



منظمة التعاون الإسلامي

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation  
Organisation de la Coopération Islamique



مجتمع الفقهاء الإسلاميين  
International Islamic Fiqh Academy  
Académie Internationale du Fiqh Islamique

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC FIQH ACADEMY | PUBLISHED IN ARABIC, ENGLISH AND FRENCH | Rajab and Shaḥban 1447 - January and February 2026

## May God have mercy on the venerable scholar, His Eminence Sheikh Muhammad Abduh Omar Representative of Yemen at the Academy



“O tranquil soul, return to your Lord, well-pleased and pleasing. Enter among My servants, and enter My Paradise.”[Surat al-Fajr: 27–30] With deep sorrow and profound grief, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy received the news of the passing of the esteemed Sheikh Muhammad Abduh Omar, who returned to his Lord on the morning of Tuesday, 10 Rajab 1447 AH, corresponding to 30 December 2025, after a blessed life of nearly eighty-four years—years he devoted entirely to serving his religion, his country, and his ummah through knowledge, action, judiciary, preaching, and reform. He—may God have mercy on him—was the last person I had the honour of bidding farewell to after the Academy’s 26th session in Doha last year, 2025. I was overjoyed to meet him, especially knowing the hardship and difficulty he endured to reach Doha. My joy was even greater when His Excellency, the President of the Academy, Sheikh Dr Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, honoured him with the Shield of Loyalty and Gratitude

dedicated to the founding generation. I still recall trying not to believe his words, which sounded like a final farewell: “O Koutoub... this may be the last session I attend with you.” I hastened to reply with hope and optimism that the Academy would be delighted to meet him again at the upcoming session in Malaysia, God willing. The late scholar, may God have mercy on him, was among the founding members of the Academy’s Council and has been the Republic of Yemen’s official representative since 19 November 1984. He never once missed participating in any of the Academy’s sessions since its establishment. His scholarly contributions exceeded fifteen rigorous research papers, and his participation in discussions was always deep, focused, and marked by scientific precision. He excelled at linking jurisprudential rulings and contemporary issues to the realities and circumstances of people’s lives, consistently emphasising the importance of considering changes over time and across

places when formulating resolutions and recommendations.

He was also, may God have mercy on him, one of the foremost Shafi’i scholars of Yemen, well-versed in the principles of the Zaydi school there, combining firm scholarship, broad vision, and noble character. Throughout his career, he held several distinguished positions in his country, most notably serving as President of the Supreme Court in Shabwah Governorate and as Deputy Minister of Endowments and Guidance in the Republic of Yemen. He fulfilled his trust, carried out his duties, and was a model of the just judge and the practising scholar.

As the Academy mourns this eminent figure, it recalls with gratitude his sincere efforts in serving Islamic jurisprudence and his genuine contribution to shaping and refining the Academy’s resolutions and recommendations, which—by God’s grace—have become authoritative references for Islamic states, Muslim communities, institutions, and individuals within and beyond the Muslim world.

The Academy, its President, General Secretariat, members, experts, and staff, extend their heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy to the noble family of the deceased, to the scholars of Yemen, and to his students and admirers. We ask the Almighty Lord to envelop him in His vast mercy, forgive him, pardon him, grant him a spacious place in His Paradise, and gather him with the righteous predecessors of the Academy—among the prophets, the steadfastly truthful, the martyrs, and the righteous. What excellent companions they are. We also pray that God grants patience, solace, and acceptance to his family and loved ones.

Indeed, we belong to God, and to Him we shall return.

Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano  
Secretary-General

## Former Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Visits the Academy

As part of her efforts to engage with partners in the Islamic world and around the globe to promote girls' education at all levels and to empower women as essential partners in nation-building and the consolidation of peace, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, received Baroness Harriet Harman, former Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the UK Special Envoy for Women and Girls. She was accompanied by Her Excellency Mrs. Cecile El-Belbeli, the British Consul General in Jeddah, along with several officials from the British mission in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The meeting took place on Sunday, 29 Rajab 1447 AH, corresponding to 18 January 2026, at the General Secretariat headquarters in Jeddah.

At the beginning of the meeting, Baroness Harman expressed her gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency for the opportunity to visit the Academy. She affirmed that the purpose of her visit was to gain a closer understanding of the Academy's pioneering role in the Islamic world and to help correct misconceptions about the status of women in Islam. She explained that her visit falls within her commitment to exploring avenues of mutual cooperation and discussing mechanisms to strengthen the



partnership between the British government and the Academy in the fields of women's empowerment, girls' education, and peacebuilding.

For his part, His Excellency welcomed the Baroness and her accompanying delegation, expressing his pride in this visit and affirming the Academy's commitment to working with relevant British institutions to promote peaceful coexistence and inclusive education for all—especially girls' education. He noted that investing in girls' education is an investment in the future of societies, given its positive impact on security and sustainable development. He also emphasized that Islam has granted women a high status and inherent rights, and that many negative perceptions stem from social practices that have no connection to the teachings of Islam. The meeting addressed ways to strengthen

cooperation on issues of mutual interest. His Excellency noted the Academy's intention to organise a scientific symposium in the city of Jeddah in March 2026 on the role of religious leaders in combating violence against women. The event will be held in cooperation with the Muslim World League, with the aim of protecting women from all forms of violence and exclusion, and promoting a responsible religious discourse on this matter.

Attending the meeting on behalf of the Academy were: Mr Muhammad Al-Munthir Rida Al-Shawk, Director of the Cabinet and Protocol; Mr. Muhammad Walid Al-Idrisi, Director of Media and Public Relations; Dr. Alhagi Manta Drammeh, Head of the International Cooperation and External Relations, Mr. Saad Salah Al-Din Al-Sammar, Head of the Media Division; and Mr. Amjad Ibrahim Al-Mansi, Head of the Protocol



## Secretary-General Discusses Prospects of Cooperation in Halal Industry Issues with His Counterpart at SMIIC



His Excellency Professor Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, received His Excellency Mr. Ihsan Ovet, Secretary-General of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), on Thursday, 3 Sha'ban 1447 AH, corresponding to 22 January 2026, at the Academy's headquarters in Jeddah, on the sidelines of his official duties at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

At the beginning of the meeting, His

Excellency welcomed Mr. Ihsan Ovet, expressing his gratitude and appreciation for the visit, and affirming the Academy's readiness to strengthen avenues of cooperation with SMIIC in areas of mutual interest. He emphasised that such cooperation contributes to serving the issues of the Islamic Ummah and supporting joint scientific and institutional efforts.

For his part, Mr Ihsan Ovet expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency for the warm welcome and generous hospitality. He reiterated SMIIC's desire to deepen and enhance cooperation with the Academy, particularly in jurisprudential matters related to the halal industry. He also highlighted the importance of organising joint scientific conferences and seminars dedicated to related topics.

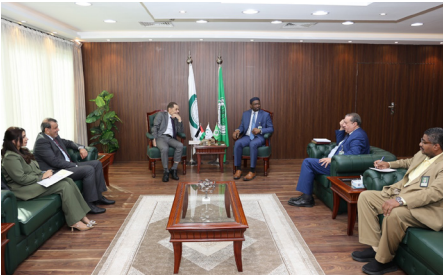
The two sides agreed, in principle, to

organise a scientific conference focusing on the opportunities and challenges of adopting halal industry standards in the Islamic world and across Muslim communities globally.

The meeting was attended by Mr Mohammed Al-Munzir Redha Al-Shawk, Director of the Cabinet and Protocol; Dr Alhagi Manta Drammeh, Head of the International Cooperation and External Relations Division; and Mr Amjad Ibrahim Al-Mansi, Head of the Protocol Division at the Academy.



## Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine Visits the Academy



H.E. Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, received on Thursday, 26 Rajab 1447, corresponding to 15 January 2026, at the General Secretariat headquarters in Jeddah, His Excellency Ambassador Hadi Shibli, Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine to the OIC, accompanied by Counselor Naseem Al-Za'anin, Deputy Permanent Representative, and First Secretary Athar Omari. The visit came within the framework of consultations and joint coordination to discuss mechanisms for activating the Academy's fatwa on allocating a portion of zakat funds to support the Palestinian people. During the meeting, both sides emphasised the importance of implementing the historic Resolution No. 165 (3/18) issued by the Academy, which strengthens the role of zakat in combating poverty, regulates its collection and distribution, and benefits from contemporary jurisprudential efforts. This would contribute to directing zakat funds to

the Palestinian people, given the extremely difficult humanitarian and economic conditions they are facing.

The meeting also discussed appropriate academic and media mechanisms to implement this fatwa and the related resolution—whether through a specialised scientific seminar or an academic conference—with the participation of relevant institutions, foremost among them the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA). The aim is to highlight this important Shariah ruling and to disseminate it widely across diverse media platforms to ensure its reach throughout Muslim countries and communities.

This visit follows an earlier reception by His Excellency of a high-level Palestinian delegation headed by Dr Ahmad Abu Holi, Head of the Refugee Affairs Department in the Palestine Liberation Organisation. During that meeting, the delegation stressed the need for practical steps to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), in light of increasing attempts to undermine and eliminate its humanitarian role.

For his part, the Ambassador expressed his gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency for this important scholarly and Shariah-based initiative, calling for the widest possible dissemination of the fatwa due to its significant impact on supporting the resilience

of Palestinian refugees and strengthening Islamic solidarity with them. He also called for holding a press conference before or during the blessed month of Ramadan to publicise the fatwa and achieve its intended humanitarian and Shariah objectives.

His Excellency affirmed the Academy's readiness to translate the fatwa and its accompanying statement into the three official languages, prepare an academic brief on it, and work on disseminating it through the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA) to ensure its widest possible reach, thereby enhancing Shariah awareness of the role of zakat in supporting the Palestinian cause.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Muhammad Al-Munzir, Director of Cabinet Affairs; Dr. Abdulfattah Mahmoud Ibnauf, Director of Planning and External Relations; and Mr. Amjad Ibrahim Mustafa Al-Mansi, Head of the Protocol Division.



## Secretary-General Participates in a Conference on the Life and Contributions of Dr Taha Jabir Al-Alwani

H.E. Prof. Dr Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, participated virtually in the international conference titled: "The Life and Contributions of Taha Jabir Al-Alwani." on 7–8 Rajab 1447 AH, corresponding to 27–28 December 2025. He expressed his gratitude to the organising bodies for hosting this distinguished academic conference. He praised the choice of the late Prof. Dr Taha Jabir Al-Alwani as the subject of commemoration, given his remarkable contributions to contemporary Islamic thought. He also emphasised that this scholarly gathering reflects a deep awareness of the importance of revisiting pioneering intellectual experiences and drawing on them to address contemporary issues.

During the conference, His Excellency delivered highlighted the key features of Al-Alwani's intellectual project. He explained Al-Alwani's efforts in renewing jurisprudential thought, deepening the objectives-based (maqāṣidi) approach, and establishing a balanced scholarly methodology that

connects the revealed texts with the realities of modern human life. He also pointed to Al-Alwani's contributions to addressing the relationship between heritage and modernity, his methodology in understanding the sacred texts, and his continuous pursuit of an integrative vision that harmonises revelation and reason while accommodating intellectual and social transformations.

He further noted that Prof. Al-Alwani was not merely a jurist or thinker, but one of the prominent voices advocating for civilizational dialogue and mutual understanding among followers of different religions. His intellectual project emphasised Islam's positive presence in pluralistic societies and its contribution to a shared human moral discourse. He stressed that Al-Alwani's intellectual legacy will remain a source of inspiration for researchers, scholars, and those concerned with issues of reform and renewal.

In conclusion, he affirmed that honouring the lives and contributions of great scholars and thinkers is a fundamental pillar in building



scientific awareness and in motivating continued pursuit of sound scholarly endeavour, contributing to the service of the Ummah's causes and strengthening its civilizational mission.

The conference was organized in cooperation between the Institute of Objective Studies in India, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, the AbdulHamid AbuSulayman Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences at the International Islamic University Malaysia, and Ibn Khaldun University in Indonesia.

## Consul General of the Republic of the Philippines Visits the Academy



Mr. Rommel Romato, Consul General of the Republic of the Philippines in Jeddah visited the headquarters of the Academy on Monday, 28 Sha'ban 1447, corresponding to 16 February 2026.

He was received by His Excellency Professor Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, who expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the visit, noting that it reflects the Consul General's sincere interest in learning about the Academy and strengthening channels of communication and cooperation with it. His Excellency then provided a brief overview of the Academy's activities and programs, highlighting the Academy's distinguished status and the great respect accorded to its resolutions across the Islamic world and Muslim communities—

particularly in promoting moderation, fostering a culture of balance, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence among peoples and religions. He also reaffirmed the Academy's commitment to raising awareness among Muslim communities about the importance of fulfilling the requirements of citizenship in their countries and respecting laws and regulations while preserving their religious identity, emphasising that there is no contradiction between religious affiliation and loyalty to one's homeland.

For his part, the Consul General expressed his deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to His Excellency for the warm welcome and generous hospitality, affirming his keenness to strengthen cooperation, partnership, communication, and coordination with the Academy. He praised the Academy's significant role, the balanced, thoughtful contributions it provides under His Excellency's leadership, and its distinguished efforts to promote moderation, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence among religions. He also expressed his aspiration to deepen cooperation and coordination between the Academy and leading religious institutions in the Philippines in pursuit of noble humanitarian

goals that enhance communication and understanding among peoples.

The visit concluded with His Excellency the Consul General recording his impressions in the guestbook, stating:

"I would like to express to you and your distinguished team my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the generous hospitality and warm reception extended to me and my delegation. We look forward to expanding and strengthening our positive cooperation in ways that serve the interests of the ummah in the coming years."

The meeting was attended by Mr Mohammed Al-Mundhir, Director of the cabinet; Mr Mohammed Waleed Al-Idrisi, Director of Media; Ms. Sarah Amjad Badawi, Director of the Department of Family; and Mr Amjad Ibrahim Al-Mansi, Head of the Protocol division.



## The Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt Visits the Academy

H.E. Professor Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, received on Tuesday, 29 Sha'ban 1447 AH, corresponding to 17 February 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Ahmed Shaheen, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the OIC, at the headquarters of the Academy in Jeddah. He welcomed the Ambassador, expressing his gratitude and appreciation for this visit, which reflects his keen interest in strengthening cooperation and communication between the Academy and religious and scholarly institutions in the Arab Republic of Egypt, foremost among them Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, the Council of Senior Scholars, Dar al-Iftaa, and the Islamic Research Academy. His Excellency also conveyed the Academy's appreciation to the Government of Egypt for its support and care since the Academy's establishment, affirming the deep scholarly and historical ties that connect the Academy with Egypt's distinguished religious institutions. He then provided an overview of the Academy's most prominent scientific activities and programs, highlighting its role as the Shariah and scholarly arm of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, responsible for studying



issues, challenges, and emerging matters of concern to Muslims and clarifying their Shariah rulings in a manner that offers sound solutions to contemporary challenges in light of the objectives of Islamic law.

For his part, the Ambassador expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency for the warm welcome and generous hospitality, and praised the significant efforts made by the Academy under his leadership to serve Islam and Muslims through its diverse scholarly programs and activities. He affirmed Egypt's continued support for the Academy and its commitment to strengthening cooperation, coordination, and communication between the Academy and Egyptian religious and academic institutions.

At the conclusion of the visit, the Ambassador wrote in the guestbook:

"It was an honour and a pleasure to meet Your Excellency and to learn about the important activities and programs, as well as the continuous efforts and successful work carried out by the Academy in serving the issues of the Islamic world and advancing its communities. I extend my best wishes for continued success, prosperity, health, and happiness to you and all colleagues at the Academy."

The meeting was attended by Mr Mohammed Al-Mundhir Al-Shawk, Director of the Cabinet; Mr Mohammed Waleed Al-Idrisi, Director of Media; and Mr Amjad Ibrahim Al-Mansi, Head of the Protocol Division.



## Jordanian Consul General Welcomes IFA Secretary General in Jeddah

On Tuesday, 29 Sha'ban 1447 AH, corresponding to 17 February 2026, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, paid a visit to the headquarters of the Consulate General of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Jeddah. His Excellency and the accompanying delegation were received by His Excellency Ambassador Muhammad Salah Subhi Humaid, Consul General and Permanent Representative of Jordan to the OIC, who warmly welcomed the delegation and expressed his delight at the visit. He also praised the Academy's distinguished intellectual contributions under the leadership of His Excellency in addressing numerous religious and intellectual matters affecting the Islamic world. He further conveyed his personal pleasure at meeting His Excellency once again and reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to strengthening communication and cooperation with the Academy, particularly in enhancing coordination and integration with Jordanian academic and religious institutions. He commended the Academy's efforts in clarifying Shariah rulings concerning contemporary issues, promoting moderation and balance, and disseminating sound Shariah awareness regionally and internationally. He also expressed his admiration for His



Excellency's methodology in correcting misconceptions and stereotypical perceptions about Islam and Muslims, as well as for his rigorous and balanced interpretation of issues requiring contemporary Shariah engagement and understanding. He underscored the Academy's pivotal role in addressing emerging issues through a sound scholarly methodology aligned with the objectives of Shariah and responsive to contemporary realities. He further expressed Jordan's aspiration to broaden avenues of cooperation with the Academy in the fields of scientific research, training, exchange of expertise, and the organization of joint seminars and conferences.

For his part, His Excellency the Secretary-General expressed his profound gratitude and appreciation to the Ambassador for the warm reception and generous hospitality. He praised the gracious support, continuous care, and exceptional attention that the Academy

has consistently received from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan—its leadership and people—since the establishment of the Academy until the present day. He also expressed his sincere appreciation for the Ambassador's recent visit to the Academy and reaffirmed the Academy's full readiness to undertake every effort that would further strengthen partnership, cooperation, coordination, and communication between the Academy and Jordanian academic and religious institutions and centres.

His Excellency was accompanied during the visit by Mr Muhammad Al-Munzir Rida Al-Shawk, Director of the Cabinet and Protocol Department; Mr Muhammad Walid Al-Idrisi, Director of the Media and Public Relations Department; Ms Sarah Amjad Badawi, Director of the Department of Family, Women, Children, and the Elderly; and Mr Amjad Ibrahim Al-Mansi, Head of the Protocol Division.



## The Secretary-General of the Academy Receives a Researcher from the Federal Republic of Germany



His Excellency Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, received Prof. Dr. B. Markus Daechsel on Sunday, 7 Sha'ban 1447 AH, corresponding to 25 January 2026, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Jeddah.

Professor Dr. B. Markus Daechsel is regarded as one of the foremost specialists in the study of Muslim societies and South Asia at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is currently conducting a research visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia focusing on the history of Islamic economics and finance, examining their intellectual and institutional evolution, and analysing the role

of major actors in shaping their contemporary characteristics. He expressed his profound gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency for the warm reception despite his demanding schedule, while commending the Academy's pioneering scholarly contributions in establishing the foundations of Islamic economics and guiding its development.

For his part, His Excellency warmly welcomed the visiting researcher and affirmed the Academy's full readiness to facilitate and support his research mission, particularly in relation to studying the evolution and transformation of Islamic economics and finance from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present day. He referred to the Academy's rich scholarly heritage, including its resolutions and recommendations, which constitute a valuable academic reference for researchers and specialists in the field. His Excellency also underscored the importance of integrating historical analysis with a Maqasidi approach in order to deepen understanding of the trajectory of the Islamic finance industry

and to anticipate its future prospects amid ongoing global changes and challenges.

The discussions also covered a number of related scholarly issues, including the development of Islamic financing mechanisms, the practical challenges surrounding their implementation, and the role of Shariah boards and academic institutions in directing and regulating the industry. The meeting further addressed the challenges posed by financial globalisation, as well as the necessity of renewing the tools of collective ijthad in order to keep pace with emerging developments and fulfil the higher objectives of Shariah.



## His Excellency calls at the Saudi National Bank symposium in Riyadh for maximum benefit from the Academy's well-established resolutions on the financial industry



His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, delivered a speech at the opening session of the 17th Islamic Finance Symposium organized by the Saudi National Bank on Wednesday, 2 Sha'ban 1447 AH, corresponding to 21 January 2026, in Riyadh, with the participation of a distinguished group of scholars, members of Shariah boards, experts, and specialists in the Islamic finance industry.

His Excellency began his speech by expressing his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Shariah Board of the Saudi National Bank, its chairman and members, for their blessed supervision of this pioneering scholarly symposium, which has become a model to emulate and a solid academic reference in strengthening integration and coordination among Shariah boards in Islamic banks and financial institutions. He noted that such efforts contribute to harmonising juristic views, reinforcing Shariah governance principles, and supporting the progress of the Islamic finance industry.

His Excellency urged Shariah boards in Islamic banks and financial institutions to strengthen cooperation and integration with the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and to make full use of its resolutions and recommendations, which reflect rigorous collective *ijtihad* and serve as a supreme juristic reference for the operations of Islamic financial institutions. He emphasised that this would enhance Shariah compliance, keep pace with industry developments, and reinforce stakeholders' confidence.

In this context, His Excellency explained

that the Academy's resolutions and recommendations have made a qualitative contribution to the development of the Islamic finance industry and the improvement of financial institutions' performance by establishing sound Shariah frameworks for financial products and services, addressing contemporary issues, and providing innovative Shariah-compliant alternatives that meet market needs. He pointed out that the number of resolutions and recommendations issued by the Academy in the field of Islamic finance exceeds 130, out of nearly 270 resolutions issued in total—reflecting the great importance the Academy attaches to this vital sector and its central role in guiding and supporting its stability and growth.

His Excellency also affirmed the readiness of the Academy's General Secretariat to review and update its resolutions periodically in light of the rapid and continuous developments in the Islamic finance industry, ensuring that these resolutions remain aligned with emerging realities and continue to fulfil the objectives of Shariah in preserving interests and advancing the Islamic economy on firm

foundations.

He further highlighted the generous support and high patronage that the Islamic finance industry receives in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister. He noted that this ongoing support paves the way—God willing—for Riyadh to become, in the near future, a global capital of the Islamic finance industry, given its advanced academic, institutional, and legislative capabilities.

In conclusion, His Excellency expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency Prof. Dr. Saad bin Nasser Al-Shathri, Chairman of the Shariah Board of the Saudi National Bank, for his dedicated efforts and distinguished contributions in guiding the Board's work and supervising this scholarly symposium, thereby enhancing its stature and affirming its pivotal role in serving and developing the Islamic finance industry.



## The Academy participates in the celebration of the 70th National Day of the Republic of Sudan



His Excellency the Secretary-General of the Academy, Professor Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, accompanied by Dr. Abdel Fattah Mahmoud Abnaouf, Director of Planning and International Cooperation at the Academy, participated on Sunday evening, 6 Sha'ban 1447 AH, corresponding to 25 January 2026, in the National Day celebrations of the Republic of Sudan held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Academy's participation came in response to an invitation from His Excellency Ambassador Kamal Ali Othman Taha,

Consul General of the Republic of Sudan in Jeddah, as part of the Academy's commitment to strengthening its presence in official and diplomatic events and reinforcing its relations with the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. This reflects the depth of the fraternal and historical ties between the Academy and the Republic of Sudan.

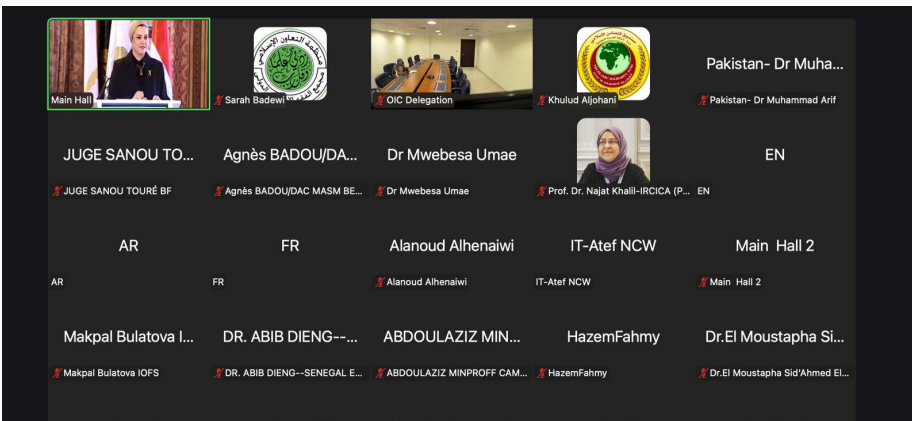
His Excellency the Secretary-General conveyed the Academy's congratulations and best wishes—on behalf of its Presidency, General Secretariat, members, and experts—to the leadership and people of Sudan, wishing them continued security, stability, and prosperity. He praised the strong bonds that link Sudan to the Islamic world and its distinguished intellectual and scholarly contributions to the causes of the Ummah. He also expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation to the government and people of Sudan for the continuous support and generous care the Academy has received since its establishment. He highlighted the active role of Sudanese scholars and their scientific



participation in the Academy's sessions and conferences, as well as their valuable contributions to enriching its research and resolutions.

His Excellency affirmed that this occasion represents an opportunity to strengthen cooperation and integration between the Academy and the scientific and religious institutions in Sudan, in a way that serves the issues of the Islamic world, promotes the values of moderation and balance, and reinforces the methodology of collective jurisprudence in addressing emerging issues and contemporary challenges.

## The Academy Participates in the “Knowledge for Strengthening Efforts” Meeting in Cairo



Her Excellency Ms. Sarah bint Amjad Hussein Bediwi, Director of the Department of Family, Women, and Childhood Affairs at the Academy, participated in a meeting organized by the National Council for Women in cooperation with the Women Development Organization (WDO), under the title: “Knowledge for Strengthening Efforts: Introducing the Transregional Research Think Tank and the First Launch of the WDO Digital Legal Library.” The meeting was held on Wednesday, 2 Sha'ban 1447 AH, corresponding to 21 January 2026,

in Cairo, with the participation of several institutions and international organisations concerned with scientific research and women's empowerment.

The meeting discussed mechanisms for utilising knowledge and scientific research to strengthen development, equality, and women's empowerment efforts in the member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

During the meeting, the Women Development Organization (WDO) presented the Transregional Research Think

Tank as a strategic platform dedicated to preparing specialized studies and research. The Organization also launched the Digital Legal Library, a comprehensive database of national legal frameworks on the status of women and girls in OIC member states. This library represents the Think Tank's first major output, providing essential data to support legal studies and research on women's issues. Participants emphasised that the Think Tank will help ensure that women and girls fully benefit from global and regional development frameworks and will strengthen empowerment efforts in areas such as leadership, economic participation, combating violence against women and girls, combating corruption, and other themes linked to shared development goals.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of linking international research and knowledge efforts with national policies and of enhancing cooperation between international institutions and research centres to achieve the desired scientific and social impact.

## Director of Family and Women's Affairs Participates in the National Council for Women's Conference on Leveraging Religious and Media Discourse



Ms Sarah bint Amjad Hussein, Director of Family and Women's Affairs at the Academy, participated in the conference organised by the National Council for Women titled "Leveraging Religious and Media Discourse to Support Women's Issues." The conference was held from 1 to 2 February 2026, with the participation of a distinguished group of religious and media leaders, experts in women's issues and development, and representatives from government institutions and civil society organisations.

The conference addressed the importance of utilising religious and media discourse to

enhance societal awareness of women's issues and to reinforce correct concepts regarding women's roles within the family and society. It emphasised the need for a balanced and moderate discourse that supports women's status and strengthens their participation in the development process.

Conference sessions also discussed the role of media in shaping public awareness and the importance of presenting responsible content that highlights successful female role models and addresses women's issues objectively. Participants underscored the need to counter negative stereotypes and promote a culture of

respect and equality within society.

Discussions further explored the role of religious institutions in promoting enlightened awareness that reflects religious values supporting women's dignity and rights, while correcting misconceptions. The sessions stressed the importance of coordination between religious and media institutions to build a positive societal discourse that upholds the values of justice and shared responsibility. Participants also reviewed a number of experiences and initiatives that employ media and religious discourse to support women's issues and enhance their role across social, economic, and cultural fields, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

At the conclusion of the conference, the Cairo Declaration was issued, containing a set of principles and recommendations. Among the most prominent were the importance of developing religious and media discourse that is more attuned to women's issues, and of strengthening cooperation between religious and media institutions to disseminate positive awareness messages that support women's roles in society. The declaration also called for supporting training programs for media professionals and preachers, and for encouraging the production of media content that presents a balanced, positive image of women and highlights their contributions across various fields.

## One-hundred and Fiftieth Weekly Departmental Meeting

Chaired by His Excellency Prof. Dr Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, the Academy held its one hundred and fiftieth weekly departmental meeting on Monday, 2 Rajab 1447 AH, corresponding to 22 December 2025, at the General Secretariat headquarters in Jeddah.

At the outset of the meeting, His Excellency welcomed the attendees. He spoke about the importance of these meetings in accomplishing administrative and scholarly tasks and facilitating their follow-up, emphasising their role in maintaining the continuity of successful work. He also prayed during the meeting that Allah grant the Director of the Conferences and Symposia Department a speedy recovery and well-being. He further referred to the upcoming meeting the day after tomorrow with the Deputy Secretary-General of the Muslim World League to consult on several topics related to preparations for the Religious Leaders Symposium, which is planned to be held in collaboration between



the two institutions.

Following that, the meeting discussed the items of the resolutions issued in the previous session, and several new decisions were issued, the most prominent of which were:

- Selecting two or three books that are clearly aligned with the Academy's mission and objectives, to be published under its name.
- Communicating with "Dar Mufakkirun" to obtain a specific timeline for completing the printing of the remaining issues of the

Academy's journal, followed by preparing a dedicated budget proposal for it.

- Finalising the design of the session research papers and the accompanying booklet.
- Working to find a permanent solution for periodically replacing the flags of member states at the building's entrance.
- Preparing a congratulatory letter to His Excellency, the Minister of Religious Affairs in Malaysia, on the occasion of his assumption of office.

## Weekly Meeting of Departments



The Academy held its one hundred and fifty-first weekly departmental meeting on Monday, 9 Rajab 1447 AH, corresponding to 29 December 2025, at the General Secretariat headquarters in Jeddah.

At the beginning of the meeting, His

Excellency, Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, welcomed the attendees, then spoke about the “Symposium of Religious Leaders in Confronting Violence Against Women.” He informed the members that it had been

decided to hold the symposium on 30 March 2026. He directed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs be notified at the appropriate time to take the necessary measures.

Following this, the meeting discussed the items of the decisions issued in the previous session, and several new decisions were adopted, the most prominent of which were:

- Completion of the design layout for the symposium research papers and the accompanying booklet.
- Communicating with specialised companies to replace the flags of member states displayed at the building’s façade.
- Beginning preparation of the updated version of the upcoming five-year strategic plan, along with presenting the observations made on the previous plan.
- Searching for technical software capable of detecting the percentage of AI-generated text to ensure the authenticity of scientific research.

## One Hundred and Fifty-Second Weekly Departmental Meeting

His Excellency Prof. Dr Kutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, chaired the hundred and fifty-second weekly departmental meeting, held on Tuesday, 17 Rajab 1447 AH, corresponding to 6 January 2026, at the General Secretariat headquarters in Jeddah.

At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency welcomed the attendees, emphasising the importance of these weekly meetings for monitoring the Academy’s administrative and scholarly work. He also stressed the need for regular follow-up on the tasks assigned to the relevant departments to ensure their efficient implementation.

The meeting then reviewed the decisions issued during the previous session and adopted several new resolutions, the most notable of which were:

- Following up on the online sale of the Academy’s books in coordination with Jarir Bookstore.



- Coordinating the organisation of the Afghan Scholars Forum in Makkah.
- Continuing the publication of the Academy’s Journal in cooperation with Dar Mufakkirun, and submitting a dedicated budget for it.
- Finalizing the design of the symposium

research papers and the accompanying booklet.

- Preparing a revised version of the new strategic plan.
- Exploring technological tools for verifying the authenticity of scientific research.

## The Sixty-First Monthly Staff Meeting



His Excellency Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, chaired the sixty-first monthly staff meeting of the Academy on Sunday, 15 Rajab 1447 AH, corresponding to 4 January 2026, at the General Secretariat headquarters in Jeddah. His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and expressing his appreciation for their continued presence and engagement. He then offered prayers for the late member of the Academy's Council, Shaykh Muhammad

Abdih Omar—the representative of the Republic of Yemen since the Academy's establishment—asking Allah Almighty to grant him forgiveness and mercy, and to place his service to Islam and Muslims in the record of his good deeds.

His Excellency also congratulated the Academy's staff on the arrival of the new Gregorian year 2026, clarifying that congratulating others on historical occasions is a customary practice, not an act of worship nor a religious obligation. He called for greater dedication and productivity

during the new administrative year.

He explained that the meeting was intended to serve as an opportunity for self-evaluation, to resolve issues, to present suggestions, and to strengthen communication among the Academy's staff. Employees were given the chance to share their views and proposals for improving the Academy's work. Several topics were discussed, most notably:

- Completion of printing the papers of the symposium "The Role of Religious Leaders in Combating Violence Against Women" in their final approved format.
- Providing copies of designated publications for gifting, and preparing suitable gift packages for the Academy's guests and visitors from abroad.
- Replacing computers that have been in use for more than five years and are showing malfunctions or slowness, and working to replace them soon, along with providing essential accessories such as printer ink.
- Coordinating the preparation of letters of thanks and acceptance notifications for researchers whose papers were approved for the Religious Leadership Symposium.
- Completing the design of the Academy's General Secretariat Activities Report for the year 2025 in the three languages.

## Twenty-Seventh Joint Weekly Meeting of Departments and Divisions

His Excellency Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, chaired the twenty-seventh joint weekly meeting of the departments and divisions on Wednesday, 25 Rajab 1447 AH, corresponding to 14 January 2026, at the General Secretariat headquarters in Jeddah.

He welcomed the attendees and praised the performance of the General Secretariat's staff at all levels, giving special commendation to the Administrative and Financial Affairs Department for completing the preparation of the financial budget and financial review, which contributes to enhancing the Secretariat's overall performance.

The meeting also addressed the preparations for the upcoming Religious Leadership Symposium scheduled for the end of March 2026. Discussions regarding research papers, visas, and travel arrangements resulted in several urgent directives, most notably:

- Emphasising the need to send the completed visas for the accepted participants



in coordination with the relevant embassies, and expediting the submission of the final list of participants and their passports to the Protocol Department to finalise visa procedures.

- Following up on the issuance and dispatch of travel tickets for participants whose visas have been completed, along with coordinating arrangements for receiving VIP guests at the

airport's VIP lounge.

- Completing the procedures for issuing airport entry permits for the concerned staff members immediately upon their return from the upcoming leave.
- Creating a shared electronic link to coordinate information related to the Symposium (such as research papers, participants, agenda, and sessions)

## Twenty-eighth Joint weekly Meeting



As part of strengthening institutional work and monitoring the Academy's scientific and administrative programmes, His Excellency Professor Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, chaired the twenty-eighth joint weekly meeting of the departments and divisions on Sunday, 3 Sha'ban 1447 AH, corresponding to 22 January 2026, at the General Secretariat headquarters, with the attendance of department directors and heads of

divisions.

His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and expressing his appreciation for the Academy's staff, praising their continuous efforts to enhance institutional performance and advance the Academy's scientific and jurisprudential mission. He stressed that the upcoming phase requires greater seriousness, discipline, and collaboration among departments and divisions.

The meeting discussed the arrangements for

the Religious Leaders' Symposium scheduled for the end of March this year. Participants reviewed several administrative reports, and it was emphasised that a report be submitted to His Excellency regarding the remaining visas and the reasons for their delays beyond the specified timeframe. The meeting also called for continued follow-up on sending tickets to participants whose visas had been issued, as well as preparing a report on the invitees to the Symposium who had not yet responded. In addition, the meeting noted the need to finalise the Academy's introductory video in preparation for presenting it at the next meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, His Excellency stressed the importance of closely following up on the implementation of issued decisions, adhering to approved timelines, and strengthening coordination and collaboration among the relevant departments. These measures, he noted, will contribute to the success of upcoming symposia, the achievement of the Academy's objectives, and the consolidation of institutional performance efficiency.

## The Twenty-Ninth Joint Weekly Meeting of Departments and Divisions

H.E. Professor Dr Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, chaired the twenty-ninth joint weekly meeting of the departments and divisions on Monday, 7 Rajab 1447 AH, corresponding to 26 January 2026, at the Academy's General Secretariat headquarters, with the attendance of department directors and heads of divisions.

His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and praising the Academy's staff at all levels for their continuous efforts in advancing the Academy's mission and serving the Islamic Ummah. He called on everyone to continue their dedication and to seek reward in serving this distinguished institution.

The meeting discussed the arrangements for the Religious Leaders' Symposium, scheduled for the end of March this year. The topic was examined in detail, particularly matters related to research papers, visas, tickets, and logistical preparations.

The meeting concluded with several decisions, most notably: confirming the



dispatch of completed visas and issued tickets to approved participants; closely following up on pending visas; finalizing the selection of the hotel where the symposium will be held; extending an invitation to the Grand Mufti of the Republic of Tunisia to participate; and reviewing the list of participants with the possibility of selecting presenters for the symposium's themes from outside the group of commissioned researchers.

At the end of the meeting, His Excellency emphasised the importance of closely monitoring the implementation of the decisions taken and ensuring continuous coordination among the relevant departments, in a manner that contributes to the symposium's success and the achievement of its scientific and intellectual objectives.

## The Sixty-Second Monthly Staff Meeting



The General Secretariat, chaired by His Excellency Prof. Dr Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General, held its sixty-second monthly staff meeting on Sunday, 27 Sha'ban 1447 AH, corresponding to 15 February 2026, at the Secretariat's headquarters in Jeddah. His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and congratulating them on the approaching month of Ramadan. He urged everyone to seize its blessed days for worship and drawing closer to God, and to make the most of its spiritual opportunities in ways that strengthen faith-based values and embody a sense of responsibility in fulfilling the Academy's scholarly mission. He also expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Mr Muhammad Al-Mondher, Director of Cabinet Affairs for assuming the duties of Acting Secretary-General during his leave, praising his sincere efforts that ensured the continuity and regularity of work.

The meeting included discussions on several administrative and organisational matters, as well as a review of the arrangements for the Religious Leaders Symposium scheduled for the end of March this year. The topic was examined thoroughly, particularly with regard to the submitted research papers, completion of visa procedures, travel bookings, and other organisational and logistical aspects to ensure proper preparation for the symposium and the achievement of its scholarly and intellectual objectives.

As the meeting serves as a platform for strengthening communication among the staff, addressing challenges, and exchanging proposals that enhance institutional performance, several decisions were issued, the most notable of which were:

- Completing the printing of the first edition of the Dictionary of Academy Figures and revising the list of experts.

- Finalising the distribution of the newsletters in three languages (issues 60 to 63) to embassies, consulates, delegations, and accredited bodies.
- Confirming the booking of tickets for participants in the Religious Leaders Symposium from within the Kingdom and following up on visa issuance in coordination with the Ministry's branch representative.
- Reminding researchers who have not yet submitted their research abstracts to do so within the specified timeframe.
- Communicating with the Academy member from the Republic of Türkiye, Dr. Murtaza Badr, to provide the General Secretariat with the latest version of the Turkish translation of the Book of Resolutions in preparation for its printing.

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