

# **OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

Informal draft as of 25 October 2017

#### Contents

Organizational Update
Council of Parties
Board of Directors
Advisory Forum
Cooperation with the UN and other International Organizations
Programmatic Progress Overview
Project Snapshots
Refugees in Europe Programme
United Against Violence in the Name of Religion
Social Media as Space for Dialogue
Arab Region with a focus on Iraq/Syria
Central African Republic1
Myanmar1
Nigeria1
International Fellows Programme1
Dialogue Knowledge Hub1
Public Affairs1
Press Releases and Board Statements1
Media Mentions1
Digital Presence1
Publications1
Austrian Outreach
Human Resources

# Organizational Update

#### **Council of Parties**

The Founding States of the Centre (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Austria and Kingdom of Spain with the Holy See as a Founding Observer) constitute the "Council of Parties" responsible for overseeing the work of the Centre.











In April 2017, the KAICIID Secretary General met Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, at the Vatican to discuss collaboration with the Holy See

#### **Board of Directors**

KAICIID is the only intergovernmental organization with a Board of Directors made up of representatives from major world religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism) and cultures.

- H.E. Haji Allahshükür Hummat Pashazade, Grand Mufti of the Caucasus
- Dr. Hamed Al-Majed, Faculty Member, Imam Muhammad Bin Saud University
- **Kezevino Aram,** Director, Shanti Ashram
- Father Miguel Ayuso, Secretary, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue at the Vatican
- H.E. Metropolitan Emmanuel, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople
- The Reverend Kosho Niwano, President-Designate Rissho Kosei-kai
- Reverend Mark Poulson, Secretary for Inter Religious Affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury and National Inter Religious Affairs Adviser for the Church of England
- Chief Rabbi David Rosen, American Jewish Committee, International Director of Interreligious Affairs
- Dr. Mohammad Sammak, Secretary-General of the National Committee for Christian-Muslim Dialogue

#### **Advisory Forum**

The Advisory Forum, which is mandated to support the Board of Directors, is composed of 46 members with nine religions represented.



# Cooperation with the UN and other International Organizations

KAICIID enjoys ongoing cooperation with the African Union (MoU), ISESCO (MoU), OSCE, Union for the Mediterranean, UNAoC (MoU), UNDP (MoU), UNESCO (MoU), UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (MoU), and NGOs which work in the field.

In July 2017, UN Secretary General Guterres launched the Plan of Action at UN Headquarters, which is designed to prevent incitement which could lead to atrocity crimes. The Plan of Action was developed over two years of intensive consultations at the global and regional levels organized by the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, with the support of the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), the World Council of Churches (WCC), and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.





man Bin Muaammar with former UN Secretary

**General Ban Ki-moon** 

#### **Key Partnerships:**

- May 2017: The KAICIID Secretary General presented the Centre at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue. The event was hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan in partnership with the Council of Europe, ISESCO, UNAOC, UNESCO, UN FAO and UNWTO.
- ◆ 2016: KAICIID supported UN-IO-Religious Leader consultations in five UN regional conferences
- September 2016: Co-host of UNGA event at the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants
- Cooperation with UNDP to promote social cohesion in the Arab region and Iraq

# **Programmatic Progress Overview**

In November 2015, the Board of Directors approved the International Dialogue Centre's Strategic Plan for the period of 2016-2019. The programme strategy focuses on work in interreligious dialogue for peace and reconciliation (P&R) in four specific conflict situations.

As a professional and non-confessional centre, KAICIID works with religious and non-religious actors by facilitating dialogical platforms. As a bridge-builder using IRD, the Centre also strives to maximize the inclusion of all the world's mainstream religious and spiritual traditions into its activities and programmes.

The Centre's commitment to knowledge is reflected in the Dialogue Knowledge Hub, which comprises the peace-mapping programme, e-learning programmes and virtual dialogue hubs.



# **Project Snapshots**

### Refugees in Europe Programme

Through sustainable partnerships with faith based organizations, the programme is designed to enhance the integration capacity of both people seeking refuge and European host communities through a two pillar approach:

- 1. By developing women with migrant backgrounds to serve as dialogue facilitators with a special focus on women and youth.
- 2. By strengthening interreligious education for young people seeking refuge.



Twelve month pilot initiative in Vienna from Feb. 2017-2018



Four qualified
Austrian dialogue
facilitators from
migrant
backgrounds



A cooperative project with Faith-based organizations in Vienna



Over 250 beneficiaries to be trained

Programme beneficiaries are asylum seekers and refugees

# United Against Violence in the Name of Religion (UVNR)

This groundbreaking KAICIID initiative was launched in November 2014 to denounce violence in the name of religion. Under UVNR, KAICIID is working with high-level representatives of five world religions, as well as other religious communities in Iraq, Syria and the Middle East. Together UVNR stakeholders engage the international community to support conditions for living together and to strengthen common citizenship for all religious and ethnic groups in the region.



#### **Our Partners Include:**

- Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem Joseph III Younan, Antioch and all the East, Syrians for the Syriac Catholic Church
- Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, Grand Imam and Sheikh Al Azhar
- Sheikh Mustafa Ceric, Grand Mufti of Bosnia
- Patriarch Aram I Keshishian, Head of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia and Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia of the Armenian Apostolic Church
- Patriarch Raphael I Louis Sako, Chaldean Catholic Church

- Pope Tawadoros II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See Of St. Mark, head of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt.
- Sheikh Salih bin Abdullah al Humaid, Imam of the Grand Mosque, Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- ♦ **Bartholomew I**, Patriarch, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople
- Sheikh Shawki Ibrahim Alam, Grand Mufti of Egypt
- Sheikh Abdul Kareem Khasawneh, Grand Mufti of Jordan
- Sheikh Abdel-Latif Derian, Grand Mufti of Lebanon
- Patriarch Gregory III Laham, Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, and Alexandria and Jerusalem





















# Social Media as Space for Dialogue

Carried out in partnership with UNDP and other local organizations, "Social Media as a Space for Dialogue" is designed to equip religious community leaders with the required skills to use social media as a tool for dialogue and social cohesion. This programme originated from a set of recommendations made by high level religious leaders at the November 2014 UVNR conference. Training participants learn and test best practices in utilizing social media as a space for interreligious and intercultural dialogue to create respectful awareness about people of other religions and instill a culture of dialogue to support peace.









In 2015 more than 120 participants from across the Middle East met in Amman, Jordan to develop new strategies for using social media to promote dialogue between different worldviews, cultures and religions. The meeting produced a training manual which informs users about the value of social media in promoting social cohesion. This manual has been used at subsequent trainings to instill a culture of dialogue and educate people on social media best practices for interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to bring about peace.

# Arab Region with a focus on Iraq/Syria

The Arab Region Programme with focus on Iraq and Syria operationalize under the initiative of "United against violence in the name of religion" to reduce violence committed in the name of religion and promote dialogue, social cohesion, and common citizenship that embraces cultural and religious diversity as the basis for justice and peace. The Programme seeks to establish and support the community of religious leaders, dialogue practitioners and policy makers to jointly work on peace building and reconciliation through dialogue platform umbrella in the Arab Region. This is carried out through empowering social cohesion and common citizenship, utilizing interreligious education, and using social media as a space for dialogue.

#### **Key Results:**

- Nov 2017: High-Level consultations to launch the first of its kind "Interreligious Regional Platform for Religious Leaders in the Arab World" in the region
- ♦ May 2017: Launch of "The Network of Muslim and Christian Religious Faculties and Institutes in the Arab Region" aiming at founding a new generation that adopts the culture of dialogue as tool for promoting peaceful coexistence and building social cohesion.
- ♦ Sep 2017: Social Media as a Space for Dialogue have completed seven trainings: Jordan, Amman (2015), Rabat, Morocco (2015), Cairo, Egypt (2016), Amman, Jordan (2016), Erbil, Iraq (2016), Djerba, Tunisia (2017), Beirut, Lebanon (2017), and Hammamet, Tunisia (2017.
- Nov 2016: Collaboration agreement with UNDP "Supporting Social Cohesion in Iraq" resulting in the development of a draft Social Cohesion Index tailored to the Arab World to measure the determinants of social cohesion and resilience in the region
- Established field presence in Beirut staffed by a permanent Country Expert

KAICIID is working with international, regional and national organizations and institutions to implement joint activities in Iraq and Syria and the region. KAICIID's partners in the region include among others: Al Azhar (Egypt), the Coptic Orthodox Church, the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



# Central African Republic

The KAICIID Country Programme in the Central African Republic (CAR) is designed to re-establish dialogue and understanding between Christians and Muslims through building and supporting existing dialogue platforms, which can then be integrated into the ongoing peace processes. Particular emphasis is placed on the inclusion of youth and women in these initiatives, as well as on their incorporation into national and international peacebuilding infrastructures such as the national reconciliation process.

- Oct and Nov 2017: Training of Trainers rolled out regionally
- Sep 2017: 4 Quick Impact Projects implemented supporting local IRD initiatives
- May 2017: First Training of Trainers takes place in CAR
- ♦ April 2017: Manual to train religious actors in interreligious dialogue in the Central African context developed
- Feb 2016: Delivered Action Plan at Intra-Muslim Conference
- Dec 2016: 3 Quick Impact Projects implemented supporting IRD advocacy efforts of CAR high level religious leaders
- Oct 2015: Bilateral discussions held at the UNGA in New York to advocate for the end of violent attacks in the country
- ♦ Aug 2015: KAICIID's partner the Interfaith Platform is awarded the Sergio Vieira de Mello award for its work of promoting reconciliation and peace
- Established presence in Bangui staffed by a permanent Country Expert







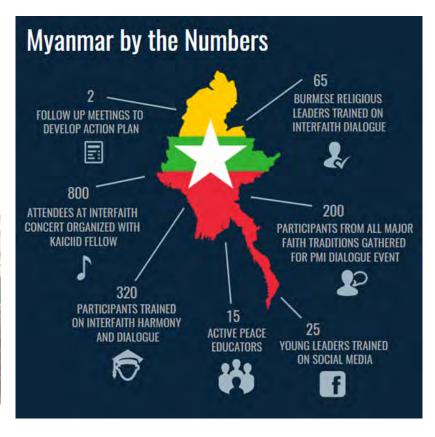
# Myanmar

The Centre and its partner, the Peaceful Myanmar Initiative (PMI), a multi-religious network of religious leaders and civil society organizations, are focusing on the development of dialogue activities as part of local peace advocacy efforts, to revive the spirit of tolerance in the country. This includes the creation of an Interreligious Centre for people of different faiths to gather, exchange views, facilitate training and implement interreligious projects.

- ♦ Sept 2017: International Peace Day Celebration to Promote Interfaith Harmony organized by PMI
- May 2017: Published an Interfaith Study Guide on Peace and Dialogue in Burmese and English
- Regional Forum on interreligious coexistence and inclusive development organized by PMI
- March 2016: Centre hosts training on "Religious Coexistence in South and South-East Asia" for religious and community leaders
- ♦ 2016: Programme launched through two pilot interreligious trainings
- Established field presence in Yangon staffed by a permanent Country Expert







## Nigeria

The KAICIID Country Programme for Nigeria focuses on the strengthening of social cohesion, particularly among Muslims and Christians as well as between them, to foster peacebuilding structures and local capacities of religious communities to actively contribute to conflict resolution and reconciliation in the region.

- Oct. 2017 Capacity building hosted to support the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP)
- Oct 2017: IDFP has been registered as NGO under Nigerian law
- Aug 2017: IDFP Action Plan streamlined and presented to national and international organizations
- May 2017: Capacity Building Workshop on Interreligious Dialogue for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation held
- ♦ Jan 2017: Establishment of the IDFP facilitated by KAICIID
- ♦ Sept 2016 and Jan 2017: Two Muslim-Christian Conferences held in Abuja gathering more than 100 religious actors
- Established field presence in Abuja, staffed by a permanent Country Expert



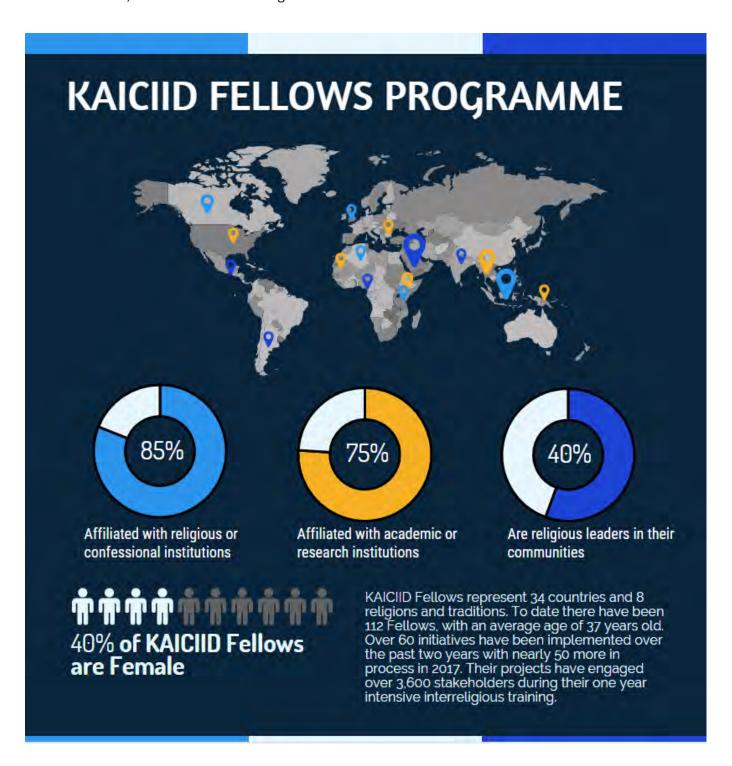




Through numerous field visits and conferences, KAICIID built the country programme based on the needs expressed by those working to secure peace and social cohesion. The IDFP meets regularly to implement the action plan to foster peace and social cohesion through interreligious dialogue

# International Fellows Programme

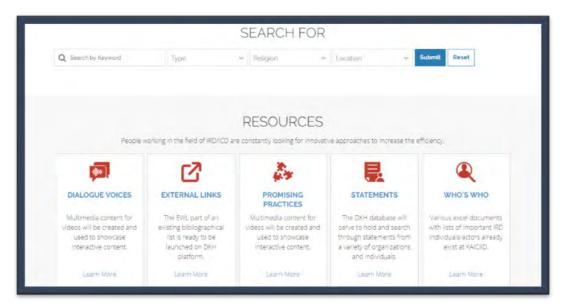
Through the International Fellows Programme (KIFP), KAICIID builds the capacity of selected educators from institutions that train future religious leaders to become active in peacebuilding and spreading the culture of dialogue in their communities. Fellows receive training in theory and concepts related to IRD, facilitation and teaching of IRD, IRD project design and management. In addition to the international programme, regional cohorts have also been added specifically welcoming participants from South and South-East Asia, Africa and the Arab region.



# Dialogue Knowledge Hub

The KAICIID Dialogue Knowledge Hub (DKH) is a virtual platform where the interested public, stake-holders, policymakers and religious communities can access electronic resources on interreligious dialogue (IRD).

The first of its kind, DKH seeks to contribute to the process of informing, educating and networking on interreligious dialogue for peace and reconciliation worldwide through a variety of e-tools. The hub currently includes the peace-mapping programme, e-learning programmes and virtual dialogue hubs.



An updated website which includes international and national directories of organizations working in IRD, an online course on interreligious dialogue, as well as e-resources including a collection of promising practices in IRD, "Dialogue Voices" video clips, a "Who's Who in IRD" database and statements for peaceful coexistence is currently in progress.

- Gathering, processing and disseminating knowledge on interreligious dialogue
- ♦ KAICIID Peace Mapping Programme
- ♦ Database of global organisations active in interreligious dialogue expanded with national organizations active in KAICIID focus countries
- First online course pilot for e-learning programme tested and first accredited version launched in June 2017 at the University of Montreal

## **Public Affairs**

#### **Press Releases and Board Statements**

- Issued in Arabic, English, German (via APA-OTS) and Spanish: 17 multireligious statements from 2014-2017 from the Board of Directors, denouncing violence in the name of religion
- ♦ In 2017 the Board issued 8 German press releases, denouncing violence in the name of religion
- ♦ 105 press releases (15 since November 2016)
- ♦ 61 press releases in German via APA (8 since January 2017)

#### **Media Mentions**

In 2016, KAICIID was mentioned in 1,222 articles published in 59 different countries.



#### **Digital Presence**



88,000 Facebook followers



37,600 Twitter followers



148,000 website sessions; 93,000 users (+30%) Most visitors: Austria, USA, Spain, UK, Jordan, Indonesia, Germany, Saudi Arabia, India



14,000 Newsletter recipients

# **Publications**

#### **KAICIID Publications in 2017:**

- Proceedings of the Interreligious Symposium on Mercy
- ♦ 2016 Fellows Programme Annual Report
- About the International Dialogue Centre 2017
- Broadsheet/Factsheets in 5 languages
- Monthly Newsletter



#### **Expert Publications**

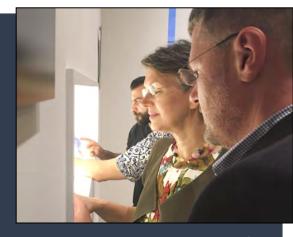
- ♦ Training Manual for Religious Leaders and Dialogue Practitioners on Using Social Media as a Space for Dialogue (to be adapted for specific conflict zones)
- ♦ Training Manual for Religious Leaders and Dialogue Practitioners on Practising Dialogue, specifically in the South and South-East Asia region
- ♦ Uncovering Root Causes for Violence in Nigeria: Perception analysis of Boko Haram in Nigerian Society (in collaboration with the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers)
- ♦ Needs Assessment Studies in preparation on the state of interreligious dialogue in KAICIID focus countries
- Social Cohesion Index for the Arab world (in collaboration with UNDP) in preparation

# **Austrian Outreach**

#### As of October 2017, KAICIID has hosted 33 public events. Those have included:

- Feb. 2017: World Interfaith Harmony Week interreligious dinner and dialogue event
- Holding publically advertised, open "Religions in Dialogue" lecture series
- Organizing and hosting open house intercultural events, including concerts and photo exhibitions
- Continuing outreach to churches, religious communities in Vienna and in selected regional capitals
- Providing briefings on KAICIID to interested national and international university student-, thinktank- and youth groups
- Supporting the establishment of a Muslim Jewish dialogue initiative in Europe
- Website and Newsletter offered in German





Ambassador Teresa Indjein at the opening of the "Angekommen Photo Exhibition"



Austrian Federal Chancellor Christian Kern joins event co-sponsor KAICIID for interreligious Iftar

# **Human Resources**

- As of September 2017: 53,85% female (28), 46,15% male (24)
- ♦ Total of 52 fixed-term staff members from 29 different countries
- 15 Staff members , or 29% of the Secretariat staff, are Austrian citizens

# STAFF GENDER - ALL LIST: Male Female

