

KAICIID at WORK

EDUCATION & “IMAGE OF THE OTHER”



K A I C I I D
CID
D I A L O G U E
C E N T R E

KING ABDULLAH BIN ABDULAZIZ INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

“TO ENHANCE INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE,
THUS FOSTERING RESPECT, UNDERSTANDING AND
COOPERATION AMONG PEOPLE

TO PROMOTE JUSTICE, PEACE AND RECONCILIATION AND
COUNTERACT THE ABUSE OF RELIGION TO JUSTIFY
OPPRESSION, VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT

TO PROMOTE A RESPONSIBLE WAY OF LIVING THE
RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL DIMENSION
OF INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY”

ESTABLISHMENT AGREEMENT ART. II.1



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**Faisal bin
Muaammar**
Secretary General
KAICIID Dialogue
Centre

FOREWORD

This is an introduction to the education work of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID). Interreligious and intercultural education is crucial in fostering harmony and understanding in increasingly diverse modern societies. Across the board: from primary level schooling to lifelong learning – in formal and non-formal settings. There is a need at every stage to teach one another how to understand and embrace our differences.

In 2013, through its flagship programme, “The Image of the Other”: interreligious and intercultural Education, KAICIID conducted four regional workshops around the world. These were valuable opportunities to listen to and learn from experts from across the Euro-Mediterranean region, Africa, Asia and the Americas. Civil society, including religious leaders, are included in all the work that KAICIID does. At each meeting, we were privileged to use dialogue among diverse groups to share best practices and identify challenges while initiating productive networks in the field of interreligious education.

The recommendations from each meeting were disseminated to other regions culminating in a Global Forum held in November 2013. In Vienna, Austria, the KAICIID Global Forum brought together over 500 educators, religious leaders and policy makers. The meeting produced a number of powerful outcomes. Key among these was a first-of-its-kind KAICIID Policy Network of experts and governmental focal points from Ministries of Education, Religious Affairs and Integration around the world. The Policy Network emerged in response to recommendations made at each of the four regional conferences for KAICIID to support sustained dialogue among policymakers in this field. Looking ahead, our hope is that the Policy Network will facilitate work on numerous issues and recommendations raised in 2013, mobilizing the experience, talent and commitment of experts and policymakers.

The nurturing of respect and understanding among people of different faiths and cultures demands our concentrated efforts. We must regard the conflicts and disputes currently scarring communities around the world as a call to dialogue. And we must answer that call. Because to believe in peace is to believe in dialogue. A commitment to interreligious and intercultural education will allow us a common language as we engage in serious conversations on global concerns.

It is my sincere hope that this brochure will give you a fuller understanding of KAICIID. Furthermore, I hope it can act as a catalyst for renewed efforts between the Dialogue Centre and its partners, current and prospective, so that we can combine forces to teach acceptance and understanding for the betterment of communities everywhere.



KAICIID DIALOGUE CENTRE

KAICIID (the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue) was founded to enable, empower and encourage dialogue among followers of different religions and cultures around the world. Located in Vienna, Austria, the Centre is an independent, autonomous, international organization, free of political or economic influence.

Recognizing the value of an institution dedicated to dialogue among religions and cultures, three countries -- the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Spain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the Holy See as Founding Observer -- joined forces and signed the Agreement to establish the Centre on 13 October 2011. Vienna was chosen as its location, and work began as soon as its doors opened on 26 November 2012.



KAICIID ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

With its ambitious mission and its interreligious, intercultural and intergovernmental scope, KAICIID has an organizational structure that reflects the diverse interest groups it seeks to engage. The Council of Parties, including representatives of the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Spain and the Holy See, provides oversight, while KAICIID's Board of Directors -- nine religious leaders affiliated with five of the world's religions -- directs its activities.

The Dialogue Centre is led by its Secretary General, H.E. Faisal Bin Abdulrahman Bin Muaammar and Deputy Secretary General H.E. Claudia Bandion-Ortner. An international staff from more than 15 different countries and four continents coordinate the Centre's programmes, research and events. KAICIID has already conducted successful cooperation with global and regional organizations and partners from Africa, the Middle East, North America, Asia, South America and Europe, with plans to pursue many others in the coming years.

THE CENTRE SHALL

SERVE AS A FORUM FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR RELIGIONS AND FAITH-BASED AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND EXPERTS IN ORDER TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND IN ORDER TO FACILITATE COOPERATION

COOPERATE WITH APPROPRIATE INTERRELIGIOUS, INTERCULTURAL AND OTHER BODIES AND INITIATIVES WITH SIMILAR GOALS AS WELL AS WITH STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

CONVENE CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, DISCUSSIONS AND OTHER MEETINGS.

CIID

KALCIID CIID DIALOGUE CENTRE

CIID is a non-profit organization established in 2008, with the following objectives:

- 1. To promote dialogue and understanding between different religions and cultures.
- 2. To provide a platform for interfaith and intercultural dialogue.
- 3. To conduct research and publish reports on interfaith and intercultural dialogue.
- 4. To organize conferences, seminars and other events on interfaith and intercultural dialogue.
- 5. To provide training and capacity building for interfaith and intercultural dialogue.
- 6. To promote the role of religion in society.
- 7. To promote the role of culture in society.

GLOBAL FORUM "THE IMAGE OF THE OTHER: INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION"
14-15 NOVEMBER 2014



“THE IMAGE OF THE OTHER”

Our increasingly diverse societies face challenges of coexistence. The world in which we live today is troubled by a rising number of intra-state conflicts which cause misery to thousands. The growing diversity of our societies brings cultural richness and economic benefits, but also tensions and misunderstandings. Conflicts may grow from perceived political, religious and cultural differences - many of which are the products of unfounded misconceptions, generalizations, stereotyping and mistrust of the unfamiliar. As the starting point in its work towards peace and social cohesion, KAICIID made “The Image of the Other” the focus of its inaugural multi-year initiative.

Through a programme of research, consultations, conferences and network building, the Centre investigates how ‘Others’, in this case people of different religious or cultural backgrounds, are depicted, understood and subsequently addressed in the spheres of education, media and the Internet. Where religion and cultural differences are often cited as fuelling division and conflict, KAICIID stands for the message that religion, culture, and, above all, dialogue among people of every sort, are ways towards peaceful solutions and the foundations of the social solidarity so urgently needed around the globe.

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DETERMINING NEEDS WITHIN EDUCATION CURRICULA

In its first year, the “Image of the Other” programme was dedicated to highlighting and strengthening interreligious and intercultural education as a means of promoting mutual understanding and a spirit of dialogue. Education is formative to the way people, young people, and future religious and community leaders in particular, perceive and relate to ‘Others’ of every kind. Our ability to think self-critically and accommodate alternative worldviews directly influences how we communicate, manage conflicts and design policies. It is therefore vital to maintain stable, fair and respectful societies in which diverse groups are able to peacefully coexist.

In 2013, KAICIID prioritized education with a programme of international research, consultations, partnerships, conferences and the launch of an education Policy Network.

By facilitating communication in this very broad field, KAICIID sought to galvanise interest in the challenges involved in interreligious and intercultural education across the widest possible range of regions and stakeholders, emphasizing potential solutions.

Strengthening interreligious and intercultural education is a means of promoting mutual understanding and a spirit of dialogue.



WORKING WITH EDUCATION MINISTRIES

A crucial part of this endeavour has been to nurture connections among varied stakeholders: from Ministers of Education, to researchers of methodologies and content, to practitioners in the field. Participants at our regional events introduced innovative ideas and best practices reflecting a rainbow of cultural diversity.

KAICIID has taken it upon itself to make such recommendations known internationally through the Global Forum and through our publications. We are committed to disseminating standards and resources in education quality while encouraging the use of culturally specific and sensitive models. Our activity continues beyond the 2013 programme through our multi-level Policy Network, which will lend a global perspective to the specific requirements of individual nations and communities.

Through its programme on “The Image of the Other”, KAICIID continues to reach out to societies and education systems worldwide. In this way, the Centre helps them to equip young people, emerging leaders and religious authorities in-training with the skills they require to commit to dialogue with ‘the Other’, with real openness, curiosity, a recognition of the nuances in group identity and the inherent dignity of the individual.





DISCUSSING THE CHALLENGES

KAICIID produced four conferences in the course of 2013, each in a different region of the world, all designed to engage participants in discussion of local and regional interreligious and intercultural education practices. Each meeting treated the concept of “The Image of the Other” in education. Researchers, field practitioners, and school and educational institutions representatives joined policymakers and international organizations from their respective regions to discuss effective education methods, models and materials. These conferences connected practitioners from a range of contexts and disciplines while informing the further development of KAICIID’s Educational Programme on “The Image of the Other”. Through reflection and debate, participants enjoyed fruitful exchanges with one another. Participants at each conference identified regional challenges shared across organization types and national contexts, and worked together to develop recommendations.



“WHY AREN’T RESEARCH AND
RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE
FIELD SYSTEMATICALLY
MAKING THEIR WAY INTO
EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE?”



IN EUROPE



In co-operation with the European Association of History Educators, KAICIID began its regional conference series with the Euro-Mediterranean Region. Hosted in KAICIID's Vienna Headquarters, the meeting comprised over 120 specialists, policymakers, religious leaders and religious educators. Participants agreed that while values are largely shared, perceptions differ. That is: we often imagine that values differ more than they actually do, in both theory and practice. Organizations currently working on interreligious and intercultural education described their long-term commitment to developing understanding of 'the Other'. Particularly for young people, being exposed to new ideas and new cultures through their textbooks, questioning constructions of otherness and developing a positive "Image of the Other" are especially important.

Participants noted that, not only are existing educational tools and international standards for interreligious and intercultural understanding available in only a limited number of languages, they are seldom used to their full potential. At the same time, the existing studies accessible to policy-makers evaluating the impact of these initiatives are inadequate. The group expressed a common interest in co-operation and interdisciplinary collaboration, involving faith-based and non-faith-based organizations to build intercultural competencies.

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IN AFRICA



KAICIID team worked closely with the African Union Commission to jointly organize the second regional conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in the Headquarters of the African Union. With participants from 13 Sub-Saharan African countries and a diversity of religions, cultures and traditions, conferees were able easily to identify key factors contributing to challenges in the region. Despite the common wisdom suggesting the strength inherent in diversity, conferees were in broad agreement that the cultural and religious diversity of the region has long been misused as a means to divide and antagonise groups within societies. Political instability, poverty and lack of local ownership were mentioned as obstacles to interreligious and intercultural

dialogue and understanding in the region. Plans for capacity building to address these issues, especially in the form of education, are needed for the long-term, an effort that will require the inclusion of leading religious and social actors and a focus on youth empowerment. Through education, the spectrum of religions and cultures in Africa can be directed towards advancing peace, stability and mutual understanding.

The successful co-operation between KAICIID and the African Union Commission Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) in the organization of this meeting paved the way for a sustained partnership between the two organizations to build on the findings and conclusions of this event, helping to orient KAICIID's future work in the region.

“There is a need for more dialogue between those promoting dialogue!”

“...explore and fully utilise the vast spiritual resources of the continent.”



IN ASIA-PACIFIC



In September 2013, delegates from 10 countries in the Asia-Pacific region gathered in New Delhi, India, for the third regional conference. Among the observations made at the meeting, many saw education as a powerful means to communicate the value of religious and cultural diversity. Existing frameworks should work together: Human Rights and Citizenship Education, Ethics Education, Peace Education, Interreligious Education and Education for Sustainable Development should be brought together to make this possible. Diversity must not be misused to sow enmity or fuel political struggles and violence.

Participants expressed a need for increased emphasis on highlighting and promoting universal and shared spiritual values. While there are instances of interreligious and intercultural educational success across the region, the task remains to ensure integration of these successes into mainstream policy and practice. Language barriers and the diversity of educational systems on a national level were seen to present the greatest obstacles to free information-sharing among individuals in the field of education.

“Sometimes we talk and everything remains in theory. Here, we would like to do doable things, to work with young people, because they are the hope of the world, and also to engage women.”

“We are always talking to the same people. We have to reach out to others.”



IN THE AMERICAS

The Americas Conference took place in October in Buenos Aires, the bustling capital of Argentina. With representation from 10 countries in the region, participants focused on the need to address racism, economic inequality and discrimination as obstacles to equal opportunity for all. Interreligious and intercultural education was identified as a prime opportunity to foster dialogue on these matters. The challenge remains to pass and subsequently respect education laws that recognize indigenous cultures, religions and languages and guarantee access to education. Inadequate attention to these concerns prevents practitioners from gaining access to resources and expertise. Participants identified many existing institutional and civil society frameworks, like human rights education and values education, which can be used and reinforced to better teach diversity and intercultural dialogue.



“We are discovering how much diversity there is among us and within ourselves.”

“Passing a law does not mean that reality magically changes overnight.”



CREATING THE OPPORTUNITY

Who's responsible for bringing all stakeholders together?"

Conference participants across all regions reflected shared certain concerns with regard to interreligious and intercultural education. A common challenge was the practical application of theory and ideas. Fragmented networks make it difficult to coordinate processes and ultimately put them into effect. There is a clear overall desire to strengthen information sharing, build professional networks and work across boundaries. These ideas generally express a need for a wide-reaching, open network to promote information sharing on best practices, state-of-the-art techniques and new methods.

A network of this kind would bring together formal and non-formal educators, varied stakeholders including youth, while seeking to avoid a one-way or top-down process. Such information sharing would make a linkage between interreligious, intercultural and civic education, including such elements such as human rights democratic processes, possible. Most importantly, greater overall cooperation can help convert theory to practice. KAICIID carefully collected these observations and began working on developing a network to encompass these needs on a global scale.





MOVING TOWARDS A POLICY NETWORK

500 friends, partners and experts from different spheres of interreligious and intercultural education – religious and secular, governmental and non-governmental.

Gathering some 500 friends, partners and experts from different spheres of interreligious and intercultural education – religious and secular, governmental and non-governmental – the Forum participants mirrored the eclectic composition of the KAICIID Dialogue Centre’s team, as well as its networks. This event, which was immediately followed by the Ninth General Assembly of Religions for Peace, helped to raise the prominence of “The Image of the Other” to global visibility and concern. In addition to serving as a networking event and a showcase for KAICIID’s work, the Forum was a collection of parallel, simultaneous working meetings. Seminary leaders, education policymakers, curriculum developers, researchers, historians who contribute to textbooks, representatives of youth organizations and officials from international organizations all took part.





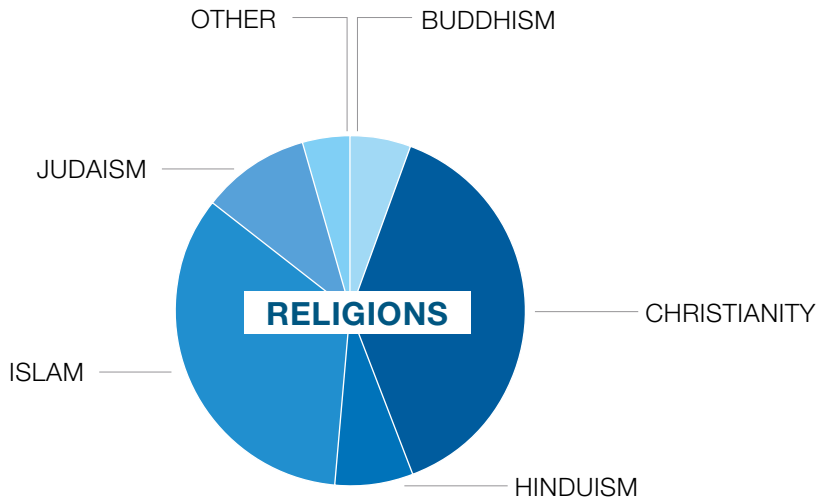
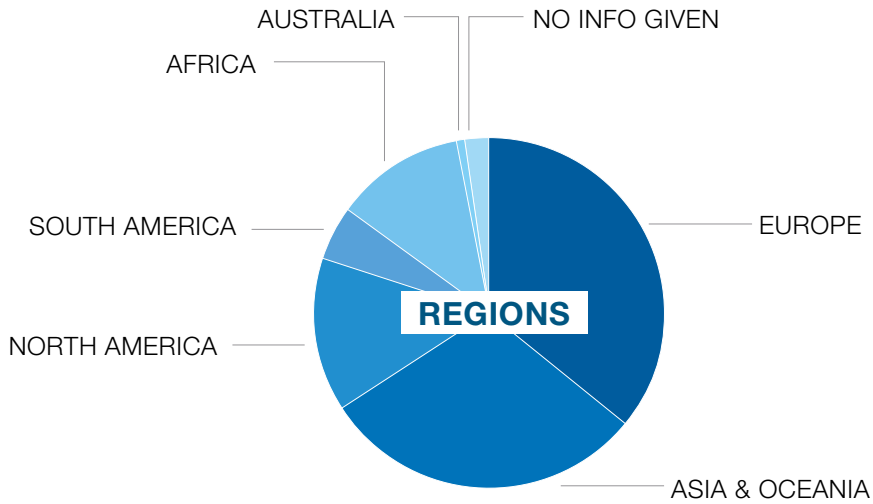
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C E N T R E

COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants from more than 90 countries and representing over 50 branches and denominations of world religions came together at the Global Forum. The goal of facilitating dialogue among these diverse political, religious and pedagogical stakeholders was pursued through a variety of differently configured sessions, each designed to encourage frank and authentic exchange. New partnerships were formed and finally, KAICIID announced the launch of the much-requested Policy Network in Interreligious and Intercultural Education, delivering a concrete outcome to the inputs of the regional conferences.

EXAMPLES OF COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is a need for sustained dialogue, shared information resources and professional development networks in this field.
- Existing international standards should be further disseminated, while respecting the cultural diversity of each country's and each region's education systems.
- Interreligious and Intercultural Education must bring together formal and non-formal educators (and all types of other stakeholders e.g. parents, media, private sector etc.)
Interreligious and Intercultural Education has to better integrate young people.
- Interreligious and Intercultural Education should be linked to civic education.
The teaching of democracy, human rights, respect, gender equality etc. should be included in the process.
- Implementation is key. The existing models and ideas must be put into practice.
- Interreligious and Intercultural Education should become a topic of international discussion (agenda-setting)



GAINING SKILLS AND PERSPECTIVES

Participants took part in 11 intensive roundtables and 8 interactive panel discussions, where they discussed themes such as ‘Religion in Conflict and Peace-Building’ and ‘Negotiating Identity in Relation to the Past’. They also engaged in discussions concerning “The Image of the Other” in Education. Five workshop series containing, in total, 11 workshops were led by experts in dialogue methodology, curriculum and teaching-tool design. Addressing topics such as ‘Dialogue Training’ and ‘Curriculum Design’, the experts sought to equip participants with practical skills and alternative perspectives to enhance their work.

INTERACTIVE PANELS

1. Understanding and Engaging ‘the Other’ in Interreligious Education and Seminary Training
2. Youth Encounter and Exchange
3. The Role of International Organizations in addressing “the Image of the Other”
4. Best Practices in Education Policy
5. Negotiating Identity in Relation to the Past: “The Image of the Other” in History
6. New Technologies and Dialogue
7. Religion and Governance
8. Religion in Conflict and Peace Building

WORKSHOP SERIES

1. Dialogue Training – Tailoring Approaches to Specific Contexts
2. Curriculum Design and Teaching/Training Tools: Exploring Available Resources
3. Evaluating your Impact: Monitoring & Evaluation Metrics
4. Coordination of Networks: How to Efficiently Use Networking to Encourage Dialogue and Empower Action
5. Building Successful Partnerships and Support Networks

THIS NETWORK IS THE FIRST
OF ITS KIND AND IS A KEY
STEP TOWARDS ADDRESSING
CORE CHALLENGES IN THE FIELD
OF INTERRELIGIOUS AND
INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION.



SHARING THE VALUE OF DIALOGUE

“If you want to know how to deal with other religions, read more carefully into your own...”

Religion is frequently associated with conflict -- in the press and in many aspects of public life. It is often seen to be the cause of antagonism. Yet it is also clear that religions, and faith systems, mobilize many endeavours for individual, community and global good. Their shared values include patience, respect, hospitality, the pursuit of peace, and love of one's neighbour. Religions also share the value of dialogue: to be a believer is to be a believer in dialogue.

A Panel of Religious Scholars opened the KAICIID Global Forum with reflections on the ethical groundings of world faiths. Young experts and venerable religious figures each outlined what Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Islam and Christianity teach about 'the Other'. A streamed luncheon debate followed, at which the Religious Leaders amongst KAICIID's guests discussed the ways in which religious institutions can cooperate to increase student exchange and interreligious dialogue. They highlighted successes when trained religious leaders teach effectively about their own faiths and promote common moral values and solidarity.





MINISTERIAL SUPPORT

In the interest of combining different groups of stakeholders in interreligious and intercultural education, KAICIID complemented its plenary and interactive sessions with a track focussing exclusively on governmental representatives. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and diplomatic representatives from several states attended the Global Forum and were received at KAICIID where the Centre's work was presented by the Secretary General and Board of Directors. A Ministerial Panel and luncheon on 19 November proved fruitful as a basis for future cooperation. During the Panel as well as in a public statement, several Ministers expressed approval of the aims and endeavours of the Centre. They applauded the focus on education and some announced plans to review their own national schemes and curricula in light of the Forum's recommendations. These are initiatives in which KAICIID and the Global Policy Network will gladly provide support, where it is requested.





MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

We, the Ministers and government representatives attending the KAICIID Global Forum “The Image of the Other”: Interreligious and Intercultural Education in Vienna on 19 November 2013, compliment KAICIID on its first year of operations. We wish to acknowledge the work of the KAICIID Staff, under the wise leadership of the Secretary General, His Excellency, Faisal Bin Muaammar. We also acknowledge the valuable contribution of KAICIID’s Council of Parties and its Board of Directors.

We strongly believe that education can advance the universal values shared in all religions.

We recognize that as our societies become more culturally diverse and our world more interconnected, intercultural education takes on increased importance.

We therefore appreciate, and underline the importance of, KAICIID’s programme on “The Image of the Other”.

We support and encourage the need for better intercultural education, particularly among the youth.

Furthermore, we believe that more efforts are needed to enhance “The Image of the Other” beyond formal education systems, including through civil society, the media, and government programmes designed to enhance integration.

We will study the observations and recommendations of this programme in order to see how best practices and lessons learned can be applied more effectively in our own systems.

We regard the network of experts that has been developed as a result of this programme, as well as the growing expertise within KAICIID, as valuable resources that can be drawn upon by governments that share our commitment to promoting reconciliation, respect, and dialogue.

We encourage KAICIID to further enhance its contacts and collaboration with international and non-governmental organizations devoted to promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue, as well as peace and security in general.

We support KAICIID’s efforts to facilitate interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Such dialogue is urgently needed within and between many states in order to reduce tensions, enhance cooperation, increase respect for diversity and promote a culture of peace.



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KAICIID POLICY NETWORK

Throughout our series of regional conferences in 2013, one recommendation was made to KAICIID over and over again: the need for a network to enable information sharing and professional development in interreligious and intercultural education. KAICIID thus envisioned an informal network of experts and governmental focal points from Education, Religious Affairs and Integration ministries who meet periodically and share knowledge and best practices on interreligious and intercultural issues in formal education and lifelong learning. This network is the first of its kind and was launched at the Global Forum, with several organizations and individuals expressing a keen desire to take part.

Sharing tools and knowledge generated around the world, especially on a policymaking level, is a key step towards addressing core challenges in the field of interreligious and intercultural education. As we share approaches and best practices across diverse national contexts, we move closer to helping each other ensure that education facilitates mutual understanding. KAICIID is proud to bring this initiative to life.

“FROM VIENNA TO ADDIS ABABA, PARTICIPANTS HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR A NETWORK, A FRAMEWORK FOR KNOWLEDGE-SHARING AT THE POLICY LEVEL, IN THE FIELD OF INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION.

IT GIVES ME GREAT PRIDE, THEREFORE, TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF THE KAICIID GLOBAL POLICY NETWORK AS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THESE RECOMMENDATIONS.”







COLLABORATION

The Dialogue Centre is enthusiastic about building partnerships in dialogue. At the Global Forum, KAICIID signed a series of long-term cooperation agreements with a variety of institutions including the African Union Commission, ISESCO, the World Scouting Movement and the University of Montreal. It also announced a framework of cooperation with UNESCO, strengthening the already existing interaction, which was then signed in May 2014. Through careful negotiation, each of these agreements outlines concrete activities for future endeavours building on current collaborative projects. Some future endeavours foreseen in

these agreements include: dialogue encounters and initiatives with youth; online courses; dialogue, education and communication training; research; networks and outreach. In addition to these formal partnerships, KAICIID is continuously working toward creating other forms of collaboration to support dialogue. The Centre believes that building greater networks and stronger research partnerships, by reaching out to seminars and universities, intergovernmental organizations and other potential partners, is not only a worthwhile goal but also necessary for successfully establishing and fostering dialogue.









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EACH OF THESE AGREEMENTS
OUTLINES CONCRETE ACTIVITIES
FOR FUTURE ENDEAVOURS BUILDING
ON CURRENT COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS.

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CENTRE

GLOBAL FORUM "THE IMAGE OF THE OTHER": INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION
18 - 19 NOVEMBER 2014



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