academy's General Secretariat in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. His Excellency the Minister expressed his great thanks and gratitude to His Excellency the Secretary General for the good reception and warm welcome, stressing his keenness to make this visit to the Academy within the framework of his country's tireless endeavor to strengthen cooperation and coordination relations with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and its affiliated bodies, especially the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, which is considered the first Fiqh reference for the member states of the OIC and for Muslim communities outside the Muslim world. His Excellency also noted the distinguished intellectual and scientific efforts made by His Excellency the Secretary General in particular to spread the culture of moderation, tolerance and coexistence in all regions of the world. His Excellency added that his country's government

looks with appreciation and admiration at these great efforts, and looks forward to consolidating the bonds of cooperation and coordination with the Academy in order to serve those noble human goals that call for cooperation, coexistence and acquaintance between peoples and religions, by organizing some scientific activities within Singapore that are concerned with issues and topics related to the lives of Muslim communities around the world. In this context, His Excellency extended an official invitation to His Excellency the Secretary General to visit Singapore and attend the international conference organized by the Ministry on the role of Muslim communities in their countries, and to contribute to building awareness among Muslims in Singapore through lectures and face-to-face meetings throughout the year. For his part, His Excellency the Secretary General welcomed His Excellency the Minister and his accompanying delegation, praising this visit, the first of its kind by a prominent member of the Singaporean government, to the Academy, which is a clear translation of the Republic's desire to strengthen the bonds of cooperation and coordination with the Academy on various issues and topics that concern Muslim communities in Singapore and other countries and governments of Muslim communities in the Southeast Asian region in general. His Excellency took advantage of the occasion by giving the honorable guest a comprehensive overview of the Academy, its vision, mission, goals, programs and activities, expressing the permanent readiness of the Academy to cooperate with the Singaporean authorities in order to promote the approach of moderation, and tolerance among the Muslim communities residing in the Republic, and to help them preserve their Islamic identity with commitment to the requirements of citizenship,

and respect for the laws and regulations in force within their country, as there is no conflict between belonging to Islam and commitment to the requirements of citizenship of any country. His Excellency also welcomed the idea of holding specialized seminars in cooperation with the official authorities in Singapore for the benefit of Muslims there and in the Southeast Asian region as a whole and expressed his thanks to His Excellency the Minister for the invitation to visit Singapore and participate in the annual international conference organized by the Ministry. The meeting was attended by His Excellency Kadir Maideen, Chief Executive of the Islamic Council of Singapore, His Excellency Chandra Kumar, Consul General of Singapore in Jeddah, His Excellency Syfulnizar Hamid, vice-Consul (Political), Ms. Mazlena Mazlan, Director of Media and Community Outreach at the Ministry, and Mr. Hanif Fouad, Senior Director at the Ministry of Culture, Society and Youth, Singapore. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Mondher El-Chouk, Director of Cabinet and protocol Affairs Department at the Academy, Ms. Sarah Amjad Hussein, Director of the Women and Family Affairs Department at the Academy, Dr. Alhagi Manta Drammeh, Head of the International Cooperation and External Relations Division at the Academy, and Mr. Mourad TLiLi, Advisor to His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy for Media Affairs.



During Hajj Expo 2023, Jordanian Minister of Awqaf visits IIFA

His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), received His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Al-Khalayleh, Minister of Awqaf Islamic Affairs and Holy Places in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and his accompanying delegation on Wednesday 18 Jumada II 1444H corresponding to 11 January 2023G, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy in Jeddah, as part of a courtesy visit on the sidelines of the Jordanian delegation's participation in the Hajj Expo 2023 organized by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Al-Khalayleh expressed his thanks and gratitude to His Excellency the Secretary General for the good reception and warm welcome, praising the keenness of the Academy under his leadership to serve Muslims in all parts of the world by finding appropriate Shariah solutions to the problems they face, especially during their performance of the rituals of Hajj and Umrah. In this context, His Excellency suggested that specialized seminars be held to study a number of calamities and developments of Hajj and Umrah in light of the successive changes and developments, with the aim of issuing resolutions that facilitate for Muslims the performance of their rituals and relieve them of the unusual hardship. His Excellency also took advantage of



the opportunity to extend an official invitation to His Excellency the Secretary General to visit Jordan during the coming month of Ramadan to participate in the Hashemite Scientific Councils series organized by the Ministry. For his part, His Excellency the Secretary General welcomed His Excellency the minister, thanking him for this kind visit, and expressing his gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency for his keenness to constantly communicate with the Academy and coordinate with it on many issues and topics of concern to Muslims, especially with regard to the rituals of Hajj and Umrah. His Excellency stressed the necessity of issuing new Academy's resolutions on many calamities and developments related to the rituals of Hajj and Umrah, in order to enable the pilgrims to perform them easily. His Excellency also took the opportunity to praise the new measures announced by the Saudi Ministry

of Hajj and Umrah, led by His Excellency Minister Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah, during the Hajj Expo 2023, which would make the Umrah and Hajj experience much easier for Muslims and at a lower cost. These procedures are in addition to what the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has provided in terms of distinguished services and great care for pilgrims over the years. In conclusion, the two parties agreed to continue consultation and discussion on the issue of holding a specialized symposium on Hajj and Umrah. His Excellency also agreed to accept the invitation to visit Jordan and participate in the Hashemite Scientific Councils series during the coming month of Ramadan. The meeting was attended by Mr. Ziyad Al-Beik, Director of the Office of His Excellency the Jordanian Minister of Awqaf, Mr. Mourad TLiLi, Advisor to His Excellency the Secretary General for Media and Public Relations Affairs at the Academy, and Mr. Amjad Ibrahim, Head of Protocol Division at the Academy.



The Secretary General participates in Expo Hadj 2023

On 15 Jumada Al Akhira 1444 corresponding to January 98, 2023, H.E. Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, participated in Expo Hadj 2023 in its second edition, which was inaugurated by HRH Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, Advisor to the Servant of Two Holy Mosques, Governor of Makkah Al-Mukarrama region. S.E. Prof. Sano gave a presentation on the topic titled "The Fiqh of Hajj Facilitation and its Impact on Facilitation Services". At the beginning of his speech, he expressed his gratitude for the great services that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provides to pilgrims and visitors. He also commended the rapid developments and qualitative changes witnessed by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah and all institutions working in the field of Hajj, Umrah and visitation. Then he explained that it is necessary to use the different rules of Fiqh and Ijtihad regarding Hajj and Umrah issues, emphasizing the importance of implementing the rule of facilitation and removing the hardship, noting in the meantime that the difficulty which brings facilitation is that unusual difficulty which brings embarrassment, inflexibility and distress to pilgrims, and with these great services and facilities provided by the Kingdom, there must be an accompanying Fiqh that enables them to enjoy it to the fullest, and should be evident in the fact that the pilgrims are aware, knowledgeable and familiar with the provisions of Hajj. Hajj consists of several provisions, including pillars, obligations, sunnas and mustahabs (desired



take advantage of an or Ijtihad and the options that this rich intellectual Fiqh heritage, and it is necessary to give weight to the ideas and opinions that follow the changes and developments that the pilgrimage is witnessing at all levels. He stressed the need to make the public aware that there is no sin in the issues on which they differ and that acting on one of the due Ijtihadic opinions does not involve sin or disobedience, respecting the rule of non-denial in matters of Ijtihad. Accordingly, there are a number of Ijtihad in Fiqh that should be weighed and applied today in light of contemporary reality, including, for example, the lawfulness and legality of stoning Jamarats all times, the lawfulness and legality of leaving Arafat before sunset, the lawfulness and legality of Sai between Safa and Marwa before going to Mina on the day of Tarwiyah (Day of Eid), and other issues that should be considered in terms of Ijtihad in accordance with contemporary reality, and includes the removal of embarrassment and facilitation for pilgrims and visitors, to ensure the benefit of distinguished qualitative

and quantitative facilities and services, and to facilitate the performance of rituals and ward off difficulties and troubles. It should be noted that the second edition of the Hajj and Umrah Services Conference and Exhibition "Hajj Expo 2023" has ended successfully and a large attendance of more than 60,000 visitors from all over the world was recorded, with the participation of more than 200 companies specializing in Hajj and Umrah services, and many relevant government agencies by the services of pilgrims and Umrah. It should also be noted that the conference saw different activities, numerous sessions and scientific discussions, in addition to presentation sessions and 36 workshops, presented by 70 local speakers and 11 international speakers who reviewed the reality and the future of Hajj and Umrah services through 3 axes: improvement, competitiveness and sustainability.



SG delivers opening speech at Youth and Women Summit in Nouakchott



At the kind invitation of His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Mahfoudh bin Bayyah, President of the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum, His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), participated in the Third African Conference for the Promotion of Peace organized by the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum, during the period 24 -26 Jumada II 1444H, corresponding to 17-19 January 2023G, in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott. The conference was held under the high patronage of His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Ould Cheikh Al-Ghazwani, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and in partnership between the Mauritanian government and the African Forum for the Promotion of Peace, which is one of the initiatives of the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace in the United Arab Emirates. This year, the conference chose the slogan "Enter all in peace," praising the Emirati model of tolerance and coexistence, calling for inspiration in developing strategies and plans to promote peace in Africa. The conference recalled the great importance of uniting the efforts of the



continent's scholars in confronting the currents of extremism and violence and keeping pace with the efforts of governments in establishing an intellectual front to defend the homelands by spreading stability and extinguishing the flames of wars fueled by conflicts and hatreds. The conference also witnessed the holding of the "Youth and Women... Peacemakers in Africa" summit, chaired by Her Excellency the wife of the President of the Republic, the First Lady Dr. Maryam bint Mohammad Fadel Al-Dah, and the participation of dozens of youth and women leaders, in the presence of a group of government officials and African scholars, where the summit stressed the need to enhance and activate the role of youth and women in building local peace, and to contribute to policy-making and building partnerships to enhance the stability of societies and maintain peace in them, calling

for encouraging the education of young men and women and girls and enabling them to achieve their aspirations and contribute to building nations. In his speech at the opening of this summit, His Excellency the Secretary General praised the organizers of the conference, led by His Eminence Sheikh Abdullah bin Mahfoudh bin Bayyah, President of the Forum, for their blessed efforts in promoting peace, tolerance and dialogue and consolidating these universal principles throughout the African continent to defuse wars and conflicts and spread security, safety and stability. He also commended the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for adopting and hosting both the conference and this summit, noting the importance of the summit and the centrality of the issue of youth and women to the Ummah and the utmost importance the Academy attaches to this issue, and stressing the Academy's belief that it is one of the most important issues that should receive the attention and care of the Ummah's peoples, as it is considered the basis for the development, progress and development that states and nations aspire to, "Women and youth are the pillar of society and the stronghold and impregnable barrier in which civilized societies take refuge in order to achieve renaissance, progress and prosperity, and in order to ensure their security and stability. There is no stability for nations without their stability, and there is no progress for people without their progress, which makes it inevitable to enable these two important



groups to participate effectively in leading and pioneering civilizational and development efforts." In this context, His Excellency explained that the Academy is working diligently and firmly to correct misconceptions, especially with regard to the issue of women and their position in society based on the provisions of the texts and the practices of the greatest Messenger, may God bless him and grant him peace, and the established universal rules that stipulate that the assignment is general for both

men and women, and that undertaking the task of succession on earth and building the universe is a joint responsibility between men and women. His Excellency pointed out in the meantime that the issue of women's education and their participation in building nations is a settled issue in Shariah, and only the ignorant can argue about it and deny it because of the clarity of the texts contained therein. Therefore, His Excellency called for the empowerment of both sexes from all types of education and work, and from participating in leadership and entrepreneurship, and concluded his speech by saying, "It is time to move from theoretical talk about the importance of the participation of these two important groups, which represent the basis of progress, development and prosperity, to serious work of enabling them to play their due role. Let us agree that from now on, there will be no ignorant young person deprived of education, nor an educated young person unemployed, and far from decision-making centers. The time has come that no woman remains ignorant and deprived of education, or an educated woman unemployed and deprived of participation in building and progress efforts. Let us all remember the saying of Al-Faruq: If a mule stumbled in Iraq, God would ask me about it, why didn't I fix the road for it. By analogy, if a young man or woman was deprived of education, learning, and active participation in development and progress efforts, God would ask us about them why they were deprived and denied these two sacred rights." The activities of the forum were marked by a remarkable official and popular interactive momentum, with a youth and women majority attracted by the titles of the themes that discussed topics related to the geography of crises, dialogue and reconciliation, correcting concepts, development on the road of peace, and the present and future of women and youth. The conference halls were filled with large crowds led by ministers, representatives of international organizations, officials of Islamic organizations, Ambassadors, representatives of government agencies, international centers and organizations, muftis, scholars, judges, thinkers, academics and media professionals. The closing statement of the forum appealed to the major countries friendly to Africa and international organizations to support peace and development efforts in the continent and recommended the establishment and organization of peace convoys led by imams and notables of different ethnicities and tribes to be messengers of harmony and peace in areas suffering from civil wars and bloody conflicts.



US Special Advisor on Disability Rights Visits IIFA



His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), held an important meeting with a high-level delegation from the United States of America headed by Ambassador Dr. Sara Minkara, Special Advisor on International Disability Rights at the US State Department, on Sunday 29 Jumada II 1444H corresponding to 22 January 2023G at the headquarters of the Academy's General Secretariat in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. At the beginning of the meeting, Her Excellency the Advisor expressed her pleasure and honor to visit the Academy, this great Fiqh and scientific edifice and its great influence on all Muslims inside and outside the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states. She also thanked His Excellency the Secretary General for the good reception and warm welcome to her and the accompanying delegation, stressing that this visit represents the first stop in a series of shuttle visits that she is making to the region to mobilize support and spread awareness of the importance of the rights of people with special needs in the countries of the region, and the countries of the OIC in general, and the positive impact it has on the development, prosperity and progress of the economies and societies of the countries of the Muslim world. She also expressed her firm conviction and strong belief in the pivotal role that the Academy can play in mobilizing support from all parties

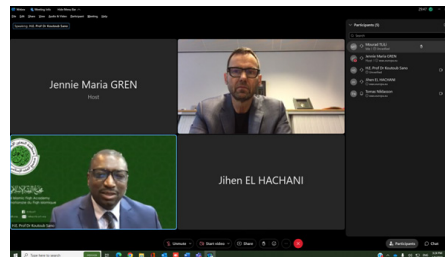
and spreading the necessary awareness among members of society through direct contact by organizing joint seminars and conferences on the issue of the rights of people with disabilities inside and outside the Member States, from a strategic perspective based on the importance of integrating these social groups into the economic and knowledge fabric of countries and societies to make the most of their creative and inventive capabilities in the process of continuous construction and development. She concluded by expressing the US administration's full readiness to cooperate and coordinate with the Academy in this regard. She also expressed her desire to attend seminars and conferences held by the Academy in this field. For his part, His Excellency the Secretary General welcomed the Special Envoy and her accompanying delegation, thanking her for this visit to the Academy, which indicates the appreciation of the US State Department, and the US administration through it, for the positive and pivotal role of the Academy in all efforts aimed at spreading awareness and consolidating the concept of full inclusion of people with disabilities and empowering them with all their legitimate rights, in line with the clear teachings of Islam in this field, which stipulate that all members of society be treated equally without discrimination due to disability, color or race. His Excellency also stressed the need to unite international efforts aimed at enabling all people with special needs to enjoy their full rights and the opportunity to contribute to the building, progress and prosperity of their societies and countries by investing in their unlimited intellectual and creative potential. His Excellency also took the opportunity to renew his congratulations to Her Excellency on her appointment as a special envoy of the White House in America, wishing her success in her duties, and stressing the commitment and readiness of the entire Academy to support the

efforts of her office in this field, as it believes in the sanctity of this mission. His Excellency also praised the Advisor's commendable efforts in a number of OIC countries to spread awareness of the importance of this file and to help develop an integrated system on how to deal with it and apply it in a practical way. His Excellency concluded by expressing his aspiration for more cooperation and strong coordination between the Academy and her Excellency's office in everything that achieves these common goals, especially with regard to organizing specialized scientific seminars to educate people and governments. The meeting was attended by His Excellency Mr. Fares Asaad, Consul General and Special Envoy of the United States of America to the OIC, Ms. Fatimah Martin, Vice Consul Political and Economic Section, Ms. Shams Mahmoud, Political Officer at the US Embassy, and Ms. Nicole Schlichter, Foreign Affairs Officer at the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the US State Department, and Mrs. Hana Nasri, Special Assistant at the Office of International Disability Rights. From the side of the Academy, Dr. Abdel-Qaher Qamar, Director of the Studies and Research Department, Dr. AlHagi Manta Drammeh, Head of the International Cooperation and External Relations Division, and Mr. Mourad TLiLi, Advisor to His Excellency the Secretary General for Media and Public Relations Affairs.



AIFI and the EU coordinate their efforts on Afghanistan

At the request of the Office of the European Commission Special Envoy to Afghanistan, H.E. Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, and H.E. Thomas Niklassen, European Special Envoy to Afghanistan, held a virtual meeting on Thursday 12 Jumada Akhira 1444 corresponding to January 05, 2023, in order to discuss ways of cooperation and coordination between the two parties on the Afghan file. The Secretary-General expressed his thanks to the Special Envoy for his willingness to convene this meeting to discuss the issue of the suspension of girls' education in Afghan schools and universities, and the issue of the participation of women in Afghanistan's construction efforts. He also referred to the great efforts made by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and all its organs, including the Academy, to support the Afghan people and alleviate the suffering that it has suffered for decades. In this context, he briefed the Special Envoy on the contacts established by the academy after being tasked by the OIC to lead a delegation of scholars to Kabul to dialogue and discuss with Afghan scholars and leaders on the above-mentioned issues, stressing that the Academy continues to strengthen communication with the



current authority in Afghanistan to enable girls to return to school and university in the near future. In addition, he indicated the importance of coordinating efforts between the Academy and international organizations active on the international scene in order to help the Afghan people overcome this difficult stage in their history. For his part, the Special Envoy expressed his thanks to the Secretary-General for accepting the invitation to this important meeting and commended his commitment to supporting the cause of women's education and work in Afghanistan. He underlined the European Commission's keen interest in this complex file, which in the eyes of the world has become a humanitarian issue par excellence which deserves cooperation and unification of efforts in order to

support Afghan women and enable them to enjoy all their civic rights provided by all religious laws, including Islamic law. He said that he had followed with great interest the mission of the delegation of scholars of the Ummah, which was led last year by H.E. the Secretary-General in Kabul, and the great efforts that had been made to persuade the Afghan authority to reconsider its recent decisions concerning women's education and work. He welcomed the strong statement recently issued by the academy on the recent exceptional measures concerning women in Afghanistan. In this context, he assured the Secretary General that the European Commission was fully prepared to coordinate intensively with the Academy to find practical solutions for Afghan women to participate in the reconstruction efforts of Afghanistan. At the end of the meeting, the two parties agreed to continue consultations with a view to the next visit of the delegation of Ummah scholars to Afghanistan, and to exchange visits between them to organize and unify the appropriate procedures.

Secretary General participates in Kuwait Global Conference on STDs, their Risks and Prevention



At the kind invitation of the Islamic Organization for Medical Sciences (IOMS) in Kuwait, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), participated in the international conference organized by the IOMS, entitled: Sexually Transmitted Diseases, a Renewing Epidemic – Risks and Prevention from an Islamic Health Perspective, on Sunday 22 Jumada II 1444H, corresponding to 15 January 2023G, in Kuwait City. In his intervention at the first session of the conference, His Excellency expressed his sincere thanks and great appreciation to the State of Kuwait, its leadership and people, for the support and care to the Academy. He also expressed his thanks to the IOMS for its tireless work in enhancing the Ummah's awareness of everything it needs in terms of prevention and protection against diseases and epidemics, then he said: "If the world breathes a sigh of relief from the receding of a cosmic pandemic that has destroyed offspring, wealth and businesses, and sowed terror, fear and panic everywhere, and if we have all learned through the years of its arrival and its spread around the world the importance of prevention and protection from the scourge of pandemics and the dangers of epidemics, we think that IOMS was successful in choosing the topic of our conference, considering that it is one of the most important topics of the hour that needs to enhance public and private awareness of the dangers that arise from these diseases that threaten the individual and society, and destructive to the human race. Sexually transmitted diseases were and still are among the afflictions that do not differentiate between a man and a woman, nor between young and old, and fetuses in their mothers' wombs have not and will not be safe from them unless they take the reasons that we commanded to take into account in His saying, the Most High: ((and

he took by the reasons)), and the words of the Prophet, prayers and peace be upon him: "Take your precautions then place your trust in God", and his saying: "Flee from the leper as you flee from the lion". There is no greater and more worthy cause than joining efforts, integrating steps, and exchanging experiences in order to provide the best and most effective treatment for those afflicted by it on the



one hand, and in order to take preventive measures to protect those who are in contact with them, including spouses and children. If self-preservation, progeny, honor, and lineage are all among the necessary interests that are necessary for the establishment of the interests of religion and the world, as Imam Al-Shatibi said, may God have mercy on him, so that if they are lost, the interests of the world will not lead to righteousness, but rather to corruption and loss of salvation in the day of judgement. And if these interests are maintained, their realization today depends on taking all means of prevention through the necessary examinations for all those wishing to marry, and through periodic examinations to protect the fetuses and their mothers from these diseases. In addition to this, the time has come to move away from what some people have been doing, in terms of the automatic link between contracting these diseases and committing immorality, because it is absolutely proven that not everyone who

is infected with them commits immorality, or is involved in a sinful one. Some fetuses, infants, pregnant women and innocent people are afflicted with it, and they did not commit an indecency, or a sinful act. They should not bear the burden of others, nor to be punished for the crime of others!! Therefore, there is a need today for a radical change in the discourse that insists on the absolute link between these diseases and committing sins. Instead, they should promote the awareness of those afflicted that they are diseases that can affect any person, regardless of whether he has committed sin. This awareness would encourage those afflicted to disclose their diseases and to search for a cure for them in peace and safety. It is stated in our honorable Shariah that both disease and health are tests from God Almighty, and therefore, the sick, whatever the cause of their illnesses, must seek and search for treatment, and repent, seek forgiveness, and disavow all that God has forbidden of immorality and evil. As for the healthy, their duty towards this divine test is to preserve their health by avoiding everything that harms it. However, this does not in any way preclude the call to stay away from immoralities, whether apparent or concealed, and adherence to chastity and purity in order to preserve oneself, offspring, lineage, honor, and religion. He concluded his speech, which was highly appreciated by the attendants, by praying for those afflicted with these diseases for a speedy recovery, and for the continued blessing of wellness for those who did not suffer from it.



United Kingdom's Consul General visits IIFA



Her Excellency Ms. Cecille El-Beleidi, Consul General of the United Kingdom in Jeddah, made the first visit of a British official to the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) on Wednesday 03 Rajab 1444H corresponding to 25 January 2023G, and was received by His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, the Secretary General of the Academy. Her Excellency the Consul expressed her deep thanks and gratitude to His Excellency the Secretary General for the good reception and warm welcome, stressing her keenness to make this important visit and to communicate with the Academy to discuss and confer a number of issues and topics in which the Academy's agenda intersects with the agenda of her country. She added that her country's government looks with great respect and appreciation to the moderate and sober thought presented by the Academy, led by His Excellency the Secretary General, and the distinguished efforts to spread

moderation, tolerance and peaceful coexistence among religions, races and peoples inside and outside the OIC countries, noting that her country's government closely followed the visit of His Excellency to Muslim communities in the United Kingdom and the good impact it left on the hearts of the community there, in addition to the first round of negotiations that His Excellency led with the Afghan side in Kabul on the dossier of girls' education and women's work. She concluded by expressing her hope to consolidate the bonds of cooperation and coordination with the Academy in order to serve the noble humanitarian goals that enhance cooperation and communication between peoples, by organizing more intellectual and scientific activities aimed at Muslim communities in the United Kingdom. For his part, His Excellency the Secretary General expressed his sincere thanks and great appreciation to Her Excellency the Consul General for this important visit, noting that it is a sincere expression of her Excellency's keenness to get to know the Academy and consolidate the bonds of communication and cooperation with it. His Excellency then took advantage of the occasion by giving her Excellency a brief overview of the establishment of the Academy, its objectives, programs and activities, and gave her an overview of the developments it witnessed in the recent period since he took over the reins of the General Secretariat. His Excellency also affirmed the Academy's commitment to promoting awareness among Muslim communities of the importance of adhering to

the requirements of citizenship in their countries, and the need to respect laws and regulations while preserving their religious identity, as there is, in fact, no conflict between religious affiliation and loyalty to the homeland inhabited by a Muslim. Then he expressed the Academy's readiness to organize more intellectual and scientific events within the UK directed at Muslim communities to serve these ideas. He also expressed his thanks and gratitude to Her Excellency the Consul General and the government of her country for their follow-up and interest in the efforts of the OIC and the Academy with regard to the Afghan file, calling on the UK government to continue to support the Academy in this file and to intensify cooperation and coordination to achieve the set goals. The meeting was attended by Mr. Mohamed Mondher El-Chouk, Director of Cabinet and Protocol Affairs at the Academy, Ms. Sarah Amjad Hussein, Director of Family and Women's Affairs at the Academy, and Mr. Mourad TLiLi, Advisor to the Secretary General of the Academy for Media and Public Relations Affairs.



IIFA Secretary General Receives the Chairman of MYAQSA Foundation



His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), received His Excellency Mr. Suwardi Yaacob, chairman and founder of the Malaysian "My AQSA" Foundation, on Sunday 07 Rajab 1444H corresponding to 29 January 2023G, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy in Jeddah. His Excellency welcomed the honorable guest, expressing his happiness at receiving the head of this pioneering Malaysian foundation in the field of supporting the just Palestinian cause and spreading awareness at the international level about the status of Al-Aqsa and working to liberate it by mobilizing official and popular international sympathy to support this cause. He added that the Organization of

Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and all its subsidiary organs are constantly working to develop a unified Islamic position towards the issue of Al-Aqsa and occupied Palestine through an integrated strategy led by the Secretary General of the OIC himself, recalling that the main reason on which the Organization was established is the incident of burning Al-Aqsa Mosque in 1968G, which confirms the centrality of this issue on the agenda of the OIC and all member states. His Excellency took the opportunity to give the guest an overview of the Academy, its activities and programs, stressing his readiness to provide the necessary intellectual and moral assistance to support the foundation and its legitimate efforts in serving the Al-Aqsa Mosque. For his part, Mr. Suwardi Yaacob expressed his great pleasure and gratitude to His Excellency the Secretary General for the warm welcome and his honor to visit the Academy, which is considered the first Fiqh reference in the Muslim world, noting the good reputation enjoyed by this great edifice internationally through what the great services it provides continuously to Muslims inside and outside the countries of the Muslim world. His Excellency added that he is looking forward, through this visit, to consolidating relations of cooperation and coordination with

the Academy and to make the most of the sound resolutions issued by an elite of the Ummah's scholars who are abundant in the Academy in serving the Foundation's work, specifically in spreading awareness on the widest scale of its goals and the tangible results it seeks to achieve on the ground. His Excellency also added that his foundation seeks to jointly organize with the Academy specialized scientific seminars and conferences on the issue of Al-Aqsa, in addition to participating and benefiting from all the events that the Academy holds periodically. The meeting was also attended by Ms. Sarah Amjad Hussein, Director of Women and Family Affairs at the Academy, and Mr. Mourad TLiLi, Advisor to the Secretary General of the Academy for Media and Public Relations Affairs.



IIFA Secretary General Receives the Head of the OIC's Regional Mission in Somalia



His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), received at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy in Jeddah, on Tuesday 03 Jumada II 1444H corresponding to 27 December 2022G, His Excellency Ambassador Mohammed Bambah Mohammed Boubah, Director General of the Regional Mission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in the Federal Republic of Somalia, and his accompanying delegation. His Excellency welcomed the ambassador and the accompanying delegation, praising his keenness to consolidate and solidify the bonds of continuous cooperation and coordination between the Academy and the office of the regional mission of the OIC in Somalia, and the tireless efforts made by the mission under his direction in the field of supporting communication and cooperation between the Academy on the one hand and the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs in Somalia and other related Religious and political institutions on the other hand. In this regard, His

Excellency reaffirmed the Academy's complete readiness and full commitment to providing intellectual and Fiqh support to the Somali authorities in their efforts to spread a culture of moderation, tolerance and coexistence, and to combat extremist ideology, fanaticism and terrorism. He also expressed the Academy's firm aspiration to cooperate with the official religious authorities and senior Somali scholars in order to promote the approach of moderation, reject fanaticism and extremism, and refute hate speech, violence and extremism in order to achieve security, safety and peaceful coexistence among the Somali people. His Excellency concluded by expressing his wishes for the Somali people to achieve stability, prosperity, security and peace so that Somaliland will return to its former era of prosperity and development. For his part, the Ambassador expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the Secretary General for the good reception and warm welcome, praising the great role played by the Academy under the leadership of His Excellency in combating all forms of extremism, fanaticism, violence and terrorism, and spreading the values of tolerance, moderation and temperance. In the context of searching for the best ways to support peace, reform and development efforts in Somalia, His Excellency expressed his firm belief that deep intellectual change is the cornerstone of any radical change or reform in Somali society, and therefore cooperation with the Academy on this basis comes within the framework of seeking to benefit from the scientific and intellectual potential of the Academy in serving the agenda

of peace and societal reform in the Federal Republic of Somalia by spreading the culture of moderation, temperance, tolerance, and rejecting extremist and petrified thought and religious misconceptions by organizing specialized scientific seminars and conferences inside and outside Somalia in cooperation and partnership with the Somali authorities and scholars. In this context, His Excellency informed His Excellency the Secretary General of the desire of the Somali Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs to meet with His Excellency to discuss the Somali issue, in addition to organizing specialized seminars on various issues and topics of concern to Muslims in the Federal Republic of Somalia. The meeting was also attended by His Excellency Eng. Abdullah Abdullah Ali, Deputy Director-General of the OIC's Regional Mission in Somalia, Dr. Alhagi Manta Drammeh, Head of the International Cooperation and External Relations Division at the Academy, and Mr. Mourad TLiLi, Advisor to His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy for Media Affairs.



A delegation from Almaty Management University Visits IIFA



His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Mondher El-Chouk, Director of Cabinet and Protocol Affairs at the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), received His Excellency Dr. Assylbek Kozhakhmetov, President and Founder of Almaty Management University in the Republic of Kazakhstan, and his accompanying delegation, on behalf of His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, on Tuesday 24 Jumada II 1444H corresponding to 17 January 2023G at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy in Jeddah. His Excellency the President of the University expressed his thanks and

gratitude to the Academy for arranging this meeting, noting the prestigious position and distinguished scientific reputation that the Academy enjoys at the global level, adding his university's aspiration to scientific and academic cooperation with the Academy in order to establish a department for teaching Shariah and Islamic sciences. He also expressed the university's desire to participate in all the scientific events organized by the Academy in order to make the most of the global scientific resources that abound in it. For his part, His Excellency the Director of the Cabinet expressed his welcome to the guests of the Academy and conveyed to them the greetings of His Excellency the Secretary General and his wishes for success in his endeavors and the permanent commitment of the Academy to support the efforts of all official scientific institutions in the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to achieve their scientific and educational goals in the service of the Muslim Ummah and its various causes. His

Excellency added that the university can also reach out to the concerned department within the OIC in order to mobilize the necessary logistical support for the establishment of this new scientific department, wishing him success in this good endeavor. The meeting was attended by Dr. Bakytzhan Sarkeyev, Vice-Rector for Science, Dr. Abdel-Fattah Abnauf, Director of the Planning and International Cooperation Department, Dr. Alhagi Manta Drammeh, Head of the International Cooperation and External Relations Division of the Academy, and Mr. Mourad TLiLi, Advisor to the Secretary General for Media and Public Relations Affairs.



IIFA and SMIIIC Sign a Memorandum of Cooperation

Seeking to build strategic partnership relations with the scientific and research agencies and centers operating under the banner of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and desiring to enable those agencies and centers to make the most of the resolutions and recommendations of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), which include effective solutions to many of the problems of contemporary life and its emerging issues, His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, and His Excellency Dr. Ihsan Ovut, Secretary General of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIIC) affiliated to the OIC, signed a memorandum of strategic cooperation between the two parties, on Tuesday 02 Rajab 1444H corresponding to 24 January 2023G, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy in Jeddah. This memorandum aims to build a strategic partnership between the two institutions in the field of issuing Shariah specifications and standards for the Halal industry in slaughterhouses, food, beverages, etc., in order to achieve the goals of the OIC in promoting the Halal industry that adheres to Islamic standards, and in pursuit of the commitment of Member States and Muslim communities to all Shariah standards for Halal products of foods, medicines, and others, through research and scientific cooperation, joint organization of conferences and seminars, holding workshops and training,



exchanging publications and periodicals, and representing the two parties in the work of conferences and seminars held by each of them in the field of common interest between them. After signing the memorandum, His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy expressed his great pleasure at the completion of this important agreement, not only for the two parties, but for all the member states of the OIC because of its direct impact on the lives of millions of Muslims and their livelihood all over the world, praising the important role the institute plays in determining Shariah standards and specifications that regulate all halal industries such as food, drink, clothing and medicine. His Excellency added by expressing the aspiration of the Academy to further cooperation and coordination with the Institute to set all Shariah standards and specifications for many halal products that still need Shariah codifying in support of the manufacture and trade of halal products in our Muslim world and to serve Muslims inside and outside the OIC countries. In conclusion, His Excellency invited Dr. Ovut to attend and participate in the 25th Academy's Session during the

coming month of February. For his part, His Excellency Dr. Ihsan Ovut expressed his pride and pleasure in signing this important agreement with the Academy, praising the keenness of the Academy under the leadership of His Excellency the Secretary General to codify and structure positive cooperation between the institute and the Academy in an unprecedented push for all the efforts made for decades towards more focused cooperation and coordination in order to obtain greater and more comprehensive results. His Excellency stressed that the long-standing cooperation between the institute and the Academy in issues of halal products such as food, medicine and clothing, has yielded impressive results that have deeply affected this vital and growing sector, adding that this agreement will give a new spirit to this cooperation and provide it with a major impetus that enables it to keep pace with the scientific developments and changes, and technical progress in the food and drug industry in our contemporary world.



IIFA Mourns the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Gabonese Republic



With great sadness and sorrow, the General Secretariat of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) received the news of the sudden passing of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Gabon, Mr. Michel Musa Adamo, following an illness, and on this painful occasion, Mr. Mohamed Mondher El-Chouk, Director of Cabinet and Protocol Affairs at the Academy, offered condolences at the headquarters of the Consulate General of Gabon in Jeddah on behalf of His Excellency the Secretary

General of the Academy, Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano. Mr. El-Chouk conveyed to the Consulate General the condolences of His Excellency the Secretary General to the family of the deceased and to the Gabonese government and people, eulogizing the many merits of the deceased and his constant endeavor to promote and consolidate fruitful cooperation between his country and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and its organs for the benefit of all member states.

27th Monthly Periodic Meeting of the Academy's Employees



His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), chaired on Sunday 08 Jumada II 1444H corresponding to 01 January 2023G, the twenty-seventh monthly periodic meeting for the employees of the Academy, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy in Jeddah. His Excellency started the meeting by welcoming the attendees, congratulating everyone

on the new Gregorian year and expressing his hope that it will be a year full of achievements and successes for the Academy, similar to the previous one. On this occasion, he expressed his thanks and appreciation to all employees of the Academy's General Secretariat for their appreciated efforts during the past year, which contributed significantly to enabling the Academy to achieve many of its programs and projects. His Excellency then spoke about the major milestones that await the Academy during the current year, foremost of which is the convening of the twenty-fifth Session organized by the General Secretariat of the Academy, for the first time in its history, as the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) were the ones that hosted the Sessions and took care of everything. Accordingly, His Excellency called on everyone to exert maximum efforts and to cooperate and continuously coordinate between departments and divisions in order to ensure

the success of the Session. Then the meeting discussed the items of the decisions issued by the previous meeting, and several new decisions were issued, the most important of which are:

- Instructing the Department of finance and administration to organize a full-day retreat for all employees outside the headquarters of the General Secretariat, provided that it is entirely devoted to reviewing and discussing the five-year strategic plan.
- Launching the monthly lectures in person series under the Forum of the Islamic Fiqh Academy, starting from the first week of March right after the Session.
- Instructing the Department of finance and administration to compensate additional working hours done by employees during the past year through official holidays instead of financial compensation.

5th Joint Weekly Meeting of Departments and Divisions

His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), chaired the fifth joint weekly meeting of the departments and divisions of the Academy, on Monday 9 Jumada II 1444H, corresponding to 02 January 2023G, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy in Jeddah. His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming the employees of the Academy, including directors and heads of divisions, and thanking them for their attendance at the regular meetings of the Academy, pointing in particular to the importance of continuing joint meetings between departments and divisions on a weekly basis until the Academy's Session is held, in order to intensify coordination and cooperation between all the various committees that were formed some time ago to carry out all the work related to preparing for the Session at the end of



next February. Then all the committees, one after the other, reviewed in front of His Excellency the reports of the work accomplished during the past week and presented the progress that had been achieved and the difficulties and problems they faced in order to discuss them and propose appropriate solutions to them to avoid

any disruption to work procedures. To achieve this, His Excellency urged all committees to maintain coordination and cooperation, and to submit daily reports to his office to help solve any emerging difficulties. Finally, the meeting discussed the items of the decisions issued by the previous meeting, and several new decisions were issued, the most important of which are:

- Start sending complete and edited research papers to all members of the Academy's Council during the first week of January.
- Asking the scientific committee to make sure that the Academy calls for papers from all members of the Academy's Council on the various topics of the Session.
- Sending draft Academy resolutions to some members and experts to express their observations and comments on them well in advance of the date of the Session.

6th Joint Weekly Meeting of Departments and Divisions



His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), chaired the sixth joint weekly meeting of the departments and divisions of the Academy, on Monday 16 Jumada II 1444H

corresponding to 09 January 2023G, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy in Jeddah. His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees, and thanked Mr. Saad Salah El-Din, Head of the Media Division at the Academy, for the appreciated efforts he made to deliver the session agenda booklet. Then the committees reviewed their reports on the work done during the past week, followed by extensive discussions by the attendees about the best ways to complete the remaining work. In conclusion, His Excellency urged all committees to persevere in cooperation and coordination among themselves, and to quickly submit all their needs directly to the Department of Financial and Administrative Affairs, so that they can be

approved and met immediately. Then the meeting discussed the items of the decisions issued by the previous meeting, and several new decisions were issued, the most important of which are:

- Sending ready and formatted research papers in PDF format to the Academy's members for review in sufficient time before the session.
- Preparing an integrated plan on coordinating work between the welcoming, housing and transport committees, and presenting it for discussion during the next meeting.
- Adopting one file for the final list of participants in the session, containing all their details, for submission to the Emirate of Makkah Al-Mukarramah Province.

7th Joint Weekly Meeting of Departments and Divisions



His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), chaired the seventh joint weekly meeting of the departments and divisions of the Academy, on Thursday 26 Jumada II 1444H, corresponding 19 January 2023G, via visual communication technology from his residence in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott. His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees, and thanking all

the committees of the Session for the work they are doing and the progress they have achieved in the preparations for the 25th Session of the Academy. His Excellency then spoke about his current participation in the Third African Forum for Promoting Peace, which was held in Mauritania under the generous patronage of His Excellency the President of the Republic and with the participation of many African Heads of State, Their Excellencies Ministers, experts, academics and media professionals from all over the world. Then, as usual, the committees reviewed their weekly reports on their achievements during the past period, followed by in-depth discussions and deliberations to overcome all the problems and difficulties facing the committees, especially with regard to travel arrangements for the participants in the Session and printing ready research at an early date that allows it

to be distributed to the Academy members within reasonable deadlines for viewing and commenting on it. As a precautionary measure to ensure business continuity, His Excellency the Secretary General declared the suspension of all types of leaves, except for sick leave, until the end of the Session. Then the meeting discussed the items of the decisions issued by the previous meeting, and several new decisions were issued, the most important of which are:

- Final review of prepared and edited research before sending it to print.
- Adoption of a final list of participants in the Session who have been issued visas and tickets.
- Reminding all to raise any inquiries about the services provided to employees directly to the Department of Financial and Administrative Affairs through the regular administrative methods and frameworks.

8th Joint Weekly Meeting of Departments and Divisions

His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), chaired the eighth joint weekly meeting of the departments and divisions of the Academy, on Tuesday 02 Rajab 1444H corresponding to 24 January 2023G, at the headquarters of the Academy's General Secretariat in Jeddah. His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, thanking them for their good cooperation and dedication in performing their duties, praising especially all the colleagues who worked over the weekend to fulfill the work requirements within the specified deadlines. His Excellency stressed the need for all employees to show a spirit of dedication to work and great care for the higher interest of the Academy in order to implement all the plans and programs that were developed in advance to serve the Muslim Ummah. This was followed by a review by the committees of



their weekly reports on the work they carried out during the last week, and the difficulties and obstacles they encountered that prevented the realization of some activities and programs. In this context, His Excellency called on the chairmen of the committees and all the managers for more cooperation and coordination among them, and for more flexibility in communication between the employees in order to overcome all bureaucratic obstacles that prevent achieving the desired results within the expected deadlines.

Then the meeting discussed the items of the decisions issued by the previous meeting, and several new decisions were issued, the most important of which are: Establishing a comprehensive database of male and female researchers participating in the Session, classified by country, and including all necessary information about them in the 25th Session of the Academy. Start communicating with the participants who have obtained their visas and tickets in order to ensure their participation, as of next week. Arranging a meeting for the Board of Trustees of the Academy's Waqf Fund before the Session. Designing the next issue of the Academy's monthly newsletter in line with the theme of the Session in terms of form and content. Final review of draft resolutions and addition of seminar recommendations to them before the end of January.

Rays of Light on the Lives of the Academy's Scholars (10)

Four decades have passed since the leaders of the Muslim world created the largest contemporary institution of collective Ijtihad, whose members consist of the elite and eminent contemporary Shariah scholars, supported by distinguished experts in natural sciences, sociology, economics and politics, with the aim of studying contemporary life problems and clarifying the legal provisions on issues of concern to Muslims worldwide, based on the teachings of the Holy Qur'an, the Sunnah; and the supreme objectives of the Sharia, and in accordance with the pious predecessors' methodology in legal deduction and inference, as well as the legal and jurisprudential maxims that have passed through the generations. By the grace of Allah, this institution has become the primary reference in fiqh matters, where OIC Member states and Muslim communities seek refuge to learn about the rulings of Shariah concerning the current calamities and

developments in life, and the practical scientific recommendations for guidance, clarification, and orientation. As the ascetic Imam Abdullah bin Al-Mubarak once said, "The blessed science is that which is referred to its people". The Secretariat General of the Academy believes that there is an urgent need to make known to future generations the journey of those eminent jurists and scholars who concluded these outstanding resolutions and issued these clear recommendations, beginning with those who passed away and joined the Supreme Companion, may Allah have mercy on them and place them in His spacious gardens; and thus concluding with those who continue to enlighten us with their brilliant achievements, May Allah bless them with health and well-being, and may He prolong their lives. This blessed initiative by the Academy is to reassure those far and near that the resolutions and recommendations are correct, as they are issued

by prominent scholars known for their piety and fear of Allah, who mastered the instruments and skills of jurisprudential examination, and who fulfilled the requirements of Ijtihad and the ethics of Ifta. To fulfil this crucial responsibility, the General Secretariat of the Academy has decided to devote space in its monthly newsletter to present a brief biography of the Academy's members as scholars and experts, in appreciation of their work and recognition of their contributions, while praying for mercy and acceptance to them. We pray to Allah to assist us in completing this work as soon as possible; we only want to reform as much as we can, and our success is solely dependent on Allah, the Highest, the Greatest.

Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano
Secretary General of the Academy

His Eminence Professor Salih Togh



His Eminence Prof. Salih Togh was born in 1930G in Istanbul, Turkey, and graduated from the Faculty of Law at Istanbul University in 1954G. In 1963G, he completed his doctoral studies with a dissertation entitled "The Emergence of Islamic Tax Law" in the field of the history of Islamic Fiqh at the Faculty of Arts at Istanbul University. His Eminence was a designated member of Turkey to the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy from 1984G to 2008G, and he also held many important positions, including: teaching at Istanbul University until he became an associate professor in 1969G, and a professor in 1978G at the

same university in the Institute of Islamic Studies, and worked as director of the Istanbul Islamic Higher Education Institute, director at the Institute of Islamic Studies at Istanbul University (1969-1970), dean of Al-Hayat College at Marmara University (1982-1994), and he retired in 1997. Since the seventies of the last century, he worked at various levels in universities, institutions and various associations. He is the author of several books, research papers and articles in various fields, translated several books from Arabic and English into Turkish, and participated in a large number of international and local conferences and seminars.

His Eminence Sheikh Muhammad Vaez-Zadeh Khorasani

His Eminence Sheikh Muhammad Vaez-Zadeh Khorasani was born in 1926G in the city of Mashhad in Iran. Before starting elementary school, he went to the Qur'an schools and learned the Qur'an, after that he attended the elementary school classes as well as a religious school, and he moved to the scientific seminary (Hawza) in Mashhad to study religious sciences until 1949G. He studied various disciplines of Islamic sciences, including sciences and traditional knowledge, as well as higher levels in religious sciences. In 1949G he moved to the city of Qom to continue his higher religious studies. During his stay in Qom for about eleven years, he obtained a BA of ijtilah in sciences traditional knowledge, and he also obtained a BA in hadith at the hands of famous scholars.



His Eminence was a designated member of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, and he also held many other important positions, including: In 1960G, he began teaching at the University of Mashhad, and he taught various disciplines such as: Fiqh, history of Fiqh, history of hadith, explanation of hadith, interpretation of the Qur'an, history of interpretation of the Qur'an, linguistics, philosophy and others in the College of Islamic Studies, he was Vice-President of the International Union of Muslim Scholars, the first Secretary General of the International Academy for the Proximity of Islamic Doctrines, and the founder and first president of the University of Islamic Doctrines in Tehran. His Eminence passed away in 2016G in Iran.

His Eminence Dr. Saud bin Musaad bin Musaad Al-Thubaiti

His Eminence Dr. Saud bin Musaad bin Musaad Al-Thubaiti was born in Taif in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1370H (1951G), and he obtained a bachelor's degree from the College of Shariah and Islamic Studies in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in 1392H (1972G), then a master's degree on: (Divorce of spouses by the ruling of the judge) from Umm Al-Qura University in 1398H (1978G), then a Ph.D. in the review of the book "Al-Istighna' fi Al-Firaq wal-Istithana'" by Muhammad bin Al-Bakri, from the same university in 1404H (1984G). His Eminence is an expert in the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, and also held a number

of important positions, including: assistant professor at the College of Shariah and Islamic Studies at Umm Al-Qura University, then head of the Shariah Department, then an associate professor at the same college, taught at the Grand Mosque, and was a member of the committees: the Encyclopedia of Economic Fiqh at the Academy, the Encyclopedia of Fiqh Rules, Planning Committee in Jeddah, the Curriculum Committee in the Department of Shariah at Umm Al-Qura University, and the Libraries Committee at t Umm Al-Qura University. He participated in several scientific conferences and has many publications in various fields.



General Supervisor
PROF. DR. KOUTOUB MOUSTAPHA SANO

Editorial
MOURAD TLILI
JAWZI LARDJANE
MOHAMMAD WALID AL-IDRISI

PHOTOGRAPHER
AMJAD MANSI

DESIGN
SAAD ESSEMMAR

FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES YOU MAY KINDLY CONTACT
US THROUGH THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA. P.O. BOX 13719, JEDDAH 21414
PHONE: (+96612) 6900347 / 6980518 / 2575662 / 6900346
FAX: (+96612) 2575661

