

Qatar Hosts the 26th Session of the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy



Under the esteemed patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, the 26th session of the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), a subsidiary organ of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), officially opened on Sunday, 6 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1446H, corresponding to 4 May 2025, in Doha, Qatar. The proceedings began with a recitation from the Holy Qur'an, followed by a welcoming address delivered by His Excellency Mr. Ghanem bin Shaheen Al Ghanim, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, who warmly welcomed the participating scholars and experts from across the Muslim world. In his address, His Excellency underscored the importance of Qatar's hosting of this prominent scholarly event, affirming that Islamic law offers comprehensive guidance on matters that concern humanity. He further highlighted the Academy's pivotal role in addressing contemporary juristic issues, serving as a leading intellectual platform that unifies perspectives and amplifies the collective voice of the Islamic world.

His Excellency Mr. Hussein Ibrahim Taha, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, also addressed the

gathering, commending the Academy for its role in promoting collective Ijtihad and providing jurisprudential responses to the pressing challenges of the Ummah. He lauded Qatar's significant contributions to advancing joint Islamic action under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, and his esteemed government.

His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, Advisor to the Saudi Royal Court, Member of the Council of Senior Scholars, Imam and Khatib of Al-Masjid Al-Haram in Makkah, and President of the Academy's Council, delivered remarks highlighting the critical importance of the topics on the session's agenda—topics that demand rigorous and collective scholarly deliberation.

In his speech, the President of the Academy expressed profound gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani for graciously hosting the session and to H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani for his generous patronage. He also extended sincere thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Prime Minister of

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for their unwavering support for the Academy and its mission.

His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, emphasized the timely relevance of the session's themes and their direct impact on both individual lives and broader society. He noted that this session represented the largest gathering in the Academy's history, with 187 research papers submitted and an unprecedented level of participation by distinguished female scholars.

The Secretary General also conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to the Qatari leadership for their warm hospitality and to the Ministry of Awqaf for their outstanding organization of the session.

Spanning five days, the session brought together over 230 scholars and experts from more than sixty countries to deliberate on submitted research papers, culminating in resolutions and recommendations aimed at guiding policymakers, leaders, and intellectuals across the Muslim world.

These outcomes reaffirm the Academy's commitment to institutionalized collective Ijtihad and its pursuit of balanced, authentic, and forward-looking responses to contemporary challenges.

Inaugural Address by His Excellency Mr. Ghanem bin Shaheen Al Ghanim



In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds, and may peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his noble family, and his righteous companions.

Your Excellency Mr. Hussein Ibrahim Taha, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,

Your Excellency Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, Advisor to the Saudi Royal Court and President of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy,

Your Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy,

Your Excellencies, distinguished scholars and guests,

Assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh,

It is with great pleasure and sincere appreciation that I welcome you all to the 26th session of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, hosted with honor by the State of Qatar under the generous patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Esteemed participants,

The noble sciences of Sharia encompass comprehensive and timeless guidance on all matters affecting humanity. It is this very conviction that brings us together today: to exchange insights on contemporary developments, and to arrive at sound, juristic

perspectives that resonate with the hearts of believers and meet the expectations of Muslim communities around the world. In doing so, we reaffirm the relevance of Sharia in addressing modern realities—guided by the balanced and moderate spirit of our Ummah, as reflected in the words of the Almighty:

“And thus We have made you a just community that you will be witnesses over the people and the Messenger will be a witness over you.” (Al-Baqarah: 143)

Honored scholars,

Your esteemed Academy bears the noble mission of elucidating divine rulings and defending the sanctity of religion. In fulfilling this mission, it must speak with clarity and determination, backed by all scholarly and religious institutions across the Muslim world. The Ummah today faces grave challenges—from the erosion of family values and the misguidance of youth, to the decline of virtues and the spread of moral and ideological deviance, including atheism and abnormal practices that threaten our moral fabric. These dangers require a sincere and wise response rooted in our obligation to Allah, His Book, His Messenger, and the leadership and people of this Ummah.

This immense responsibility rests upon you, the scholars well-versed in the jurisprudence of the Qur'an and Sunnah. Yet I am fully confident, by the grace of Allah, that you are most capable of carrying it. I trust that the issues to be examined during this blessed session will receive the deep reflection

and rigorous analysis they merit, and that your scholarly endeavors will contribute meaningfully to the advancement of contemporary Islamic jurisprudence. May your efforts yield a lasting and proud juristic legacy for generations to come.

Respected scholars,

Your Academy has become a premier platform in the Islamic world for addressing juristic and contemporary matters, unifying scholarly perspectives and strengthening cohesion and solidarity among Muslims. The valuable research submitted by your esteemed colleagues for this session touches on both public concerns and individual matters, grounded in the lived realities of Muslim societies. The breadth and diversity of these contributions will no doubt enrich the deliberations and enhance the collective benefit to Islam and Muslims alike.

In conclusion, I reiterate my heartfelt welcome to all of you. We are truly honored by your presence and delighted by this opportunity to meet. I pray to Allah Almighty to bless your efforts with success and to crown this session with outcomes that fulfill our shared aspirations.

Welcome to Doha, the city of goodness.

May Allah protect and preserve you all.

Wa assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh.

Speech by His Excellency Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

May peace and blessings be upon our Master Muhammad, his noble family, and his righteous companions.

Your Excellency Mr. Ghanem bin Shaheen Al Ghanem, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of the State of Qatar,

Your Excellency Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, Advisor to the Saudi Royal Court and President of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy,

Your Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy,

Your Excellencies, distinguished scholars, esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen, Assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh,

On this blessed occasion, we convene in the brotherly State of Qatar to inaugurate the 26th session of the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy. We do so amid a global landscape rife with turmoil—marked by mounting crises, intensifying conflicts, and a growing convergence of natural and man-made calamities.

In these trying circumstances, both the Muslim Ummah and humanity at large yearn to hear a voice of wisdom, a call to moderation, and a message of mercy—precisely the voice that the Academy has consistently offered, by the grace of Allah, since its inception. Through genuine collective Ijtihad, the Academy has clarified the Islamic stance on complex contemporary matters, provided visionary guidance to the Ummah, and upheld the noble objectives of our religion.

On this occasion, we express our deep appreciation to the International Islamic Fiqh Academy for its unwavering commitment to its mission, its firm adherence to moderation, and its ceaseless endeavor to disseminate the timeless



values of Islam in an ever-evolving world. We extend our sincere gratitude to the leadership of the State of Qatar, under the wise and noble leadership of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, for graciously hosting this session, and for the warm hospitality and excellent organization provided by his government. May Allah bless their efforts and reward them abundantly for their service to the Ummah and humanity at large.

We also wish to express our heartfelt thanks to the Government of Malaysia for its gracious offer to host the 27th session of the Academy's Council in Kuala Lumpur—a clear reflection of its steadfast commitment to advancing joint Islamic action.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our collective conscience cannot remain at peace without acknowledging—painfully and resolutely—the ongoing plight of the Palestinian people, especially our brothers and sisters in Gaza. They continue to endure relentless injustice and brutal aggression at the hands of the Zionist occupation, which has unlawfully usurped their land for decades.

We stand in full solidarity with their suffering, and we salute their legendary patience and resilience in the face of

this persistent oppression. We pray that Almighty Allah grants them a decisive and honorable victory, strengthens their resolve, and eases their trials.

Honorable attendees,

Our gathering today carries a profound responsibility. We are entrusted with formulating sound, well-founded Shariah-based resolutions and recommendations on critical matters that include global crises, environmental degradation, technological advances, artificial intelligence, societal transformations, and the evolving digital economy. With humility and conviction, we are called to illuminate the path of contemporary life through the enduring light of faith and the higher objectives of Shariah, firmly rooted in a deep understanding of our modern context.

We beseech Allah Almighty to make this session a beacon for the renewal of Islam's eternal message—a message of justice, compassion, peace, and wisdom.

May He bless your deliberations with success, guide your words and intentions to what pleases Him, and make the outcomes of this session a source of benefit and blessing for the Muslim Ummah and for all humanity.

Wa assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh.

Speech by His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid President of the Academy



In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

On behalf of the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy—and in my personal capacity—it gives me great honor and pleasure to extend the warmest welcome to you all on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the 26th session of the Council, graciously hosted in the city of Doha by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of the State of Qatar.

This blessed gathering stands as a powerful testament to the unwavering dedication of our distinguished scholars and members to the noble responsibility of conveying religious guidance—an obligation entrusted to the scholars of this Ummah by Almighty Allah, who said:

“Indeed, Allah took a covenant from those who were given the Scripture, [saying], ‘You must make it clear to the people and not conceal it.’” (Aal ‘Imran: 187)

And as the Prophet ﷺ commanded:

“Convey from me, even if it be a single verse.”

This session is held in fulfillment of the trust placed in the Academy by the Muslim Ummah and the leadership of its nations, to offer sound, authoritative, and timely Shariah-based guidance on the contemporary issues confronting our societies. It draws from the Qur’an, the Sunnah, the established evidentiary sources of Islamic law, and the higher objectives (maqasid) and universal principles of the Shariah, all while maintaining an open, principled engagement with modern scientific and technological developments.

Indeed, to contemplate deeply the verses of the Qur’an and the Sunnah—exploring their layers of wisdom, rulings, purposes, and values—is a defining characteristic of those firmly rooted in knowledge. As Allah the Exalted has said:

“[This is] a blessed Book which We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], that they might reflect upon its verses, and that those of understanding would be reminded.” (Sad: 29)

The practice of Ijtihad, as a disciplined intellectual effort to derive legal rulings for emerging challenges, has always been the path of the rightly guided jurists. Allah Most High states:

“When there comes to them news of [public] security or fear, they spread it around. But if they had referred it to the Messenger or to those of authority among them, the ones who can draw correct conclusions would have known

it.” (AnNisa: 83)

And He says:

“So take warning, O people of vision.” (AlHashr:2)

And:

“Consult them in matters.” (Aal ‘Imran: 159)

Inspired by these divine injunctions, this session convenes to examine critical contemporary matters requiring collective Ijtihad, with the aim of harmonizing scholarly reasoning with specialized expertise and bridging the divide between legal theory and real-world application. Through Allah’s grace, we aspire to produce insightful and actionable resolutions that reflect the realities of our age and uphold the principles of our faith.

This session takes place amid profound and accelerating global transformations—transformations that touch the very fabric of family life, demand scientific reassessments of food and medicine policies, call for strengthened models of governance, and challenge us to consider how Islamic finance can address today’s complex economic realities. The inclusion of such themes in this session underscores the all-encompassing nature of Islam and its enduring capacity to offer genuine, principled, and forward-looking solutions.

Now more than ever, the Ummah needs a vibrant, institutionalized framework of collective Ijtihad that fosters innovation within the parameters of Shariah and leverages scientific and intellectual advances for the benefit of all humanity. Like its predecessors, this session serves as a vital platform for profound scholarly dialogue, strategic policy framing, and cross-institutional cooperation—toward a future rooted in family dignity, health and well-being, social justice, ethical governance, and financial systems inspired by the mercy and morality of Islam.

We at the Academy reaffirm that the collective Ijtihad carried out by Fiqh councils represents a major scholarly milestone and a living expression of Muslim unity—clearly reflected in the very identity and mission of this institution. It gives rise to new jurisprudential insights that benefit scholars, students, and institutions alike. Therefore, it is imperative that all submissions to the Academy remain anchored in this coherent methodological vision. Any departure from it risks inconsistencies in legal analysis and undermines the credibility of conclusions.

Indeed, Fiqh academies—and their collective deliberations—stand at the forefront of applying Islamic legal principles to the ever-changing realities of our world. Their resolutions play a pivotal role in enriching jurisprudential discourse, supporting fatwa bodies, guiding judicial systems, and informing national legislation, thanks to the soundness of their methodology and the strength of their evidentiary basis.

Among the most important topics on the agenda of this session are:

Child Welfare, Artificial Intelligence, the Principle of Istishab (presumption of continuity), Electronic Games, Mental Health, Islamic Finance, and Shariah Governance.

In addition, this session will review the outcomes of recent specialized scientific symposia held by the Academy on key developments in the halal industry, with a view to issuing clear and practical resolutions.

Distinguished participants,

As the principal Shariah reference body for the OIC member states, the Academy remains firmly committed to enhancing coordination and cooperation with scholarly and fatwa institutions across the Muslim world. By Allah’s grace, we shall continue to meet emerging challenges with vision, rigor, and scholarly integrity.

In closing, on behalf of the Academy and the broader Muslim Ummah, I extend our deepest gratitude to the brotherly State of Qatar—its wise leadership and noble people—for their generous and gracious hosting of this important session. I express particular thanks to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, for his kind directive to host this event; to His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs; and to His Excellency Mr. Ghanem bin Shaheen Al Ghanem, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, for their warm hospitality and exemplary arrangements. May Allah reward them abundantly.

I also reaffirm our heartfelt appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and to His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s continuous and exceptional support—material and moral—for the Academy as its host country. May Allah bless and reward them with the best of rewards.

Our gratitude also extends to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Qatar for its outstanding organizational efforts, to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation represented by my esteemed brother, His Excellency Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, and to the Secretariat General of the Academy for their dedicated work in preparing this session.

To our esteemed members and experts: thank you for your scholarly contributions. And to all participants, men and women alike: thank you for your presence and active engagement.

We ask Allah to bless this assembly, to guide our efforts toward what pleases Him, and to accept our work as sincere service in His cause.

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds.

Wa assalamu alaykum

Speech by His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano Secretary General of the Academy



All praise is due to Allah, who has guided us to this, for without His guidance, we would never have found the way.

May peace and blessings be upon the Prophet who illuminated our path with divine guidance, upon his purified and noble family whom Allah has completely sanctified, upon his righteous companions who stood by him and honored him, and upon all those who have followed in their footsteps with excellence until the Day of Judgment.

Your Excellency Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,

Your Excellency Mr. Ghanem bin Shaheen Al Ghanem, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of the State of Qatar,

Your Excellency Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, Advisor to the Royal Court, Member of the Council of Senior Scholars, Imam and Khatib of Al-Masjid Al-Haram, and President of the Academy,

Your Excellencies, Eminences, distinguished scholars, brothers and sisters,

Assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh, What was once a vision has become a reality. What began as a proposal now stands as a tangible achievement. It has been twenty-two years since the State of Qatar last hosted a session of the Academy—at a time when the Ummah was facing a pivotal turning point marked by what was then termed the “New World Order.” That period brought with it intense intellectual upheaval, sweeping societal changes, significant economic transformations, and mounting political pressures. Yet in those critical moments, your esteemed Academy stood firm—engaged, contributing, and guiding, offering clarity of thought, coherence of vision, and wisdom of

action, as storms gathered across the globe.

In that historic session, the Academy issued a landmark resolution on the challenges of globalization, calling upon the Ummah to safeguard its values and future generations from the perilous effects of that emerging order. It urged engagement with globalization’s tools and mechanisms with vigilance and awareness, advocating for the development of informed, strategic approaches that speak to contemporary realities in terms that resonate and persuade—eschewing impulsiveness, superficiality, or rigid abstraction.

Today, once again, the city of Doha graciously opens its arms to the Academy—this time amid another profound turning point in the life of our noble Ummah. The pace of intellectual upheaval is quickening. Social transformations are becoming more complex. Scientific and technological advances are accelerating with astonishing speed. Political unrest continues to grow. And most painful of all is the ongoing tragedy in Palestine, especially in the wounded and besieged Gaza Strip, which suffers under brutal aggression amidst a deafening global silence that shames humanity and lays bare the hypocrisy of so-called defenders of human rights—past and present.

In the face of such adversity, the Academy remains steadfast in its mission, marching forward with wisdom and insight to confront emerging challenges, complex developments, and unprecedented transformations. It does so through disciplined collective Ijtihad—rooted in sacred texts, guided by Shariah objectives, fully aware of interrelated complexities and consequences, grounded in firm principles, yet dynamically engaged with contemporary realities. The Academy speaks the language of evidence and compassion, of justice and excellence, of

balance and moderation—across its theorization, interpretation, and real-world application.

In accordance with this enduring methodology, and as articulated by the President of the Academy, this session aspires to address, with rigorous academic engagement, a set of critical contemporary issues that bear direct relevance to the daily lives of individuals and the welfare of society. Among these issues are:

Artificial Intelligence, Electronic Games, Shariah Governance, and Mental Health Disorders.

Distinguished participants,

The Academy could not have continued to fulfill its immense scholarly responsibility without Allah’s enabling grace, the generous material support of the leaders of OIC member states, and the intellectual contributions of its members and experts through their participation in conferences and symposia. Accordingly, the Secretariat General of the Academy wishes to seize this occasion to extend, on behalf of the Academy, the highest expressions of gratitude and appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani—may Allah protect him—for his generous hospitality and warm welcome, and to His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, for his gracious patronage of this session. Special thanks are also due to His Excellency Mr. Ghanem bin Shaheen Al Ghanem, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, and to all his dedicated staff for their exemplary efforts in organizing this session and coordinating with other government bodies—especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Your commitment and diligence are deeply appreciated.

To all of you—eminent scholars, honored officials, and distinguished guests—I extend my heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation for your sacrifices in traveling and for your commitment to participating in this noble endeavor. May Allah place your efforts upon the scales of your good deeds.

We pray that Allah grants this session success in its deliberations, blesses this gathering, and makes its outcomes—resolutions and recommendations—a beacon of guidance, a source of light, and a means of benefit for the Ummah. May they bring forth that which is useful to people and enduring on this earth. Indeed, He is the All-Hearing, the All-Responsive.

Wa assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh.

OIC Secretary General Chairs IIFA Bureau Preparatory Meeting Ahead of 26th Session



His Excellency Mr. Hussein Ibrahim Taha, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Chairman of the Bureau of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), presided over the Academy's first Bureau meeting for the year 2025. The meeting was held in Doha, Qatar, on Sunday, 6 Dhul Qi'dah 1446 AH, corresponding to 4 May 2025.

In attendance were His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, President of the Academy's Council and Vice-Chairman of the Bureau; His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy and Secretary of the Bureau; as well as esteemed Bureau members: H.E. Dr. Abou Bakr Doukouri, H.E. Dr. Tijani Saboun Mohamed, H.E. Dr. Ajeel Jassim Al-Nashmi, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Abdulaziz Al-Haddad, and H.E. Dr. Murtaza Badr.

The meeting opened with remarks from the OIC Secretary General, who welcomed the members and expressed his gratitude for their continued dedication to the Academy. He commended the efforts of H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid for his steadfast support and guidance in advancing the Academy's mission, and praised H.E. Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano for his distinguished leadership in implementing the Academy's programs and enhancing its performance. He also conveyed his deep appreciation to the State of Qatar and its wise leadership for hosting the 26th session of the Academy's Council, praying that the session would yield successful outcomes that benefit Islam and Muslims throughout the OIC member states and beyond.

In his intervention, H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid expressed sincere thanks to all Bureau members for their

support and participation. He extended profound appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, and to the Qatari government for their gracious hospitality and exceptional organization of the session. He also expressed deep gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's enduring support—both moral and material—since the Academy's inception.



His Excellency underscored the importance of this meeting, noting that it is being held during a critical juncture in history characterized by far-reaching challenges and transformations. He emphasized that the burden of responsibility on scholars and jurists has grown significantly, necessitating a strong collective Ijtihad to clarify Islamic rulings in a balanced, comprehensive manner that addresses present realities with wisdom and purpose.

He further highlighted the significance of this meeting as a precursor to the scholarly deliberations of the 26th session, providing an opportunity to review the agenda, explore strategies to further elevate the Academy's global standing, and emphasize the importance of sustaining the Academy's Waqf Fund by mobilizing necessary financial resources to support its research and activities in line with its strategic vision.

In his remarks, the Secretary General of the Academy, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, expressed profound thanks to the OIC Secretary General for his personal presence at this Bureau meeting—the first such in-person attendance—and for his unwavering support and commitment to the Academy's work. He also extended special thanks to the President of the Academy for his wisdom, support, and continuous supervision of the Academy's affairs.

H.E. Prof. Sano concluded by offering heartfelt gratitude to the State of Qatar—its leadership and people—for their warm hospitality and facilitation of all arrangements needed to successfully host this session. He also thanked the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Ghanem bin Shaheen Al-Ghanem, for its exemplary coordination and support.

The Bureau then proceeded to discuss its agenda items, which included:

Approval of the minutes of the previous Bureau meeting;

A briefing on the memoranda of understanding signed by the General Secretariat of the Academy with various religious and academic institutions across OIC member states during the period between Jumada al-Akhirah and Dhul Qi'dah 1446 AH;

Review of nominations submitted by member states for new representatives to the Academy's Council;

A financial report on contributions made by member states to the Academy's budget for the current year

Among the resolutions adopted, the Bureau approved the nomination of the representative from the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Council of the Academy. It also approved the appointment of Dr. Khawla Al-Nobani as a member of the Academy—making her the first woman in the history of the Academy to hold a seat on its Council.



Fiqh Novelties and Contemporary Issues Discussed on Second Day of the 26th Session



On Monday, 7 Dhul Qi'dah 1446 AH, corresponding to 5 May 2025, the second day of the 26th session of the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) featured five enriching and specialized academic plenary sessions.

These sessions addressed a range of pressing contemporary issues and developments that affect the daily lives of Muslims across various domains, including childcare, technology, economics, and legal reasoning (Ijtihad). A distinguished assembly of scholars, jurists, and subject-matter experts from within and beyond the Muslim world participated in the discussions.

The first plenary session focused on emerging challenges in childcare, with a particular emphasis on safeguarding children from abuse, bullying, and neglect—whether familial or institutional—in the face of rapid social and digital transformations. The discussions underscored the vital role of parental education and the shared responsibility of families, educators, and communities in raising children holistically, ensuring the protection of their faith, mental

health, and rights.

The session also examined digital safety for children in cyberspace, highlighting the urgent need to establish ethical and Shariah-based frameworks to govern children's interaction with modern technologies. Furthermore, the session addressed critical issues such as drug abuse and the excessive use of electronic games—two of the most alarming threats to childhood today—while presenting pioneering initiatives that reflect a balanced Islamic perspective on prevention and rehabilitation.

The second plenary session explored Istishab (presumption of continuity) as a foundational and recognized source of Islamic jurisprudence. Scholars analyzed its potential for deriving legal rulings in new and unprecedented matters where direct scriptural evidence is absent.

Participants highlighted Istishab as a stabilizing tool in Islamic legal theory, particularly useful in fields such as financial transactions, social relations, and medical ethics. Emphasis was placed on the need to apply this principle within clear methodological boundaries to ensure alignment with the higher objectives (maqasid) of Shariah and to avoid misuse or misinterpretation.

The third plenary session delved into the ethical and legal dimensions of artificial intelligence (AI), examining its far-reaching implications for sectors including healthcare, education, finance, and communication. Scholars and experts raised concerns regarding responsibility for algorithmic errors, data privacy, bias in algorithms, and the manipulation of information.

The discussions called for the development of a clear jurisprudential framework to regulate the use of AI in ways that preserve

human dignity and prevent the subjugation of moral and religious values to technological dominance. Participants recommended the formulation of a Shariah-compliant ethical code for AI deployment in the Muslim world. The fourth plenary session addressed contemporary issues in Islamic finance, a field witnessing rapid expansion and increasing complexity with the emergence of innovative financial instruments.

Key topics included the Shariah ruling on a third party adding an extra amount to a loan and its implications for the legal characterization of the loan contract. The session also examined the permissibility of charging fees for letters of guarantee and documentary credits—two common mechanisms in international trade. Case studies from Islamic financial institutions were shared, reinforcing the imperative to uphold Shariah principles of justice, transparency, and the prohibition of riba (usury) and gharar (excessive uncertainty).

At the conclusion of the day, the Academy's Council issued a series of significant resolutions and recommendations on these contemporary topics. These outcomes are expected to inform decision-making within relevant institutions across OIC member states and to strengthen the role of institutional collective Ijtihad in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing the Muslim Ummah today.



On Its Third Day, 26th Session of IIFA Examines E-Games, Mental Health and Legal Capacity, Shariah Financial Governance, and Halal Industry Challenges



On Tuesday, 8 Dhul Qi'dah 1446 AH, corresponding to 7 May 2025, the 26th session of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), held in Doha, Qatar, continued with a series of in-depth scholarly discussions addressing contemporary jurisprudential issues of significant relevance to Muslim societies. The fifth plenary session was dedicated to the phenomenon of electronic games. Participants assessed the global prevalence of this rapidly expanding industry, acknowledging its educational and cognitive benefits, such as enhanced critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills. However, they also raised concerns regarding the adverse psychological, social, behavioral, and financial effects associated with excessive gaming, particularly among youth. The discussions were framed within key Shariah maxims, notably “bringing benefits and warding off harms” and “permissibility is the original state in benefits, and prohibition is the default in harms.” Preventive measures rooted in family and educational institutions were proposed, alongside encouragement for developers to design games that align with Islamic ethical values and cultural norms. The sixth plenary session explored the impact of mental health conditions on legal capacity. Scholars distinguished between “mental illnesses” and “psychological disorders” in accordance with international

medical classification standards, noting that psychological disorders refer to clinically significant patterns affecting cognition, mood, or behavior, which impair social and professional functioning. Guided by the Shariah objectives of preserving intellect (‘aql) and life (nafs), the session emphasized that legal capacity should be assessed based on one’s ability to perceive and discern. Scholars advocated for enhanced collaboration between Shariah councils, mental health professionals,



and judicial authorities to ensure nuanced, compassionate, and scientifically grounded Shariah-based approaches to these complex and sensitive matters.

The seventh plenary session focused on Shariah governance within Islamic financial institutions. The session stressed the necessity of establishing robust internal supervisory mechanisms to ensure full compliance with Shariah principles. Participants emphasized the importance of harmonizing Shariah reference points across institutions and cautioned against inconsistencies in the application of Islamic rulings, which can lead to market instability and conflicting fatwas. Scholars called on financial institutions to adhere to collective resolutions issued by recognized bodies, particularly the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI). It was

affirmed that the Academy’s resolutions should serve as binding Shariah references across the Islamic financial sector. Participants also addressed challenges facing internal Shariah boards, including external pressures to conform to administrative directives that may contradict Shariah rulings. Calls were made for greater autonomy and institutional empowerment of these boards to safeguard their credibility and independence.

The eighth plenary session examined emerging jurisprudential questions in the halal industry. The session presented outcomes from specialized medical and juristic symposia organized by the Academy’s Secretariat General. Key topics included the permissibility of stunning animals and birds before slaughter. Scholars distinguished between methods that result in death prior to slaughter—which is categorically forbidden—and those that mitigate pain without causing death, which may be permitted.

Further deliberations addressed the permissibility of feeding premature infants with breast milk donated by identified or anonymous women, with attention to the legal implications of rada’ah (nursing) on kinship ties. Scholars stressed the importance of proper documentation to preserve lineage and uphold Shariah principles.

Additional discussions focused on the jurisprudential rulings related to the production and marketing of lab-grown meat and genetically modified animal products, including those derived from insects. These debates incorporated scientific and juridical considerations of Istihala (transformation of substance), essential change, public health, and societal acceptance. Participants underlined the need to apply strict standards for certifying products as halal, ensuring that all Shariah conditions are fully and consistently met.



Academy Council Endorses Landmark Declarations Previously Issued by OIC and MWL



As part of the proceedings of the 26th session of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), held in Doha, State of Qatar, His Excellency Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Zaid, Deputy Secretary General of the Muslim World League (MWL), delivered a keynote address in which he presented two significant foundational documents issued by the MWL: the “Makkah Declaration” and the “Document on Building Bridges Between Islamic Schools of Thought.” He highlighted their profound intellectual, religious, and humanitarian content, which calls for the strengthening of Islamic unity, the promotion of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, and

the rejection of any exploitation of religion in political conflicts.

As for the Document on Building Bridges Between Islamic Schools of Thought, it reinforces the same goals through a scholarly and practical framework for rapprochement between different Islamic schools. The document advocates for the creation of an ongoing platform for dialogue among scholars and institutions of the Ummah, grounded in mutual respect for legitimate differences, prioritization of shared values, and protection of Muslim societies from sectarian conflict and the politicization of religious identity. Dr. Al-Zaid called on the Academy to formally adopt these historic declarations and encouraged activating their content through academic collaboration and educational outreach.

Following this presentation, Ms. Sarah bint Amjad bin Hussein Bedewi, Director of the Department of Family, Women, Youth, Children, and the Elderly at the Academy, delivered a comprehensive address on the “Women’s Declaration: Status and Empowerment,” issued by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in collaboration with IIFA. This declaration is widely regarded as one of the most important contemporary references on women’s rights in Islam.

In her address, Ms. Sarah outlined the core themes of the declaration, which reaffirm the inherent dignity of women and their rights to education, employment, participation in public life, and legal and social protection—all within the framework of Islamic values and Shariah objectives. The document also highlights the importance of empowering women in decision-making roles, enhancing

their contributions to development, and confronting all forms of discrimination and violence against them.

She further addressed the challenges faced by Muslim women in some societies, emphasizing that the declaration serves as a balanced legal and intellectual reference that upholds women’s rights without compromising religious principles. Ms. Sarah urged wider dissemination of the declaration, its integration into educational curricula and academic programs, and reinforced collaboration with legislative and executive authorities to translate its contents into actionable policies.

The participating scholars and experts praised the three declarations for their enlightened and contemporary Islamic vision. They commended their emphasis on moderation, family cohesion, and doctrinal and intellectual unity within the Ummah. Participants called for enhanced coordination between the Academy and relevant institutions to ensure effective implementation of the declarations at all levels, thereby supporting the progress and stability of Muslim societies.



the rejection of extremism, division, and sectarianism.

Dr. Al-Zaid emphasized that the Makkah Declaration—endorsed in 2019 by over 1,200 scholars and intellectuals from 139 countries during an Islamic conference convened by the MWL—serves as a comprehensive Islamic civilizational charter. It articulates a unified vision of relations among Muslims and between Muslims and others by upholding principles of equal citizenship, respect for doctrinal and intellectual diversity, and the rejection of hate speech and racial discrimination. The declaration also stresses the protection of places of worship, the defense of women’s and children’s rights, and



Access the full texts of the declarations here:

Makkah Conference Declaration (MWL):

<https://iifa-aifi.org/wp-content/2025/04/وثيقة-مكة-رابطة-العالم-الإسلامي.pdf>

Document on Building Bridges Between

Islamic Schools of Thought (MWL):

<https://iifa-aifi.org/wp-content/2025/04/وثيقة-بناء-الجسور-رابطة-العالم-الإسلامي.pdf>

Declaration on Muslim Women (OIC):

<https://iifa-aifi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/المرأة-جدة-منظمة-التعاون-الإسلامي.pdf>

26th Session Concludes with Tribute to the Founding Members



The 26th session of the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) concluded on Thursday, 8 May 2025, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Doha, under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar.

Over five days of deliberations, the session brought together leading scholars, jurists, and experts from across the Muslim world for rigorous academic discussions on pressing contemporary issues facing the Ummah.

The closing ceremony commenced with an address by His Excellency Datuk Dr. Sirajuddin Suhaimee, Director-General of the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM). He conveyed the greetings of Honourable Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, to the distinguished scholars of the Ummah, and praised the Academy's pivotal role in institutionalizing the methodology of collective Ijtihad, fostering intellectual integration, and promoting the values of tolerance and openness. He concluded by

announcing Malaysia's readiness to host the 27th session of the Academy.

This was followed by a presentation from



His Excellency Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Zaid, Assistant Secretary General of the Muslim World League, who revisited the key principles of the Makkah Declaration and the Charter on Building Bridges Between Islamic Schools of Thought. Subsequently, Mrs. Sarah bint Amjad bin Hussein Bedewi, Director of the Department of Family, Women, Children, and the Elderly at the

Academy, delivered the OIC Women's Declaration, reaffirming the central place of women's dignity, empowerment, and rights within the framework of Islamic law.

His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Thaqil bin Sayer Al-Shimari, Vice President of the session, then presented a detailed summary of the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Council. These addressed a wide range of contemporary challenges affecting the social, economic, psychological, and financial well-being of Muslim communities, including child protection, electronic gaming regulations, artificial intelligence, Shariah governance of Islamic financial institutions, genetically modified foods, and the stunning of animals prior to slaughter.

In his address, His Excellency Professor

Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, read the Council's Statement on Occupied Palestine, with specific reference to the genocide and systematic starvation taking place in Gaza. He strongly condemned these acts as grave violations of fundamental human rights and the principles of Islamic law.

The session concluded with a moment of solemn reflection and recognition, as the Academy honored its founding members—those scholars and experts who participated in the inaugural session in 1983. These pioneers were acknowledged for their foundational role in establishing the Academy and laying the cornerstone of collective Ijtihad, a principle that continues to shape the Academy's legacy and impact.



The Academy paid tribute to its Founding Members and Long-serving Staff



Distinguished Members and Esteemed Experts attended the Session









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