

# INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE AT THE UN

## About Our Work

KAICIID attaches special importance to its cooperation with the UN and building relations with relevant UN entities, in particular under the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Centre contributes to the SDGs through a multi-dimensional approach, drawing on its main areas of expertise in the field of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and focusing on multi-stakeholder partnerships for implementation, which lies at the core of KAICIID's methodology, in line with SDG 17: "Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries. Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships."



*"I firmly believe in the power of faith leaders to shape our world for good."* - UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres



An estimated **84%** of the world's population identifies as "religious"



Approximately **320** Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) are registered at the UN



**40%-70%** of health care services are provided in African countries by FBOs



All **120** country offices of the UNFPA reported engagement with FBOs



## How We Partner



KAICIID works to strengthen links between religious actors and policymakers by building their capacity in interreligious dialogue for peace and social cohesion. The Centre partners with UN entities, intergovernmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations and governments. KAICIID aims at contributing to transformative social change by empowering religious leaders and policymakers to participate in dialogue for peace. KAICIID upholds the UN Declaration on Human

Rights, as well as the UNESCO Culture Conventions and their operational activities, which demonstrate how culture can help achieve the 2030 Agenda. In line with UNESCO's approach to the 2030 Agenda, KAICIID aims to contribute to peaceful societies and inclusion, through the enhancement of fundamental freedoms and the strengthening of participatory systems of dialogue towards the respect for cultural diversity and the promotion of gender equality.



### Ensuring Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education

The Centre aims to teach, train and inform people about interreligious dialogue as a means to transform exclusion into inclusion, misunderstanding into respect, and conflict into peace. Launched in November 2017, the KAICIID Dialogue Knowledge Hub offers 10 online research tools, which allow actors to share best practices for using dialogue as a means to achieve development goals.



### Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

KAICIID fosters peaceful societies through inclusive and sustainable dialogue platforms. These platforms place religious leaders at the heart of peacebuilding efforts. In Myanmar, where increasing violence threatens to destabilize communities, the platform has reached hundreds of people with its message of social cohesion and co-existence. In Nigeria, the platform of Christian and Muslim religious leaders works with policymakers to pass a bill criminalising hate speech. In the Central African Republic, the platform contributes to the reduction of intercommunal tensions and the establishment of lasting peace.



### Pushing for Gender Equality and Empowering Women

KAICIID seeks to redefine what it means to be a leader of a religious community in a way that is inclusive of women.

The Integration Through Dialogue Project seeks to develop the capacity of women from local communities to serve as facilitators of dialogue with women seeking refuge, empowering them to approach their integration proactively and dialogically. Since 2016, the programme has reached 180 individuals in Vienna.



**KAICIID CONTRIBUTES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, SOCIAL COHESION, ERADICATING INEQUALITY, AND PEACE BUILDING THROUGH INTERCULTURAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE.**



### Making Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable

KAICIID believes in building long term sustainable solutions to community challenges. In our Programme for the Social Inclusion of People Seeking Refuge in Europe, KAICIID contributes to the two way process of integration, through the inclusion of youth and women. In the Arab region, KAICIID works with religious leaders and youth to promote common citizenship and empower them as agents of social transformation.

In February 2018, KAICIID gathered prominent religious leaders from the Arab Region to launch a historic platform, which aims to foster social cohesion, establish common citizenship, and nurture peaceful, inclusive communities.



### Revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

KAICIID works through and with partners to contribute to capacity building and reporting. The Centre exercises an advisory role to intergovernmental and governmental institutions that require expertise in engaging Faith Based

Organizations to implement development goals. We also provide capacity building tools to partners to address the social and cultural transformation of communities.

As part of its commitment to SDG17, KAICIID partnered with the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development to co-organize a special session on Religious Engagement at the 2016 World Humanitarian

Summit. The event focused on building on religious assets and infrastructure in communities to contribute to sustainable solutions and humanitarian crises.



## Collaborating with the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development

The UN Strategic Learning Exchange for Partnering with Faith Organizations offered a series of workshops on best practices for cooperation between UN representatives and religious actors on development projects. At the 2016 UNGA, KAICIID co-organized a side-event on the role of Faith Based Organizations as vital partners, which can offer assistance for refugees and victims of human trafficking.



## Developing a Plan of Action with the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect

In July 2017, Secretary General Guterres launched the Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes at the UN Headquarters in New York. The action plan was a result of the two-year "Fez Process" during which the UN, KAICIID, and other international partners gathered religious leaders, policymakers and civil society leaders to develop strategies for conflict prevention, peacebuilding, human rights and development. The Plan of Action is the first document to focus on the role of religious leaders in preventing incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes and the first to develop specific regional strategies with this objective.

## Promoting Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue with UNAOC

UNAOC and KAICIID, MoU partners since 2017, partner to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue and create platforms to foster mutual understanding and respect. The two organizations jointly coordinate initiatives that improve relations among peoples of different cultures and religions to increase the effectiveness of their work in fostering a culture of peace. As peer organizations, the partners exchange best practices. The collaboration also seeks to further develop existing training curricula which promotes the values of peace, acceptance and equality and can be used by interreligious dialogue advocates.

## Promoting Dialogue Education with UNESCO

In 2014, KAICIID and UNESCO signed an MOU on the importance of dialogue education. The two partners worked with education experts to test a textbook writing tool, which eliminates stereotypes and prejudices based on culture, religion and gender. KAICIID also works with UNESCO on the Global Citizenship Education (GCED) programme for the Arab region, which resulted in the greater inclusion of dialogue in GCED initiatives, as well as the establishment of the Arab States Regional GCED Network. The Network acts as an "Accelerator" for the implementation of GCED, a "Bridge" that connects representatives from different institutions and organizations working on GCED, and a "Community" of practice for monitoring, data collection and evaluation.

## Social Media and Young People: UNICEF and KAICIID in New York

In February 2018, in the context of World Interfaith Harmony Week, KAICIID and UNICEF jointly hosted an expert meeting entitled, "Dimensions of Dialogue: Expanding Social Media as a Space for Constructive Encounter for Young People." Policymakers, social media experts and activists shared the importance of using technology to engage with youth, particularly in conflict areas, in order to encourage harmony and promote peace.

## Indexing Social Cohesion in the Arab Region with UNDP

The UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States and KAICIID partner on a multi-level and multi-dimensional social cohesion index which aims to build platforms for dialogue to enable religious leaders to advance their engagement in social cohesion activities. Projects focus on promoting intercommunal peace in communities hosting large numbers of refugees, and on addressing vulnerabilities resulting from conflict situations in the Arab region. In 2017, the partners designed and implemented a series of trainings for religious leaders and youth, under the KAICIID Social Media Programme. In addition to the work implemented regionally, the partners work in Iraq on identifying and empowering local agents for social cohesion - "Social Cohesion Champions".