

H.E. Sheikh Ibn Humaid praises the efforts of IIFA in clarifying the status of women in Islam for decades



H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, President of the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, delivered a speech at the opening session of the International Conference entitled Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment, hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation during the period from 22-24 Rabi' Al-Thani 1445H corresponding to 6-8 November 2023 in Jeddah. At the beginning of his speech, His Excellency welcomed the guests of the conference, saying: "The guests of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the land of the Two Holy Mosques, you are welcome, to the vicinity of the Grand Mosque, which God has made as a reward and a sanctuary, and to which the fruits of everything are due, including the fruits of men and women, including you hopefully." He then stressed that "the true religion has established sound principles, solid rules and coherent systems for the establishment of a distinct human society whose members cooperate in righteousness and piety and whose members are integrated in building nations, advancing peoples, and advancing man, where men and women compete in good deeds, within a framework of tight control of rights and duties, and the solid formulation of areas of cooperation, integration and solidarity. His Excellency said: "Guided by the texts of the Holy Book and the Sunnah of the Prophet that are mentioned in women's issues, especially their legitimate rights to education, work, property, possession, guardianship, consultation, etc., and their intellectual, educational, social, economic and other duties, the honourable ancestors of the Companions, may God be pleased with them, the followers and their followers and the imams

of ijthihad made their great effort in explaining the lofty status enjoyed by women in Islam in a satisfactory and sufficient statement, a report to honor them and protect them from humiliation, vulgarity and contempt. In this regard, he noted the importance of finding guidelines that preserve women's rights and dignity, saying: "In this blessed conference, we need insightful guidance that affirms women's right and their role in building and comprehensive development in society and affirms their right to education, work and appropriate employment. We need guidance that condemns and resists all forms of exploitation of women in any field that does not give weight to values and virtues that lead to the denigration of women, the humiliation of their dignity, the trafficking of their bodies and their honor, and guidance that prevents women from being thrown into the seas of loss, humiliation and deprivation, and we need guidance on women's rights coupled with their responsibilities in motherhood and family care... How beautiful it is to talk about the call of instinct that God instilled in people, the call of instinct that says: The man is looking for a woman who builds the house with her presence, or her work and manages her home, not the woman who goes out to work in fields that leave behind a house filled with emptiness and neglect, just as the woman is looking for the honorable man who stands by her side in the course of her life, a young woman, a happy woman, and a respectable lady, is her residence and she is his residence. His Excellency explained that efforts to clarify the status of women, especially their rights and duties in Islam, have not stopped throughout history, based on what this status and those rights and duties are exposed to from time to time, from usurpation, humiliation and abuse, whether from

outdated customs, traditions and customs, or from unjust and legislation and laws, and in an effort to contribute to correcting concepts contrary to the teaching of the right religion with regard to the status of women in Islam. Referring to the role of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy during the past four decades in explaining the lofty status and high status of women, and rejecting outdated customs that prevent women from carrying out their legitimate and civilized duties towards their religion, homeland, nation and the whole world, women's issues, rights and duties have been strongly attended in the Academy's sessions, and specialized jurisprudence seminars, and the Academy issued a large number of sober decisions on women, their rights and duties. At the end of his speech, His Excellency called on God Almighty to grant this conference success and to reward the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and his faithful Crown Prince, may God protect them, for the attention and care they give to Islam and Muslims, and to reward all those who have the credit for organizing this conference, in particular His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, OIC Secretary-General and all participants in this conference.



S.G. stressed that responsibilities in Islam are addressed to both men and women

At the kind invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, delivered a speech at the international conference entitled “Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment”, on Tuesday, 23 Rabi II 1445 AH corresponding to 7 November 2023 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His Excellency began his speech at the first scientific session by saying: At the outset, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and to our organization, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, for organizing this conference at this moment that our Islamic Ummah is going through. “It is a sensitive moment where day after day there is humiliation, contempt, and regression of the rights recognized by Islam for Muslim women, and for women in general.” His Excellency then spoke about the status of women between texts and application, saying: “It is no secret to anyone that Islam is fair to both by giving them equal rights. However, despite the fact that Islam defines women’s rights and duties in a detailed, and clear manner, the reader of our Islamic heritage, especially those books that talk about the rights and duties of women in Islam, finds that these books focus their talk about those rights and duties with great emphasis on a specific type of woman, it is that woman who cares about the home, and married and is the mother, and rarely talks about that woman who is not a mother, nor a wife, nor a nanny of children, which makes her view to rights and duties that are questionable and problematic. His Excellency then spoke about the importance of dealing with women’s issues, especially their rights and duties, which Islam has decided and defined through four methodological foundations, the first: the comprehensiveness of the assignment for men and women, the second: taking into account the purposes of Sharia from the legal texts contained in regard to rights and duties in Islam, and the third basis is the balance between interests and evils when determining rights and duties. The fourth basis is to consider the consequences of the acts that result from rights and duties. His Excellency then explained what is meant by these

four methodological foundations, focusing on the first two of them. With regard to the first basis, His Excellency said: “The principle in the text of assignment is general and comprehensive, except what is allocated by Sharia with special evidence, and this letter requires that all the inalienable rights of men are also fixed for women, and it is not permissible to differentiate between these rights except by a correct, explicit and clear text directly from the Qur’an and Sunnah, as well as the duties imposed by Sharia on men, they are also obligatory for women except what has been excluded. As for the second basis, His Excellency explained that “... It is the necessity of taking into account the purposes of Sharia in the texts in which rights and duties are determined, and the most important of those purposes are three purposes, namely” the purpose of functional integration and is intended to integrate men and women to carry out together the task of succession to God on earth by building the universe, and achieving happiness in the two homes, and a report for this, many verses were mentioned in the Holy Qur’an to refer and alert to this functional integration, the Almighty said: (And the night if it clouds * and the day if it manifests * and what is the creation of the male and the female * your endeavour is different ﴿The purpose of the diversity of endeavour and services is integration, cooperation and solidarity, just as night and day, sun and moon, sky and earth, and other couples of animals and inanimate objects are integrated..”). His Excellency then spoke about the second purpose that must be invoked when considering the legal texts that define rights and duties, namely: “The purpose of justice and equality in reward and punishment, according to which equal rights and duties between men and women are equal, as they bear the consequences of acts of reward or punishment, for example: The penalties prescribed by Islam for the crime of theft do not differentiate between male and female. ﴿And the male thief and the female thief, cut off their hands as a reward for what they have earned from God and God is dear and wise ﴿And the Almighty said in adultery ﴿The adulteress and the adulterer, so flog each of them a hundred lashes, and do not take them with mercy in the religion of God ﴿, and He also said: ﴿Whoever does a good deed, male or female, and he is a believer, let us give him a good life, and let us reward them with the best of what they were doing ﴿, Accordingly, the principle is equality in rights and duties, except rarely, and this purpose should be invoked when talking about women’s rights and their duties, stating that they are the same as the inalienable rights of men and the same duties of men, and there is no difference between men and women in that. As for the third purpose that must be noted when considering the legal texts contained in rights and duties, it is the comprehensiveness of slavery and submission to God Almighty for both men and women, both of which are charged



with the same assignments in the field of faith, worship, transactions, marriage, and agreements. His Excellency then spoke about a number of important educational, cultural, social, economic and political rights recognized by Islam for women, such as the right to education, the right to work, the right to acquire and earn, the right to own property, the right to pledge allegiance, the right to run and be nominated, like inalienable rights of men, stressing that the aforementioned rights are proven by the same texts that prove the same rights as men. In the meantime, His Excellency explained the importance of resorting to the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), as the eternal and binding sources to which reference must be made to ensure that a right or a duty has been reserved for men or women, if we do not find a text and there is no evidence, the original remains as it is, and the original remains as it was until evidence comes to prove otherwise.” At the end of his speech, His Excellency pointed out the importance of referencing the texts of the Glorious Book and the Prophet’s Sunnah in “customs”, which prevent women from being empowered by their legitimate rights, and prevent them from carrying out their duties in the fields of thought, work, economy, society, politics and others. He added: “If we find a practice, custom, or behaviour that contradicts the rights established by the Sharia, and set of duties, then our noble initiation is clear on how to deal with those customs, practices and tradition.” His Excellency concluded his speech by emphasizing the characteristics of Islamic law represented in flexibility, capacity, saying: “Our Sharia is the conclusion of the laws, and it is the conclusion of the messages and prophecies, and therefore, its provisions and teachings are comprehensive and complete, and valid for every time and place, and it would not have been comprehensive, complete and valid for every time and place if its provisions were not fair, flexible, broad, ..”.



Secretary General calls upon the world to end Israel's atrocities against Palestinians



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), which is headquartered at the Gate of the Two Holy Mosques, the city of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, represented and extended greetings of H.E. Mr. Hussein Ibrahim Taha, Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and of the Ummah's scholars, members and experts of IIFA, expressing their deepest thanks and gratitude to H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to his wise government, and his honorable people, for the warm welcome and hospitality since setting foot on the blessed land of Egypt. His Excellency also congratulated the distinguished scholar H.E. Sheikh Dr. Shawqi Allam, Grand Mufti of Egypt and thanked him for preparing and organizing this conference, where Muslim scholars convene to discuss ways of meeting the challenges of the third millennium. In his speech at the conference's opening session, entitled "The Fatwa and the Challenges of the Third Millennium", and on behalf of H.E. Mr. Hussein Ibrahim Taha, Secretary General of the OIC, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano pointed out that this conference is being held at a critical historical moment for the Ummah and the entire world, a moment when the Ummah and the free world are confronted with the worst human tragedy and the most horrific, brutal and appalling massacre known to mankind in this millennium, which has been committed by the Zionist establishment in the occupied Palestine. This criminal establishment spills blood without mercy, violates honour without shame, destroys infrastructure without limit, and such atrocities

cannot be committed by any sane person, nor can the imagination believe in such heinous, barbaric and abhorrent bombings of hospitals, homes and mosques. His Excellency pointed out that Israel continues, to this day, to wreak havoc in all parts of Palestine, using the most lethal and bloodthirsty weapons to kill children and women, and flagrantly violating all international resolutions and humanitarian conventions signed by international organizations, including, on their top, the UN Security Council. His Excellency added: "What is shameful, disgusting to the soul and repudiated by conscience is that, unfortunately, this genocide and brutal massacre are being committed in broad daylight and under the eyes of the international community, which

has chosen to take the full side of the forces of aggression and tyranny, and which applies double standards and selectivity in the application of humanitarian law when confronted with Israel's brutal practice". His Excellency clarified that the OIC, which was created following the criminal assault on Al-Aqsa Mosque in 1969, has not hesitated and will not hesitate to defend the occupied Palestine until it regains its land and establishes its independent state, with East Jerusalem as its capital. His Excellency also called on international organizations and institutions, as well as the free peoples of the world, to force Israel to cease its brutality against civilians, in order to prevent the shedding of blood and to preserve dignity and property. His Excellency added: The world had great hope that the third millennium would be a millennium of dialogue, tolerance and coexistence between the followers of religions, a millennium of integration, solidarity and cooperation between countries, peoples and nations, which would transform intellectual, social, cultural, economic and political challenges into opportunities to build, rebuild and advance human beings everywhere. Indeed, the hope was and is that this millennium will be one in which the whole world is united in the face of injustice, aggression and tyranny so that human beings everywhere can enjoy peace, security and safety, in the light of a responsible world system in which brotherhood and humanity will prevail, divine mercy will be sublime, equality will be dominant and human dignity will be widespread. His Excellency concluded his speech by praying to Allah the Most High to be kind to our brothers and sisters in the occupied Palestine, to wipe out the injustice and aggression to which they have been subjected, to grant them victory, to welcome their martyrs into the gardens of bliss and to heal their wounded. Indeed, Allah is the Guardian and the Almighty.



S.G. calls on Ifta Councils to adopt five values to face up challenges of the Millennium

In response to the kind invitation of the Egyptian House of Fatwa and the General Secretariat of Ifta offices and councils worldwide, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, chaired the first scientific session of 8th International Conference concerning “Fatwas and the Challenges of the Third Millennium”, held in Cairo on Wednesday 3 Rabi Al-Akhir 1445, corresponding to October 18, 2023. His Excellency began chairing the session entitled “Areas of Investigation and Methods of Confrontation” by referring to the importance of this conference, which is being held in difficult circumstances for the Ummah and the whole world due to the brutal aggression against the Palestinian people at the hands of the occupiers before the eyes of the whole world, emphasizing the solidarity of the International Academy of Islamic Fiqh and all fatwa councils worldwide, as well as all peace- and justice-loving peoples and nations in the world. His Excellency welcomed the OIC’s firm stance on the Palestinian question, as it is a central issue that it will not hesitate to defend, and to advocate to the world its justice, until Palestine recovers all its occupied lands, and establishes its independent state, with its capital, Jerusalem. His Excellency also appreciated the positions of OIC member states, starting with the Arab Republic of Egypt, which have called for a world peace conference to find an urgent solution to end Israeli aggression against civilians in occupied Palestine. He also appreciated the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has also called for an exceptional conference of OIC foreign ministers, in the hope that the occupying forces will cease their brutal attacks on defenseless civilians. His Excellency explained that the challenges facing the fatwa and its institutions in the third millennium, twenty-three years of which have already passed, are many and varied, involving intellectual, social, cultural, economic and political challenges, as he pointed out. To this end, His Excellency presented five practical methods or values for facing up to the challenges of the third millennium and transforming them into opportunities that serve Ifta and make it an influential and present tool with power and



action. His Excellency called his proposal the five values, which are “Institutionalization, credibility, follow-up, methodology and professionalism.” With regard to institutionalization, we mean that the fatwa moves from an individual action to an organized institutional action that overcomes the improvisation, chance and chaos that surround it today on all sides. This requires close monitoring of the various problems and challenges that have accumulated, in order to determine the means and methods for dealing with them in a sober manner, based on the drafting of laws; enacting laws that distinguish between areas of fatwa, such as individual fatwas that are forbidden in public affairs, and fatwas that are restricted to the supreme institution of fatwa, which includes within its ranks a group of scholars qualified to issue fatwas and the experts who support them. As for credibility, this is represented by the houses and bodies of fatwa around the world that maintain their reputation, integrity, justice, impartiality and commitment to telling the truth and stating legal rulings in an abstract, clear and direct manner that does not fear the influence of rulers or the domination of the common people, making their fatwas subject to acceptance and observance. As for actualization, we mean that the role and fatwa bodies keep up with the rapid developments, growing transformations and continuous changes the world is witnessing in all areas of life, especially in the field of means of communication and information technologies, so that the role and fatwa bodies use these means and techniques in order to deliver their fatwas to those who seek their benefit, in accordance with what affects them. It is also necessary for the role

and organs of fatwa to closely follow calamities and developments in order to respond to them and explain their rulings to enable the rising generation to know the legal rulings related to these calamities and developments. With regard to methodology, His Excellency pointed out “The role and councils of fatwa must be a model of discipline, transparency and organization, and avoid improvisation and haphazardness when dealing with developments and calamities, in order to formulate fatwas characterized by impartiality, objectivity and fairness...” As for professionalism, it means that fatwa bodies around the world must meet standards of excellence and quality at all levels, starting with aspects of their institutions and bodies, through the way their institutions deal with the questions put to them in accordance with the approach of moderation and the values of moderation, tolerance and flexibility, and ending with the way they deal with cases” His Excellency concluded by commenting on what the speakers had presented at the session, stressing the need to continue dialogue on this subject in order to develop a targeted methodology capable of confronting and combating what is being propagated by those with an extremist ideology, and those who resort to aberrant and dangerous fatwas, through communication and coordination, and as we know, thought is only confronted by thought, and extremist thought is countered by moderate thought, just as fanaticism and narrow-mindedness are confronted by tolerance and open-mindedness. It should be noted that His Excellency’s speech was well received and appreciated.



European Union Special Envoy for Afghanistan visits the Academy

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, received H.E. Mr. Thomas Niklasson, the European Union Special Envoy for Afghanistan, on Monday 20 Rabi’ al-Akhir 1445, corresponding to 6 November 2023, at the Academy in Jeddah. His Excellency welcomed his honorable guest and thanked him for the visit, and expressed his happiness with the participation of the European Union Special Envoy for Afghanistan in the international conference hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment, which will be held in the city of



Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during November 6-7, 2023. His Excellency praised the European Union’s historic role in resolving

conflicts around the world, and expressed his hope that it would play an important role in ending the humanitarian catastrophe to which the Palestinian people are exposed, especially the residents of Gaza and the West Bank, by putting pressure on the Israeli occupation forces to immediately stop the brutal genocide that violates international values and norms. He also expressed his aspiration to strengthen cooperation relations with the European Union in order to spread the values of moderation, tolerance, coexistence, and reject violence, hatred, and extremism.

Secretary General calls on Muslim countries to comply with SMIIC resolutions



Following an invitation from the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, delivered a speech at the opening session of the 18th SMIIC General Assembly Meeting, held in Makkah, on Wednesday 17 Rabi' Al-Akhir 1445, corresponding to 01 November 2023. At the start of his speech, His Excellency said: "Allow me to express my thanks and gratitude to the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, as well as to this blessed city and its generous people, for the generous organization of this conference. I also thank the Crown Prince for his follow-through and willingness to ensure that these meetings are attended. We also extend



our thanks and appreciation to the Member states of the OIC". His Excellency highlighted the Academy's contributions, including that which led to the creation of the SMIIC, recalling the audience that "a quarter of a century ago, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy called for the creation of an institution tasked with monitoring, supervision and coordination between OIC member states, as an institution to supervise and monitor the various industries such as meat, medicine, food, drink and clothing that a Muslim needs wherever he or she lives and travels, so that he or she might be conscious of the food, drink, clothing and medicine he takes. Today, this institute has become a reality – thanks to Allah – and the Academy is proud of this institution that can carry out this important task that concerns every Muslim". Accordingly, His Excellency launched an appeal to Muslim countries and communities: "Now that the SMIIC has become a reality both in force and in action, we launch another appeal, like the one we launched a quarter of a century ago, this appeal is an invitation to Muslim countries to adhere to these standards, specifications and criteria that SMIIC has established. This institute has become the reference for Muslim countries in matters relating to their consumption, including food products, beverages, medicines and halal issues, these specifications and standards are of no use if they remain ink on paper". His Excellency then spoke about the definition of the Ummah's unity, explaining: "It is quite possible that these criteria will be applied in all Muslim countries. It is quite possible that these criteria and standards will be unified and that we will become the united Ummah, just as the Qur'an described it: 'Indeed, this Nation of yours is one Nation, and I am your Lord, so serve Me'. This desired unity should manifest itself in feelings, rites and thoughts, as well as in every action we undertake. We don't



want this unity to be merely theoretical, or not to exist in our practices, rites, clothing, food and medicine. We want this unity to manifest itself in its most beautiful form. Indeed, it is the Ummah that must achieve this unity, for it cannot 'be realized with a magician's wand or a priest's dance'. We must establish it and work towards it, starting with our commitment to these norms and resolutions." His Excellency concluded his speech by expressing his aspiration that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during its presidency of the current session, will encourage Muslim countries to commit to and adhere to the standards and resolutions issued by the SMIIC, reiterating "Our concern and enthusiasm are very strong that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's presidency of the SMIIC Governing Council will witness a qualitative leap in the commitment of our countries and institutions to what is permitted and what is prohibited in this field". At the end of his speech, His Excellency thanked the conference's organizers, praying to Allah to grant them success in their efforts, and also for our brethren in occupied Palestine to lift the calamities from them, to help them against their enemy, to accept the martyrs and heal the wounded; for Allah is the All-Capable and the All-Mighty.

Family Watch International President visits the Academy

As part of its active engagement with the OIC and its different organs particularly the International Islamic Fiqh Academy on family, children and marriage, the President of Family Watch International Mrs. Sharon Slater and her delegation paid a visit to the Academy in Jeddah the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday 22 Rabiul Al-Akhir 1445, corresponding to 07 November 2023. Upon their arrival, they were received by H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy. Family Watch International is an American based international organization that champions the cause of family and marriage dedicated to protecting and promoting family values at the international, national and local levels. At the start of the meeting, Mrs. Slater thanked Professor Sano for the warm hospitality

and accepting the meeting with her and the accompanying delegation at a very short notice. She expressed her delight at the engagement with the Academy on Islamic and religious values on the preservation of family and family values. She also looked forward to the conference on women that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is organising. Mrs. Slater also spoke about the proposed signing by Presidents of ACP-EU treaty scheduled for November 2023 which she thinks will likely have negative impact on the OIC member states who will sign the treaty. On his part, Professor Sano thanked his Honorable guest and her delegation for the kind visit. He renewed the commitment of the Academy to clarifying different issues with regards to the Islamic juristic views. He also expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Slater for the warm welcome that Ms. Sara Bedwi, Director



of the Family Dept, was accorded during her visit to the Organization in the United States. The meeting was attended by Mr. Mohamed Chouk, Director of Cabinet, Protocols, and Legal Affairs, Ms. Sarah Badewi, Director of the Family, Woman, Childhood and Elderly Affairs and Dr. Alhagi Manta Drammeh, Head of International Cooperation and External Relations.

Secretary General participated in an international conference in Abu Dhabi on shariatic understanding of scientific developments



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, participated in the second world conference entitled “Towards Sharia Understanding of Scientific Developments: Civilizational Methodology, Realistic Applications and the Ethics of Sustainability”, organized by the Fatwa Council of the United Arab Emirates on 23-24 Rabi' al-Akhir 1445, corresponding to November 7-8, 2023, in Abu Dhabi. His Excellency delivered a keynote address at the third session, entitled Sharia Fatwas on Medical Issues and their Understanding of Scientific Developments, and began his speech by expressing his sincere thanks and gratitude to the United Arab Emirates for organizing this important scientific conference at a time when our contemporary world is witnessing a qualitative leap and abundance. The quantitative aspect refers to the types of scientific developments that should inevitably

be approached with guidance and orientation, based on the general principles of sharia, maqasid, balancing interests and harms, and the consequences of actions. His Excellency explained that “The IIFA, as the greatest contemporary reference for collective ijthihad, has chosen a solid approach to dealing with scientific developments, based on the integration of jurists and experts in all available scientific fields, particularly in medicine, economics and sociology, on which the Academy relies to adopt Sharia resolutions on these vital issues. Medical sciences are based on clear perceptions and accurate information provided by specialists on the reality of scientific innovation, its origin, purpose and impact, as well as an explanation of its position on the scale of necessary, indispensable and sharia-improving interests. These perceptions submitted by the specialists are then presented to the Academy’s Council in the presence of its members and experts in order to clarify the appropriate Sharia ruling in the light of the members’ unflinching understanding of the new developments, and their very precise understanding of the impact of the appropriate Sharia ruling in this regard. His Excellency spoke of the procedures followed by the Council when issuing resolutions and recommendations: “When issuing its resolutions and recommendations, the Academy’s Council is keen to adhere to objectivity and impartiality in presentation and discussion, and is open in its resolutions to recognized schools of Islamic law,

and is not bound by any specific school of law. Whereas resolutions relating to these innovations cannot be attributed to the schools’ previous imams, as these are new issues in religion that were not known at their time.” His Excellency concluded: I believe that the recommendation of the Academy’s aspiration to “make the most of this conference’s recommendations, and hopes that communication and coordination with the UAE Fatwa Council will continue on this important subject, in order to enable contemporary Muslims to learn the Sharia rulings on scientific developments with ease and comfort.” His Excellency concluded his speech by praying to the Almighty to reward the UAE, on behalf of the Ummah, by granting the best reward to its rulers and people, and to bless H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah, to grant him health and well-being and to benefit us, the Ummah, and the whole world, with his knowledge and wisdom.



Delegation from Islamic Economics Institute of King Abdulaziz University visit the IIFA

As part of its Executive Education programme, a delegation from the Islamic Economics Institute of King Abdulaziz University, including faculty members and over ten research students, attended a lecture by H.E. Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano Secretary general of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy on Monday 29 Rabi Al-Akhir, corresponding to 13th November 2023. The faculty was led by Dr. Hasan Makhethi, Deputy Dean, Postgraduate Studies and Research, Islamic Economics Institute at the University. The faculty included eminent scholars and practitioners from different countries. At the beginning of the lecture, a short film was shown on the history of the Academy its history, vision and achievements. Then, Dr. Kallem Alam the programme coordinated introduced Professor Sano with regards his vast academic career and expertise in Islamic law and Islamic economics and the great role that the Academy is playing in responding to the challenges and new developments on different issues. Dr Kallem Alam also thanked Professor Sano and his officials for the hospitality and warm welcome. H.E. Professor Sano welcomed the faculty members, thanking them for having this session at the Academy with this caliber of experienced people in different industries and fields. Then, a lecture by Professor Sano where he focused on the importance of fatwa, methodology of fatwa, fatwa for financial products and the approach adopted by the Academy with regards



to collective Ijthihad. At the beginning of the Lecture titled: “methodology of Issuing fatwa for Financial Products”, Professor Sano states: “fatwa has been the main recourse of Muslim communities in order to know Sharia provisions on calamities and developments. It is of utmost importance in shaping the contemporary Muslim mind, defining its identity, and its view of itself, its society, and the world around it. Therefore, it is not surprising that the practice of this honourable task remains sacred throughout history, based on its influence on perceptions and practices”. He added: “However, it is unfortunate what we see today frantic strife from incompetent people would take it as a vehicle for false fame, a deluded popularity, and toxic ideological means to spread problems and political unrest. There is a need to provide the necessary protection mechanism for this honourable profession and achieving decisive legal framework that protects the people and the

country from the unjust and ambiguous fatwas issued by those who are not qualified”. On fatwa for financial products, Professor elaborated on the need for fatwa for alleviation of poverty, social inclusion of the marginalised, social mobility, combating ignorance and promoting education, combating exclusion, and extremism, reduction of societies’ poverty, famine, and unemployment. It also contributes to the achievement of sustainable growth and the need to support humanitarian work to provide relief to disaster victims, those affected during epidemics, and the displaced during conflicts, whether the beneficiaries are Muslims or non-Muslims. Finally, Professor Sano exchanged gifts with his guests from the University. They presented to Professor Sano a certificate to express their profound gratitude and in recognition of his scholarship, experience and expertise in Islamic economics and finance.



Delegation from Prince Songkla University in Thailand visits IIFA

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, received a delegation of teachers and students of Prince Songkla Government University from the Kingdom of Thailand on Wednesday, on 17th Rabi' al-akhir, 1445, corresponding to November 1, 2023, at the headquarters of the Academy in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. His Excellency welcomed the delegation and thanked them for visiting the Academy's headquarters on the sidelines of the delegation's educational visit to Saudi Arabia, then invited the delegation to watch a documentary about the Academy. His Excellency spoke about the place of Muslim

communities in the Academy's resolutions and recommendations, noting that one of the most important objectives of the Academy is to issue fatwas to Muslim communities outside the Muslim world in a way that preserves the values of Islam, its culture, and its traditions, while adhering to the requirements of citizenship and residency in those non-Muslim countries. In fact, the Academy is very keen to strengthen relations of cooperation, communication and coordination with institutions and higher scientific councils within these societies that take moderation as a culture, and are committed to the



requirements of citizenship in the countries where they live. His Excellency concluded his speech by expressing the Academy's readiness to cooperate with the University.

IIFA participates in training courses on emergency and disaster management



Mr. Mohamed Walid Al-Idrissi, Director of the Department of Media and Public Relations, represented the Academy, participated in the training course on emergency preparedness and response and disaster management (Global Refugee Forum/Global Compact on Refugees) organized by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, at the Cooperation Council for the Arab Gulf States during the period between 17-18 Rabi' al-Akhir 1445, corresponding to 1-2 November 2023, at the OIC in Jeddah. The course included a group of specialized lectures

delivered by UNHCR experts and aimed to provide representatives of the OIC's member states, and employees with the necessary knowledge on emergency preparedness and disaster management, in addition to exchanging important technical information about the Global Compact on Refugees and preparations for the next Global Refugee Forum. The Academy has issued a fatwa calling on philanthropists to contribute with their zakat to UNHCR aimed at saving millions of people who live in extremely harsh living conditions and are suffering under the yoke of poverty and destitution, and clean living.

36th Monthly Meeting of Academy's Personnel

The Secretariat General of the Academy held thirty-sixth monthly meeting of the Academy's personnel on Sunday, 21 Rabi Al-Akhir 1445, corresponding to 5 November 2023, at the headquarters of the Secretariat General in Jeddah. H.E. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, welcomed and thanked the participants, stressing the importance of the monthly meetings of the Academy's employees, to review the Academy's work progress during the past month, and making it an opportunity for self-criticism, resolving problems, submitting suggestions, and discussing issues of concern,



in all freedom and transparency, noting that this meeting represents three years since His Excellency assumed his duties as Secretary-

General of the Academy on October 1, 2020. His Excellency spoke about the importance of staying away from spreading rumors and falling into the diseases of the heart such as backbiting and gossip, as this results in spreading discord among people. His Excellency opened the way for all officials to freely express their opinions and suggestions, and to submit their professional and social problems and issues for discussion, in order to improve positive communication between His Excellency also listened attentively to the interventions and requests of the participants.

113th Weekly Meeting of Departments

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, chaired the 113th weekly meeting of departments' directors, on Monday 15th Rabi Al-Akhir 1445, corresponding to 30 October 2023, at the headquarters of the Secretariat General in Jeddah. At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their keenness to participate in the weekly meetings, reiterating the importance of these meetings during which they discuss and work together to make decisions and discuss various issues and matters related to the

Secretariat General of the Academy. His Excellency called on all employees to plan well their leaves in order to avoid taking leave that would harm the work progress in the Academy. The meeting concluded with several decisions, notably:

- Preparing the list of topics postponed in previous Academy sessions to be studied in the next session.
- Submitting a report on the translations of the Academy's resolutions and recommendations.

Ensure all employees finish all work at hand before submitting leave request.



114th Weekly Meeting of Departments

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, chaired the 114th weekly meeting of the heads of departments on Monday, 22 Rabi' al-Awal 1445, corresponding to 6 November 2023, at the Academy's headquarters in Jeddah. At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency welcomed the participants and then spoke about his participation in the international conference on: "Women in Islam, Status and Empowerment", organised by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the generous patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. His Excellency participated in the scientific sessions

of the conference, reviewing the status of women and their rights in Islam, as well as the high status they enjoy. His Excellency emphasised that women's rights are parallel to the rights granted to their male brothers in all areas of life, be it education, intellect, culture, society, economics, or politics. His Excellency spoke of coordination with the authorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the holding of the next session, and called on all departments to cooperate, integrate and make greater efforts to ensure the holding of this session. The meeting discussed previous decisions and issued new decisions, namely:

- To submit a report on the translations of the Academy's resolutions and recommendations.



- To reiterate the need to abide by the Academy's rules and guidelines and to refrain from behaviour that is inconsistent with the Academy's values and reputation.

115th Meeting of Departments



The Secretariat General of the Academy held its 115th weekly meeting for departments directors, chaired by H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, on Monday, Rabi Al-Akhir 29, 1445, corresponding to November 13, 2023, at the

Secretariat General's headquarters in Jeddah. His Excellency welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending these meetings, and then spoke about his participation in the second world conference organised by the Fatwa Council of the United Arab Emirates in the capital, Abu Dhabi, entitled "Towards a Shariah-based Understanding of Scientific Developments – Civilised Methodology, Realistic Applications and the Ethics of Sustainability". More than 160 scientific and intellectual participants, representing over 50 countries and 71 fatwa

bodies from around the world, took part in the conference. His Excellency delivered a speech at one of the conference sessions on the Academy's approach to the study of modern issues and developments. The meeting discussed previous decisions, and issued new decisions, namely:

- Preparing to hold a Bureau meeting as soon as possible to discuss how to transform the Academy from a subsidiary body to a specialized body.
- Reviewing resolutions' translation report and conclude with new decisions in this regard.

52nd Regular Meeting of Divisions

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, chaired the fifty-second regular meeting of divisions' heads, on Thursday 11 Rabi' al-Akhir 1445, corresponding to 26 October 2023, at the headquarters of the Secretariat General in Jeddah. His Excellency began the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their commitment to attending the meetings, then spoke about "the abuse of the right," noting that everyone has the right to take (ordinary leave), but the abuse of this right occurs when existing work is left behind and there is no one to do it. Such actions will lead to the disruption of urgent ongoing work, reminding everyone of the need

to be honest and truthful in dealing with the institution, and to feel a sense of responsibility towards the Islamic nation, and that the moral responsibility is grave for all of us to perform our duty to the fullest and most brilliant image. The attendees then discussed the items on the meeting's agenda, and new decisions were issued, notably:

- Prepare the third-year newsletters, and publish it in one volume as in the previous two years.
- Sending the latest copy of employees' CVs to be included in the book of the Academy's members in a special chapter for the Academy's employees.
- Working on holding the symposium "The Family Foundation: Challenges



and Prospects," proposed to be held in Istanbul in cooperation with the Islamic Youth Forum in Turkey, and reviewing the research in this regard.

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