

**Action Programme on
the Promotion of Islamic and International
Support for Safeguarding Civilizational and
Cultural Heritage in Al Quds Al Sharif**



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Background:

As the cradle of prophets and the three Abrahamic faiths, Al-Quds Al-Sharif is one of the major milestones in the history of the entire humanity. Throughout history, this city has been a crossroad of civilizations and cultures and a place where followers of Abrahamic faiths and different ethnicities coexist in harmony and mutual respect. The city has been a broad and inspiring platform for art, creativity and urban and cultural development, all of which contributed to the cultural and civilizational outreach of this city and preserved the particularity, richness and diversity of its cultural heritage and protected its cultural, religious and civilizational identity from obliteration or distortion, until the indiscriminate Israeli occupation forces set out to Judaize and distort its identity.

The cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, both tangible and intangible, reflects the creativity that has always characterized Al-Quds, as well as its skills and knowledge which span a variety of fields including architecture, handicrafts, traditional industries and crafts, arts, songs, games, rituals, folklore, tools, shrines and mausoleums. All of these are at risk of extinction in the absence of a common international action that would lend the necessary support for the protection of this human heritage and firmly stand up to the Israeli attempts to obliterate and Judaize this heritage.

Some of the outstanding and unique manifestations of Al-Quds' heritage include mosques, churches, fortresses, ancient walls, traditional houses, alleys, urban doors, gates to quarters, domes, decorations, geometric forms, traditional markets, and ancient Greek, Roman and Islamic monuments. Add to this movable heritage objects that include precious artifacts, traditional costumes, ornaments, musical instruments, ancient coins, pottery, ceramics and manuscripts. The intangible heritage of Al-Quds is in turn diverse and rich. It covers, among other manifestations, Islamic and Christian endowment systems, traditional knowledge, craft skills, wedding ceremonies and rites, folk tales and stories and novels. **Suffice it to observe the diversity and richness of the unique human and cultural heritage of the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, rarely observed in another city or place in the world, to recognize the legal and moral responsibility of the international community to protect and preserve this heritage and to fend off all the forms of Israelization (Judaization) and obliteration that are targeting it.**

Considering that the protection of cultural and civilizational heritage is one of the forms of Palestinian struggle against Israeli occupation, the residents of Al-Quds stand fast as they defend their identity and property, and protect their Islamic and Christian heritage. However, these valiant efforts fall short of achieving the desired protection in view of the sheer scope of the subversive actions undertaken by the Israeli occupation in their drive to obliterate the

city's Arab, Islamic and Christian identity and Israelize (Judaize) the landmarks of its heritage through demolitions, property confiscation, distortion of history, renaming historical sites, streets and alleys, urban expansion and building of Jewish settlements, erasing the symbols of the Palestinian national identity, marginalizing the historical dimension of Al-Quds and its inhabitants, and minimalizing the Palestinian culture in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Cognizant of the historical responsibility that falls to the relevant Arab, Islamic and international parties to protect the cultural heritage of Al-Quds in all its human dimensions, and to stand up to all the attempts seeking to obliterate or Israelize (Judaize) it, and in implementation of the provisions of international conventions on the protection of cultural heritage, cultural identity and multiculturalism, especially in conflict zones, such as **the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**, and taking into account **the various resolutions adopted by UNESCO between 1956 and 2017 on Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its sanctities** whereby it underscored the importance of attention to this holy city and invalidating the alterations made by the Israeli occupation, and on safeguarding cultural property, sacred sites and educational facilities, including **UNESCO's 2016 decision to inscribe the old city of Al-Quds on the List of Heritage Sites in Danger**, and in implementation of **the Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity**, adopted by the 4th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (Algiers, December 2004), and the **Islamic Declaration on Cultural Rights**, adopted by the Conference of Culture Ministers at its 8th session (Al Medina Al Munawarah, January 2014), and the **Islamic Declaration on Cultural Heritage**, adopted by the 10th session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (Khartoum, November 2017), stressing the urgency of formulating a comprehensive vision and adopting new and effective initiatives and action programmes to protect cultural and civilizational heritage, particularly in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and taking into consideration the achievements scored by a number of Arab, Islamic and international organizations specialized in this field and taking into account the **internal legislation of the competent bodies inside the State of Palestine on the protection of cultural heritage**, in consideration of all the above, this action programme has been prepared to boost Islamic and international support for the preservation of the cultural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, following the guidelines of a new strategy and integrated vision that enhances the tendency to implement a regional and international project for the protection of cultural and civilizational heritage in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

This programme includes six projects that cover the priorities set for the protection of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, with defined objectives, fields of intervention, implementation stages, expected outcomes and estimated budgets, according to the work to be implemented in the short or long term:

1. Enhancing the comprehensive cataloguing of the tangible and intangible heritage in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
2. Complementing the creation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) around Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

- 3.** Establishment of a virtual museum for Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
- 4.** Supplementary programme for the restoration and maintenance of the cultural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
- 5.** Raising-Awareness programmes around the historical facts and cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
- 6.** Support to research, writing, translation and publishing on the causes of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

This action programme also introduces a series of mechanisms of action at the local, regional and international levels to implement these projects, through basically relying on benefiting from the extensive expertise available in many fields inside and outside Member States while enriching it with new expertise, and promote the achievements accomplished up to now through other concrete projects as part of innovative and comprehensive projects while seeking to intensify cooperation in their implementation with international governmental and non-governmental organizations, regional and international specialized commissions and their agencies, Arab, Islamic, regional and international non- governmental institutions and donor bodies, as well as universities and research centers in the Islamic world and beyond.

First project: Enhancing the comprehensive cataloguing of the tangible and intangible heritage of Al-Quds

Background:

Cataloguing is the first and foremost basic phase in the management and protection of cultural heritage in all its forms as it provides accurate data on the components of this heritage. In the absence of a catalogue, no national policy or strategy can be developed in this regard. Thus, the cataloguing process determines and identifies what parts of this heritage survived over the years against the onslaught of demolitions, extinction or obliteration. It also makes it possible to keep a detailed record of all the information relevant to each masterpiece, landmark, oral expression or traditional skill; thus, facilitating their protection and preservation, and creating a vision of the value chain of the cultural heritage being catalogued.

In this perspective, and in order to lay a solid foundation for this programme, this project will focus on initiating a comprehensive and integrated cataloguing of all components of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, both tangible and intangible based on capitalizing on the outcomes of the various and partial cataloguing operations performed up to now, and on a new vision that respects accepted scientific standards and the specificities of this heritage in such a way as to focus on all the components of this heritage and make it possible to highlight the strategic importance of this Holy City that is enduring under the yoke of occupation. The project will also focus on updating the previously completed catalogues, mostly focused on architectural heritage.

Under this project, attention will focus on continuing cataloguing material, architectural and urban heritage components such as Islamic and Christian religious sites (mosques, churches, domes, shrines...), military edifices (fortresses, fortifications, towers...), public sites (public squares, gates, schools, hospitals, public baths, craft workshops...), private structures (houses, palaces...), architectural forms and designs, as well as movables such as traditional costumes, jewels, musical instruments, war artifacts, traditional home furnishings, currency coins and other minted pieces, ceramics, pottery, manuscripts, and various artifacts. The cataloguing will also extend to intangible heritage components in Al-Quds such as traditional knowledge, crafts, wedding ceremonies and rituals, proverbs, folklore, books, traditional fashion, musical heritage, lifestyles, living human treasures, traditional skills and the cultural scenes in Al-Quds Al-Sharif as part of the traditional urban fabric of this city.

Objectives:

- Enhancing the cataloguing, documentation and showcasing of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds and its various components and manifestations; both tangible and intangible;
- Preparing and upgrading comprehensive and integrated catalogues of the tangible and intangible heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif;
- Expanding and complementing the existing database of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Qud Al-Sharif.

Axes:

- Ensuring capacity-building in inventory mechanisms and techniques for Al-Quds' heritage;
- Carrying out new cataloguing operations of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds and highlighting its components.

First Axis: Ensuring capacity-building in cataloguing mechanisms and techniques for Al-Quds heritage

This project focuses on enhancing capacity-building of Palestinian experts and specialists in training in mechanisms and techniques of heritage cataloguing and raising awareness about its importance in safeguarding, rehabilitating and showcasing heritage and its components. The workshops and meetings that will be held in this framework will accurately identifying the characteristics and components of the tangible and intangible heritage of Al-Quds, explore the possibilities of providing the necessary resources for continuing its cataloguing and identify obstacles that might hinder this exercise, adopt more appropriate forms of the proposed cataloguing in light of the data collected on Al-Quds' heritage, and then draw up a plan for the implementation, follow up and assessment of this project.

Implementation Programmes:

1. Expert meeting to examine the state of training on heritage cataloguing in Palestine in general and in the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif in particular;
2. Organizing a national seminar on the outcomes of the works, studies and publications performed to diagnose and determine the components of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds and the importance of continuing the cataloguing operations in terms of its protection and preservation;
3. Holding national workshop to study both the available and unavailable human and material resources necessary for continuing operations of inventorying the tangible and intangible heritage in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, identifying obstacles and proposing solutions to overcome them;
4. Holding training workshops to strengthen the capacities of experts on the norms and terms of inventorying urban and architectural heritage;
5. Holding training workshops to strengthen the capacities of experts on the norms and terms of inventorying movable heritage;
6. Holding training workshops to strengthen the capacities of experts on the norms and terms of inventorying intangible heritage and living human treasures;
7. Organizing training workshops to strengthen the capacities of experts on the norms and conditions of inventorying cultural landscapes.

Second Axis: Conducting new cataloguing processes of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds and highlighting its components

This project is aimed at continuing cataloguing and documenting of various components of the tangible and intangible cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds through the implementation of new practical programmes that capitalize on the outcomes of

the cataloguing operations carried out up to now and which respect the specificity and conditions of each component separately while benefiting from the contents of the relevant field studies and the testimonies of knowledgeable and expert people, as well as from the information available in administrative documents and scientific, technical and academic publications, etc. This axis constitutes the core process of the inventory which is based on the preparation of technical cards (records) on each masterpiece, landmark, skill, oral expression, cultural scene, or living human treasure. These cards carry all the administrative, technical and photographic details of heritage pieces and a thorough and comprehensive inventory of the components of each sample of cultural and civilizational heritage. This will make it possible to formulate a clearer and more comprehensive policy for the preservation of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds and the rehabilitation of its components. It will also provide a larger and more accurate database allowing for keeping pace with the application of modern techniques and technologies in this field.

Implementation Programmes:

1. Holding expert meeting to examine the state of the inventory of the cultural heritage of Al-Quds and exploring ways to promote and develop its records and documents;
2. Setting up specialized teams to undertake the cataloguing:
 - A team for urban and architectural heritage;
 - A team for movable heritage;
 - A team for intangible heritage and living human treasures;
 - A team for cultural landscapes.
3. Collecting all available data from all possible information sources using technical sheets (books, archives, manuscripts, administrative and endowment documents, films, publications...);
4. Collecting data on the ground by each team using the technical sheets and reviewing existing ones through:
 - Field studies and investigations, supported by photographs;
 - Processing the data on heritage components available with competent authorities.
5. Holding expert meetings to review and approve the technical sheets already completed;
6. Preparing by each team updated inventory records which will be approved by the competent authorities in the State of Palestine;
7. Preparing a comprehensive and updated database of the components inventoried;
8. Convening an international expert conference on the outcomes of the comprehensive inventory of the civilizational and cultural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif to strengthen awareness of its the richness and diversity and expose attempts to Israelize (Judaize) it,
9. Corresponding with the relevant regional and international organizations to brief them about the conference's recommendations and results, and providing them with copies

of the catalogues approved by the competent authorities in the State of Palestine to facilitate the protection, defense and pleading of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds.

10. Including the registers of the comprehensive and updated cataloguing to the file of the endangered city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, as an expression of the living cultural and human content of this city.

Estimated budget for three years: US\$ 4,500,000.

Second project: Complementing the creation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) around Al-Quds Al-Sharif

Background:

The Geographic Information System (GIS) is a scientific application with important benefits in documenting the architectural and urban heritage, the urban perimeter with all its architectural and natural characteristics, and the processes of change and development. This system serves to collect, store, process, analyze and distribute geographical and descriptive data and information, based on accurate data, maps and aerial photographs available from several competent authorities. As much as this system analyzes, stores and maintains this information, it helps manage and plan the field pertaining to it and infer the characteristics of its past and present and anticipate the outlines of its future.

The abundance of Islamic and Christian architectural and urban features in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the destruction and obliteration plots it endures at the hands of Israeli occupation must be documented thoroughly and accurately. In this regard, the project of complementing the creation of a geographic information system around the city will undoubtedly ensure the availability of accurate data about its architectural and urban heritage, cultural identity and Israeli violations. It will also enable the preparation of a reference document in this regard likely to help tracking these violations.

The project will focus on documenting the traditional fabric of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, its architectural landmarks, its public squares, historical gardens, fortifications, doors, gates, neighborhoods and alleys. It will also focus on its borders before the Nakba of 1948 and 1967, its current borders, the original names of streets and alleys, parks, architectural landmarks, gates and fortifications, urban plan drawings, topographic designs, urban expansion routes, the manifestations of the obliteration, distortion and Israelization pursued out by the Israeli occupation inside and within the original borders of the city. These target land, people, buildings and Arabic names of sites and races, using all possible means, including archaeological excavations that aim to corroborate myths contained in the book of "Jewish Rabbis".

Objectives:

- Upgrading and updating a geographic information system for the Arab city of Al-Quds and its architectural landmarks;
- Complementing the documentation of different manifestations and processes of alteration and distortion sustained by Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its architectural features.

Axes:

- Promoting capacity-building in GIS applications for experts and staff working in the Palestinian heritage sector;
- Complementing the collection of geographical data about the Old City of Al-Quds and upgrading a system for its geographical data.

First Axis: Enhancing capacity-building in GIS applications for experts and staff working in the Palestinian heritage sector

In light of the situation experienced in the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the GIS project necessitates to be complemented and upgraded continuously. To ensure this, action within this project will focus on strengthening the capacity of Palestinian experts and professionals involved in urban and architectural heritage or in GIS applications. The aim is to improve their knowledge of this system's application to cultural heritage and urbanization and their role in documenting this heritage, showcasing and safeguarding it. It also aims to identify more accurately its components and show the stages of its extinction or obliteration and the myriad forms of threats targeting it. The workshops and meetings to be held within this framework will examine GIS applications on urban and architectural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and ways to benefit from them, determine the needs of the competent authorities in the State of Palestine in this field, highlight the relevant possibilities and obstacles, identify priorities and devise plan a of implementation, follow up and assessment while been keen to benefit from relevant successful projects of many countries and specialized institutions.

Implementation Programmes:

1. Holding expert meetings to examine the architectural and urban status of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and identify all the threats besieging it.
2. Holding a seminar on GIS applications to the case of Al-Quds, and determining objectives, potentialities and constraints.
3. Holding expert meeting to study the needs of competent authorities in GIS applications in the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
4. Organizing training sessions on methods of data collection and developing a geographic information system for the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Second Axis: Complementing the collection of geographical data about the Old City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and upgrading its geographical data system.

Action under this theme will be carried out over three stages: **First**, complementing the collection and storage of geographic data and information using the appropriate information system. **Second**: continuing the processing, management and analysis of geographical data. **Third**: devising a new action programme to safeguard the landmarks of Al-Quds Al-Sharif based on the outcome of the adopted GIS data analysis system.

The project aims to complement the collect and store all geographical data about the old City of Al-Quds, its traditional fabric, original borders, historical landmark and their names and architectural characteristics. It will also target continuing the storage of geographical data on new buildings, as well as the forms and processes of urban expansion and modifications that occurred in the urban and topographic map of Al-Quds Al-Sharif. The project seeks to provide a detailed and accurate inventory of the violations committed by Israeli occupation forces in their design to obliterate the historical identity of the holy city. It aspires to develop a clear vision conducive to the formulation of strategies for the management of heritage sites

through geographical data. The project will allow some of its implementation mechanisms and results to be linked to modern technologies such as advanced monitoring techniques, 3D laser scanning and Global Positioning System (GPS).

Implementation Programmes

1. Holding a meeting of a specialized working group to develop an action programme for the collection of geographical data on the Old City of Al-Quds and selecting the appropriate information programme and methods to be used in the spatial analysis of these data.
2. Continuing the performance of a series of investigations and field operations to document historical monuments, collect relevant geographical and descriptive data on the ground and from available historical books and reference documents, archives, manuscripts, administrative and Waqf documents, publications, maps, plans and aerial imagery.
3. Continuing the archiving the maps pertaining to Al-Quds Al-Sharif, its historical and archaeological landmarks before and after 1967, duplicating and storing them electronically.
4. Holding meetings of the specialized working group to analyze the information and geographical data collected.
5. Updating the map of the old city of Al-Quds before and after 1967, to show the various illegal modifications made by the Israeli occupation forces at heritage sites and monuments in terms of names, functions, forms and edificial nature.
6. Preparing a comprehensive digital atlas of architectural and urban heritage components of Al-Quds, and documenting the violations and changes that affected them.
7. Preparing a methodological guide to defending the authentic Islamic and Christian character of Al-Quds' heritage landmarks based on the GIS analysis findings.
8. Holding an international conference to expose the policies of the occupying Israeli entity to Israelize Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its attempts to obliterate the Islamic and Christian identity of its cultural and civilizational heritage.

Estimated budget for three years: US\$ 4,000,000.

Third project: Creation of a virtual museum for Al-Quds Al-Sharif

Background:

Virtual museums are one channel through which cultural heritage can benefit from information and communication technologies. This type of museum has become a must as a digital and interactive cultural interface that is gaining in popularity among social network users around the world. Its importance is constantly accruing in the light of globalization and the interest taken in cultural identities and in view of the information they offer on cultural and civilizational heritage, in an interactive, attractive, innovative, transnational and safe manner.

In this context, the project proposes the establishment of a virtual museum for the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif. Though this museum, the entire world will have the opportunity to see its Arab memory and how its Islamic and Christian cultural and civilizational heritage is subjected on a daily basis to obliteration and Judaization attempts by Israeli occupation forces. The material, subjects, photographs, documents and artifacts to be presented in the Al-Quds Virtual Museum, their wide exposure and the creation of an 'appropriate virtual reality' for the visitor of the virtual museum of the Holy City and its heritage.

Objectives:

- Defining and highlighting the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds and promoting research and communication on this heritage;
- Raising awareness of the importance of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds and defending and protecting it;
- Confronting Israeli designs to obliterate the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Axis:

- Mechanisms and phases of the establishment of the Virtual Museum of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, its cultural and civilizational heritage.

Axis: Mechanisms and phases for the establishment of the Virtual Museum of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its cultural and civilizational heritage

The Virtual Museum of Al-Quds ambitions to present data on all the components of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, including the physical, architectural and urban legacy, movables, museum assets, manuscripts, intangible heritage elements, figures of thought and culture, and living human treasures. This would be formulated in tiered information architecture and in multiple languages. An electronic window would be dedicated to each component and heritage area, and menu-based navigation would be adopted as a method. The virtual museum will showcase the diversity and richness of this legacy's components legacy, as well as address the various forms of obliteration, destruction, alteration or Israelization to which it has been exposed. It will also raise awareness of its interactive nature to protect and rehabilitate what remains of this heritage, restore what has been destroyed, stolen or obliterated, strengthen cultural dialogue around it, as well as stimulate the spirit of creativity,

innovation, study and research about its Islamic and Christian dimensions to counter the extremist and racist Israelization (Judaization) policy adopted by the Israeli occupation.

Implementation Programmes:

1. Meeting of heritage and IT programming experts to identify technical and logistical needs and develop the electronic design of the virtual museum of Al-Quds Al-Sharif;
2. Collecting data, documents, designs, maps, documentaries and old photographs of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its cultural and civilizational heritage;
3. Developing a detailed database on the material and intangible heritage components to serve as exhibits in the Virtual Museum;
4. Converting data, images, documents and maps into digital information using the Virtual Reality Modeling Language –VRML;
5. Designing the virtual museum windows:
 - The exchange forum window;
 - The information services window for subscribers;
 - The window of the International Network of Friends of the Al-Quds Virtual Museum.
6. Publicizing the Virtual Museum of Al-Quds through hyperlinks from the websites of institutions and sponsors, competent parties, relevant regional and international organizations, and major international museums inside and outside the Islamic world.

Estimated budget for two years: US\$ 600,000.

Fourth project: Supplementary Programme of Restoration and Maintenance of the Cultural Heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif

Background:

The physical rehabilitation of cultural heritage requires maintenance and restoration operations. These are high-precision processes based on scientific and architectural criteria that vary according to the configuration and nature of the sites and antiquities to be restored. Due to age, the impact of natural phenomena and human interferences, monuments, museum pieces, archeological objects and manuscripts become fragile and lose many of their components and features as well as much of their value, some becoming even totally extinct.

The cultural heritage in Al-Quds Al-Sharif has endured all the aforementioned phenomena, similar in this to all historical cities. However, this suffering is further compounded by the actions of Israeli occupation forces, bent on Israelizing, obliterating and destroying this heritage's identity. Statistics available to the relevant authorities, including the ISESCO Archaeology Experts Committee, reveal that the processes of obliteration, Israelization and demolition of this heritage have been continually on the rise since the second Nakba and the burning of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in 1969. This prompted UNESCO in 1981 to inscribe Al-Quds Al-Sharif on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Mindful of the nature of the challenges of the scope of requirements involved in the restoration of the cultural heritage and the preservation of Al-Quds' architectural fabric, this ambitious project was included in the Action Programme to continue restoration processes and strengthen Islamic and international support thereon towards the preservation of the cultural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Objectives:

- Continue the restoration the material cultural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
- Ensure preservation of the traditional urban fabric of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
- Promote the protection of the Islamic and Christian cultural identity of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Axis:

- Practical requirements for continued restoration of the tangible cultural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Axis: Practical requirements for continued restoration of the tangible cultural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif

To continue restoring and rehabilitating monuments and valuable museum objects in the Holy City requires the mobilization of great human and financial resources, the intensification of cooperation between relevant regional and international organizations and bodies, and the development of a joint and comprehensive action programme to save the cultural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif as universal heritage. It also requires the establishment of a joint body to oversee the implementation of the action programme, and a special fund to finance these restoration operations.

Implementation Programmes:

1. Preparing updated technical files on the condition of archaeological and historical monuments, antiquities and manuscripts in Al-Quds Al-Sharif;
2. Holding expert meetings to analyze and update the findings of studies and inventories and diagnosing the condition of monuments, museum objects and manuscripts by many countries and specialized institutions and authorities; developing a new comprehensive action programme for expected restoration, maintenance and rehabilitation that sets priorities, a schedule of implementation, technical intervention nature and forms, and estimated budgets.;
3. Creating restoration teams;
4. Launching restoration works, according to priorities and taking into account allocated budgets, the use of appropriate technology for each case, and documenting all phases of the intervention;
5. Holding workshops for experts and supervisors of monument restorations, based on the results of restoration operations that had been completed;
6. Developing a comprehensive strategy for the rehabilitation of heritage monuments and their integration into the urban fabric and development programmes in the Holy City.

Estimated budget for five years: US\$ 20,000,000.

Fifth Project: Inclusive raising-awareness programmes of the historical facts and the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif

Background:

Through their policies, the occupying Israeli entity seeks to entrench the belief that the perimeter of Al-Quds Al-Sharif is confined to the sacred places in the Old City, thus closing down and banning the establishment of any cultural or social institution outside this perimeter, fearful that any action may strengthen Arab, Islamic and Christian presence in the city. This constitutes per se a serious threat to the Arab and Islamic civilizational affiliation and identity of the holy city. Al-Quds Al-Sharif is in fact one of the sites exuding spiritual depth for Arabs, Muslims and Christians, and stands for the essence of Palestinian culture, as the major incubator of culture, history and divine religions. This qualified it to be inscribed in 1981 on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The threats besieging the cultural and civilizational identity of Al-Quds Al-Sharif place the international community, and regional and international authorities before a historical and moral obligation to protect this ancient human heritage and preserve its link to its geographical and ethnographic environment and its Islamic and Christian dimensions. It has become imperative to strengthen and develop the mechanisms of sensitization on the diversity and richness of the Arab heritage of Al-Quds, and the obliteration, Israelization and violation designs it is subjected to, in violation of all human norms and international laws. In light of this, the project seeks to raise awareness of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif through focusing on the organization of artistic and cultural festivals, celebrating the figures of Al-Quds thought and culture, launching awareness-raising campaigns and holding international conferences to advocate this heritage. It will also contribute to the protection, preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of this heritage, as well as raising awareness of its significance.

Objectives:

- Developing awareness-raising mechanisms on the religious and spiritual value of Al-Quds, its cultural, civilizational and artistic heritage;
- Periodically launching new cultural and artistic initiatives to mobilize support for the preservation of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and its living memory.

Axes:

- Establishing the Annual International Heritage Festival of the Al-Quds;
- Organizing educational, cultural and media raising-awareness campaigns on the historical memory of Al-Quds and its cultural and civilizational heritage;
- Celebrating figures of thought and culture from Al-Quds.

First Axis: Creating the Annual International Festival of Al-Quds Heritage

Beyond its recreational aspects, the Annual International Festival of Al-Quds Heritage will provide a unique platform to highlight the cultural and artistic talents and innovations of the youth from Al Quds and beyond, showcase the diversity and richness of oral expressions of Al Quds heritage, develop cultural tourism, stimulate economic and cultural dynamism thereon

and showcase the cultural and artistic aspects of its creativity. It will also heighten the sense of cultural belonging to this heritage within respect for multiculturalism, support of education on the values of co-existence this heritage advocates, and promotion of dialogue through its cultural and artistic expression.

Along with these features, a heritage festival for the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif will hold special and unique importance, making it an art space and a mechanism for cultural action committed to fending off the Israelization (Judaization) policies pursued by the Israeli occupation against the heritage of Al-Quds. Traditional artistic expressions such as performing arts, popular songs, traditional games, ceremonial rituals, proverbs, folklore, religious incantations and stories related to prophets and messengers can be utilized artistically during the annual International Heritage Festival of Al-Quds to highlight the richness and diversity of this heritage and urge for its protection and preservation. To achieve this, the festival will be organized annually in one of the capitals of Member States and, alternately, in one of the capitals of Islamic culture, and at the OIC Festival. It would include segments on the intangible heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif through concerts, popular songs, theater and other performances that highlight the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Implementation Programmes:

1. Creating a multi-disciplinary committee to oversee preparations for the organization of the Annual International Heritage Festival of Al-Quds Al-Sharif;
2. Preparing the annual schedule of the Festival that includes national, regional and international cultural artistic, and recreational programmes;
3. Preparing media materials, guides and pamphlets, etc that contain the traditional artistic expressions, skills, creations and living human treasures of Al-Quds Al-Sharif;
4. Launching a programme to support artistic works about cultural and civilizational heritage of Al Quds Al Sharif by creative plastic artists, filmmakers, and stage actors from Al-Quds Al-Sharif and beyond;
5. Allocating prizes to the best artistic works participating in the Festival.

Second Axis: Organizing educational, cultural and media raising-awareness campaigns on the historical memory of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its cultural and civilizational heritage

Educational, cultural and media campaigns are of crucial importance in highlighting the cultural and civilizational heritage of nations, revitalizing and protecting it from dangers. It is therefore important to adopt a sound strategy of sensitization campaigns inside and outside the Islamic world, in which the educational, cultural and media aspect converge to revive the historical memory of Al-Quds and expose the attempts of the Israeli occupation to misrepresent it. With this vision, the project will seek under its second theme to correct the misinformation related to the historical memory of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and set the record straight about its cultural and civilizational heritage. This would involve holding training sessions, workshops, symposia and periodic seminars for school and university students, education officials and civil society associations. It will also pave the way for the organization of an annual conference on the protection of the historical and cultural memory of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, establishment of a comprehensive media raising-awareness programme within and outside the Muslim world.

Implementation Programmes:

1. Organizing annual training sessions and workshops on the historical memory of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its cultural and civilizational heritage for the benefit of educational, cultural and media institutions in Member States;
2. Organizing annual seminars and symposia to raise awareness of the true historical facts of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif for the benefit of students and leaders of youth chapters of civil society associations;
3. Holding meetings and symposia about the historical memory of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its cultural and civilizational heritage, to be held at Islamic cultural centers, media institutions and centers for the training of journalists outside the Islamic world;
4. Holding an annual conference on the protection of the historical and cultural memory of Al-Quds Al-Sharif;
5. Establishing an international network of researchers and experts to protect the historical and cultural memory of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Third Axis: Celebrating the figures of thought and culture from Al-Quds Al-Sharif

The aim of this axis is to collect and document data on the symbols and figures of thought and culture of Al-Quds Al-Sharif through history and to date, present them and shed light on their contributions, celebrate their achievements, prepare and disseminate studies on their history, all of which will contribute towards preserving the memory of Al-Quds.

The celebration of these figures and icons will not only revolve around the recognition of their intellectual and cultural productions at their true value, but will also serve as a catalyst for future generations to strive harder and show greater steadfastness and verve in defending the holy city and its rich and diverse cultural heritage, and a powerful lever for the promoting the edification of the promising future of the independent Palestinian state with Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital. This requires a programme that identifies the intellectual and cultural symbols to be celebrated, relying on a database of accurate and systematic information, all for the purpose of preserving the identity of Al-Quds and ensuring its continuity and visibility.

Implementation Programmes:

1. Creating a database of the icons and figures of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and their intellectual and cultural contribution;
2. Holding symposia and seminars to celebrate the figures of thought and culture of Al-Quds in the context of celebrations, festivals and cultural events;
3. Organizing an annual forum outside the Islamic world dedicated to outstanding figures and icons from Al-Quds, their intellectual and cultural contributions to edifying human civilization, and promoting dialogue among the followers of monotheistic religions;
4. Launching information and television programmes and others through social networks in multiple languages on the intellectual and cultural contributions of these figures and icons as an integral part of the living memory of Al-Quds.

Estimated budget for three years: US\$ 3,000,000.

Sixth Project: Support for research, writing, translation and publishing on causes of Al-Quds Al-Sharif

Background:

In view of the ruthless occupation suffered by Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the grave violations committed against its population, history and culture, it is imperative that immediate and greater attention be paid to the protection of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds, material and intangible, to documenting it and furthering research and studies on its causes. These actions fall within the responsibilities of governmental and non-governmental regional and international organizations, universities, research and study centers and researchers and experts. All of these must contribute to highlighting the value of the scientific and academic contribution of this heritage which the city shares with all humanity. While Israeli occupation is diligently working to erase the identity of this city using illegal means, through illegal excavations, establishing settlements, demolishing historical monuments and changing the functions and names of historic buildings, publishing research and studies that falsify historical and geographical facts, it has become the duty of researchers and specialists to intensify their writings, translations and publication to redress these fallacies and provide the correct information on the cultural and civilizational history of this city. This will be done by identifying priority research areas, preparing and publishing scientific studies, issuing specialized journals, periodicals and pamphlets on these issues, and launching an international campaign to encourage and support publishing and translation on the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds.

Objectives:

- Providing scientific studies and research on the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
- Supporting research, writing, translation and publishing on issues of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Axes:

- Publishing studies, research, magazines and specialized periodicals on issues related to the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif;
- Launching an international programme to support research, writing and translation on the issues of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds.

First Axis: Publishing studies, research, magazines and specialized periodicals on issues of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif

Despite the depth of the historical, spiritual and cultural dimension of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its emotional charge for Arabs, Muslims and Christians, its cultural and civilizational heritage has not been the subject of any scientific, technical, artistic, literary or historical research and study it warrants. The aim of this theme is to develop a comprehensive vision of priority issues that can be the focus of research, studies, magazines, periodicals and brochures to be issued on the various forms of tangible and intangible heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif. It will also address the commissioning of research centers, universities and specialized regional and international organizations to prepare these studies and research, and publicizing them at the regional and international levels.

Implementation Programmes:

1. Preparing and publishing studies on the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, in line with the comprehensive vision of priority issues and their relevance;
2. Preparing and publishing informative pamphlets in various languages on the history of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its tangible and intangible cultural heritage;
3. Preparing and publishing specialized electronic journals dealing with the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds;
4. Preparing and publishing specialized and encyclopedias books on:
 - Traditional Palestinian fashion, including traditional costumes of Al-Quds;
 - Culinary arts and traditional cuisine;
 - Performing arts;
 - Making use again of the system of Islamic and Christian endowments in Al-Quds Al-Sharif (buildings, movables, order, law, customs);
 - Wedding and celebratory arts;
 - Al-Quds' manuscripts located inside and outside Palestine;
 - Traditional games.
5. Establishing an electronic portal linked to ISESCO's website presenting a monograph of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and providing visitors with access to all the publications, studies and journals related to the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Second Axis: Launching an international programme to support research, writing and translation on the issues of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds

Through this axis, scientific and intellectual initiatives will be encouraged and authors, particularly young ones will be supported. Written and electronic journals will be supported to stimulate their interest in the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and boost their productions in various fields. Support will also be extended for the creation of specialized university chairs, publishing the proceedings of forums, academic symposia and outstanding university research works carried out by university professors and students on topics related to the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, especially those showcasing its richness and diversity and documenting the alterations, Judaization and demolitions that are undermining this heritage.

Implementation Programmes:

1. Supporting writers, academicians, professors, thinkers, authors and artists to write and translate works related to the issues of the cultural and civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif;
2. Supporting the publishing of the proceedings of local, regional and international scientific, intellectual and cultural forums and conferences held on issues related to the memory of Al-Quds Al-Sharif;

3. Supporting the publishing of outstanding university research works carried out by professors and students within and outside the Islamic world;
4. Establishing university chairs for research in the cultural, civilizational and spiritual heritage of Al-Quds;
5. Preparing a bibliographic index of all the publications that document the various cultural and civilizational fields in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, in cooperation with national libraries across the world and translating such index into the widely spoken languages of the world.

Estimated budget for four years: US\$ 3,500,000.