

We need to talk, We need to listen

# The Istanbul Conference M7YAP Declaration 6-7 July 2009

# **Introduction:**

With regard to the UNDP/ARC 7YP project to deal with the climate change and environmental conservation, EMDC as representing and responsible for the Muslim part of this project, has developed a plan draft after having many meetings, workshops, and seminars. The draft has been presented at different event in the Islamic world as well as in the Muslim communities in the west and within the inter civilization dialogue between the Islamic world and Japan. The plan has been well received and appreciated at the different levels and places. The Islamic religion as we may know is different than many other religions and it does not have one agreed identity to represent the whole Muslims in the world. The Istanbul conference will gather 60-80 Muslim scholars representing the Muslim UMMAH from different Islamic countries and Muslim communities to discuss and endorse the plan.

# The plan:

The environmental crisis is the world's most challenging problem. The crisis has united most segments of humanity and constitutes a common concern of a world-wide movement. In the West, groups are campaigning against the abuse of the environment. They exert pressure on their governments to enact legislation to limit pollution and prevent over-exploitation of nature. But the task of protecting the environment depends not only on legislation, but rather on the awakening of conscience and acts of serious self-censorship.

The Islamic law code underpins the daily lives of Muslims, so the supporters of nature rely on it to prevent abuse of the environment. Despite the availability of texts, teachings, and rules in the Islamic literature, the scholars of Islam have been

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slow to enact environmental laws that are derived from the Holy Qur'an and the Sunna of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The vision of the plan is "We envision a world that is environmentally safe for our children and the next generations where all nations of all religions live in harmony with nature and enjoy justice and fair share of God's bounties" The mission is" Mobilize all the resources of the Islamic Ummah to contribute to the ongoing global efforts dealing with Climate Change based on a 7 Year Environmental Conservation Action Plan that reflects Islamic Principles and Values". To achieve the plan, the strategy included focusing the efforts on selected Islamic Leaders and Institutions, partnering with key relevant Institutions of other religions, and complimenting ongoing efforts of National, Regional and Global Bodies. The plan established four strategic goals for the plan; for each strategic objective the plan presents many actions. All the actions have been discussed from different aspects: the priority of the action, the action output, the target group, the players, the time frame, the input, and indicators for evaluation of accomplishment.

# The idea:

As we have mentioned the Islamic faith is different than other religions, so we have to deal and use different methodology. First we developed the draft by conducting many meetings of specialists and environmentalists with an Islamic background. Then we introduced the draft on many conferences and events at different countries (in Morocco, Kuwait, Turkey, UK, Indonesia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia,...) to increase the awareness about the plan. In this step we managed to have endorsement from key scholars in the Islamic world official and non-official. The next step is to organize the conference with 60-80 Muslim scholars from different region and different background to represent the spectrum of the Islamic religion in the world. The scholars have been chosen to cover the both sides of

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official and non-official in the Islamic world. The gathering will discuss and declare the plan to be the Muslim seven year action plan to deal with the climate change for the next seven years.

## The program:

The conference will be two days and apart from the opening and closing ceremonies, the primitive program will be as follows:

Day	One
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First session The important of the nature conservation in the

Islamic religion

Second session Presenting the M7YAplan and some examples of

its actions.

Third session Divided into group discussions of 20's to discuss

the plan in more details

Fourth session group discussions 2

Day two

First session Gathering all the scholars to discuss the general

points.

Second session make the needed changes and declare the M7YAP

Third session the next steps, and Copenhagen meeting

Fourth session Final words from the key scholars to encourage for

implementation.

\*We will manage that the program will also contain some tours to the historical places of Istanbul.

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## The conference budget:

This conference will cost more than 220000 USD to cover the accommodation, transportation locally and internationally, preparations and secretarial work, printing and publication, and other expenses.

## The sponsorship:

The conference will be sponsored by many organizations and identities. Some of the sponsors will contribute to the cost and expenses of the conference and some others will not, they will sponsor by names only. The main sponsor will be the Great Istanbul Municipality for the accommodation for the attendances and participants. The Fatih University of Istanbul will contribute the venue and place of the conference. We have some other sponsorships for the international transportation but all of them will not cover all the cost and needed expenses, of them the Islamic Educational, Scientific and cultural Organization (isesco), the ministry of environment in Turkey, the ministry of Awqaf in Morocco , some gas companies. We still face some shortage of financing the total cost.

## What we need?

What we have raised till now in terms of sponsorships will cover about 60 % of the total cost. We are working to cover the rest of 85000 USD, to cover some of the international transportation, the preparation and printing expenses.

# **Final words:**

This project is very important and we would like to present it as a model of how to deal with the major world problems and challenges. We hope that the idea of utilizing the religions can help facing and tackling the climate change issue. It is a dream to have all the religions to work together in order to solve one of the most challenging problem facing the mankind nowadays. So let all of us participate in the effort of having this dream come true and have better world to live in. Thank you,,,,,

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