



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Forum of the Heads of Islamic Cultural Centers and Associations outside the Islamic World**

**Singapore, 13-14 October 2017**

### **Final Report**

The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), jointly with Jamiyah Singapore, held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum of the Heads of Islamic Cultural Centers and Associations outside the Islamic World, on the theme: **“The Role of Islamic NGOs in Promoting a Culture of Peace: Challenges and Prospects.”**

The Forum’s opening ceremony commenced with a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by a welcome address by the President of Jamiyah Singapore, Prof (Adj) Dr Mohammad Hasbi Abu Bakar, who thanked the co-operating and participating parties, and highlighted the efforts being made by the Jamiyah in Southeast Asia, through its various activities and initiatives, with a view to promoting a culture of peace.

The Director General of ISESCO, His Excellency Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, then took the floor and welcomed the Forum’s guest of honor, the Honourable Minister Mr K. Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law and thanked the Singaporean government for all the facilitations provided over the past years for the meetings held by ISESCO in association with the Jamiyah in Singapore. Dr Altwaijri also thanked Jamiyah Singapore for its cooperation with ISESCO in organizing this Forum, which coincides with the Jamiyah’s 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and commented all the humanitarian, cultural, educational and social efforts made by the Jamiyah throughout its long history. He also extended his thanks to the members of the Supreme Council for Education, Science and Culture for Muslims outside the Islamic World and to all participants in this important world Forum, underscoring the importance of the Forum’s theme amid today’s global context, and reviewing ISESCO’s efforts devoted to the promotion of a culture of peace education.



- **Session IV:** Role of Muslim NGOs in Promoting Peace: Country Initiatives (Spain, Switzerland and the UK).
- **Session V:** Role of Muslim NGOs in Promoting Peace: Country Initiatives (Australia, Philippines and Brunei Darussalam).
- **Session VI:** Role of Muslim NGOs in Promoting Peace: Country Initiatives (Singapore, Sri Lanka and Pakistan).
- **Session VII:** Role of Muslim Youth Ambassadors of Peace International
- **Session VIII:** Roundtable Discussion: Towards Better Inter-Faith Relations. Participating at this session were ISESCO Director General, the Secretary General of Muslim World League and the representatives of the Buddhist, Christian and Hindu faiths in Singapore, along with the President of the Inter-religious Organization of Singapore participated.

**The participants then discussed the papers presented, which all agreed on the following guidelines:**

- a. Emphasizing the importance of programmes and initiatives related to education on a culture of peace in ISESCO's action plans devoted to Muslims outside the Islamic world.
- b. Continuing to hold forums and conferences of the heads of Islamic cultural centers and associations outside the Islamic world.
- c. Inviting ISESCO to devote more activities and programmes to Muslims in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, in coordination with Jamiyah Singapore (ISESCO Regional Coordinator in the region).
- d. Commending the initiative “Muslim Youth Ambassadors of Peace International”.

In parallel with the Forum, the participants attended the **ceremony marking the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of Jamiyah Singapore.

In light of these guidelines, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum of the Heads of Islamic Cultural Centers and Associations outside the Islamic World issued the **following recommendations:**

1. Welcoming the launch of the “**Muslim Youth Ambassadors of Peace International**” initiative, and calling for the adoption of cultural mediation as a mechanism for promoting dialogue and peace among cultures and civilizations.





11. Calling for Muslim organizations and leaders to work together everyone through peaceful channels to restore harmony and human dignity and mitigate sufferings for individuals or groups of Muslims and others
12. Inviting Rabitah al-Alam al-Islami (MWL) to cooperate with Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and in coordination with the Islamic Organization in Latin America and Caribbean to convene the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum for Leaders of Cultural Centres and Islamic Organizations outside the Muslim World in the city of Lima of Peru which is to be held in the end of September 2018.
13. Congratulating Jamiyah Singapore, particularly its President and members, on the occasion of its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and commending its efforts to promote inter-faith, intercultural and inter-ethnic dialogue in Singapore and Southeast Asia.

At the close of its meeting, the Forum expressed gratitude to His Excellency Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), for his support to this successful forum within the framework of the implementation of the Strategy for Islamic Cultural Action for Muslims outside the Islamic World; and invited ISESCO to continue its relevant civilizational efforts for the benefit of Muslims outside the Islamic world.

The Forum also expressed its deep appreciation to His Excellency Dr Mohammad Bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa , Secretary General of Muslim World League and his esteemed delegation of officials for his participation and giving the key note speech at the Forum and also participating in the Roundtable session along with the Director General of ISESCO and with different faith leaders expressing solidarity and appreciation to ISESCO and Jamiyah for their good efforts in promoting peace and harmony for mankind. .

Finally, the participants thanked the Government of Singapore, represented by the guest of honor of the Second Forum of the Heads of Islamic Cultural Centers and Associations outside the Islamic World, H.E the Minister K. Shanmugam, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister for Law of the Government of Singapore.

**Singapore, on 14 October at 2017**

**The Participants**