Virtual Forum

“Role of Religious Leadership in Face of Crises”

“Towards Global Moral Solidarity of Religious Leadership”

Tuesday 21 July 2020
08.00-10.00 Am (UTC/09.00-11.00 Am Rabat)
Anticipatory studies reaffirm that the ensuing outcomes of the Coronavirus pandemic will inexorably define the shape of a new world order in various fields, raising the need to revisit old systems and thinking mechanisms so as to be able to address challenges, meet new requirements and provide appropriate solutions thereto.

- **What has the Islamic world and its religious leaders prepared for earning a strategic position within the new world order?**

- **What are the intellectual and methodological revisions that should be conducted to attain this goal?**

- **What are the required mechanisms to implement the desired goal?**

Preliminary evaluations of the period of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak show a dire need to bring human societies together under a humanitarian, solidarity-based and moral system that pushes cooperation forward for the sake of shared human values.

This framework includes the solidarity-based initiatives and campaigns launched amid these extraordinary circumstances by Muslims inside and outside the Islamic world, in application of the values of solidarity and tolerance within those societies. Such initiatives and campaigns showed great levels of sacrifice, selflessness, cooperation and assistance by the staff working in the healthcare and social work fields, as they endeavored to spread the values of tolerance, love, compassion, hope and positivity to overcome this crisis.

These initiatives are also reflected in the aspects of serenity, peace and positivity that have prevailed in Muslim societies as opposed to sentiments of despair, greed and selfishness seen in other societies, gaining great praise from a number of non-Muslim parties. These parties were intrigued to discover more about the noble moral repository that drove this human spirit; and understand the underlying causes of this selflessness and solidarity.

Given its power in terms of its civilization, economy and demographics (25% of world population), the contributions of the Islamic world in building this new world should reflect its civilizational and human power.

In addition, given that Muslim religious leaderships have always been at the forefront of the people preoccupied by societal issues and contributed to the efforts of finding solutions to novel problems, the current circumstances highlight the need for these leaderships' participation in this new human horizon. Such participation would come as a response to the strategic vision of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) aiming at renewing the approaches, systems and mechanisms of Islamic thought; undertaking the much-needed tasks of intellectual and spiritual mediation especially in the context of current events; and promoting the values of solidarity, cooperation, dialogue, middle stance and moderation.
To attain these goals, UNESCO intends to hold on 21 July 2020, in cooperation with the Muslim World League, the World Muslim Communities Council, a virtual forum under the title:

"Role of Religious Leadership in the face of Crises"

with the participation of a host of international figures and Muslim leaderships who uphold the values of middle stance and moderation, possess the spirit of renewal and the ability to propose the required human solutions to novel issues, respect difference, rise above political and sectarian conflicts, sustain work and ensure follow up through the necessary networking mechanisms.

**Themes**

1. Best initiatives and practices of religious institutions throughout the COVID-19 crisis to address the negative impact of this crisis;

2. Regenerative and future features of religious thought and working mechanisms to make use of crises gains and address their adverse repercussions;

3. Prospects of joint action between the different religious leaderships and institutions across the world.

**Goals**

1. Generating the benefits of the best initiatives and experiences of religious leaderships and institutions in the face of crises;

2. Renewing the working approaches of religious thought to contribute to finding adequate solutions in times of emergency and crisis;

3. Developing the general guidelines for drafting a global moral and solidarity-based charter to address human crises.

**Outcomes**

- Preparing a draft study on the guidelines to renewing religious thought to address crises;
- Documenting the best achievements and practices and successful experiences to adopt proper mechanisms on dealing with crises.