

United Nations

Since its inception, KAICIID has invested efforts and resources towards the development of working relations with the UN, including the UN Office on Genocide Prevention, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN interagency task force on religion etc. These collaborations are implemented under the framework of formal cooperation agreements and MoUs, setting the priority areas of the joint interventions. In light of the Centre's long-term strategic goal to gain the status of permanent observer to the UN, building relations with relevant UN entities remains an imperative in KAICIID external relations.

The types of activities implemented to date include:

1 UN Office on Genocide Prevention

Fez Process – the Role of Religious Leaders in Preventing Incitement that could lead to atrocity crimes. Five regional forums organised, Fez Declaration and Plan of Action to be launched in 2017.

2 UNDP

Joint implementation of two projects under KAICIID's Iraq and Syria country programme with the aim of advancing social cohesion in the Arab Region at regional and national levels.

3 UNESCO

Cooperation on the implementation of the project Global citizenship education in Arab world and the Review of Textbooks.

4 UN interagency task force on engaging faith-based actors

Side event organised during the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 and a side event entitled Bearing Witness: Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Migration, organised in the headquarters of the UN during the opening of the 71st session of the UNGA.

5 UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAoC)

UNAoC and KAICIID concluded a Memorandum of Understanding on 5 May 2017 to collaborate in promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue to ensure peaceful coexistence among peoples of different cultural and religious identities.

Together with the UN Office on Genocide Prevention, the World Council of Churches, the Permanent Missions of Italy and Spain, the Institute for Strategic Studies and Democracy of Malta, and the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development, we organized a meeting at the UN General Assembly in September 2016 to address the impact of human trafficking, forced migration and atrocity crimes and the role of faith-based organizations in responding to these issues.



In addition to the aforementioned activities, KAICIID works to strengthen contacts with the UNDPA liaison office in Vienna, UNCCT, UNCTED, UN Women etc.

European Union

Establishing contacts as well as exploring the potential for cooperation between KAICIID and the EU is an ongoing priority of KAICIID's external relations. During the last two years, the Secretariat revitalized bilateral ties with EU officials based in Vienna and strengthened relations among European Commission, EEAS Brussels-based officials and KAICIID. Following an initial meeting, in late November 2017, between KAICIID's Deputy Secretary-General, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel and Ms. Katharina von Schnurbein, Advisor on Dialogue with Churches, Religions, Philosophical and Non-Confessional Organisations in the European Commission, the Secretariat developed a proposal to organize a technical working-level meeting scheduled on 11 May in Brussels. The meeting was held as an interactive roundtable discussion focused on deepening institutional understanding and coordination. In this context, KAICIID presented its programmatic areas and interventions in order to exchange views on corresponding thematic areas and actions within the European Commission and EEAS.

Among other EU representatives, the Secretariat established contacts with Dr. Jan Figel, Special Envoy on the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief outside the EU, Mr. O'Flaherty, Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, H.E.

Amb. Didier Lenoir, Head of EU Delegation to the International Organisations in Vienna.

African Union Commission (AUC)

The AUC and KAICIID work jointly to promote interreligious dialogue as a means to build peace and enhance social cohesion in Africa. Within the framework of an MoU signed in November 2013, the AUC and KAICIID jointly organised the 2nd AU Interfaith Dialogue Forum (IDF). The Forum supports priority Area 1 of the AU agenda 2063 on the role of religious leaders in the development agenda, Peace and Security, and Women and Gender. The Forum gathered more than 80 participants from over 27 Member States of the African Union. The outcomes of the meeting were: (a) the establishment of a Steering Committee composed of two representatives from each African Region (East, South, West, North and Central), (b) the adoption of a Declaration and (c) the agreement on a Plan of Action for the Steering Committee to implement.

KAICIID is committed to continue supporting the AUC initiative and participate in the follow up activities of the IDF, mainly the Steering committee meeting. KAICIID also plans to expand the contacts with the AUC officials, in order to strengthen institutional ties with the AU. A step towards this aim was the Deputy Secretary General's participation in the 2nd Ordinary Session of the 2nd Permanent General Assembly of the Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the AU.

Image: AUCIDO



KAICIID and the African Union Commission through the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate organized the 2nd Interfaith Dialogue Forum that recognised the importance of interreligious and intra-faith dialogue as a tool for peacebuilding and development in Africa. The Forum led to a Declaration and a Plan of Action on education, partnerships, media and development.