

**High-Level International Consultation:**  
*Partnering with Religious Leaders of the Middle East in  
Advancing the Protection of Minorities in Muslim Majority States*

13 May 2016 | Tokyo, Japan

**Final Communiqué**

***“Religious Leaders from the Middle East Address Violent Religious Extremism by Advancing Full Citizenship for All Communities on the Basis of the Marrakesh Declaration”***

We – religious leaders from the Middle East and around the world – have convened in Tokyo on 12-13 May 2016 to help prevent and transform violent religious extremism by advancing the full citizenship of all communities in Muslim majority states. We recognize that affording all communities full citizenship with equal human rights is a religious, moral and political obligation. Doing so, we also believe, is an irreplaceable key to preventing and transforming all forms of violent extremism, Islamophobia and xenophobia.

We note with appreciation that senior-most scholars within the Muslim community have issued the *Marrakesh Declaration*<sup>1</sup> based upon the historic Medina Charter, a primary source that is precious to all Muslims. At its core, the Marrakesh Declaration makes clear that Muslims have a religious obligation to recognize the communities among them as full citizens endowed with all related rights. It expresses Islam’s high esteem for other communities, its commitment to co-existence with them and its deep sense of obligation to care for each other.

We note that other religious communities—each on its own terms—have similar teachings. We are convinced that the identification and wide promotion of these central teachings can help equip all religious communities to engage in respectful and highly principled cooperation to help prevent and transform violent extremism by advancing robust notions of full citizenship for all.

We are united in our commitment to take action together:

- Among us, the Muslim participants **reaffirmed** the recent *Marrakesh Declaration*. The Marrakesh Declaration calls for the citizenship and full rights of all communities in Muslim majority states as a Muslim obligation.
- Among us, the representatives of other religious communities gratefully witnessed the Muslim reaffirmation of the Marrakesh Declaration, hailed its importance for building just and harmonious societies, and also committed themselves to using their respective religious traditions in active support of robust notions of citizenship.

---

<sup>1</sup> The *Marrakesh Declaration* was issued on 27 January 2016 under the auspices of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and the supervision of H.E. Shaykh Abdullah Bin Bayyah, President of the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies based in the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi. 250 of the world’s eminent Islamic leaders and Islamic Ministers of Religious Affairs, with representatives from all Muslim majority states, collaborated to issue the Marrakesh Declaration. In addition, 50 senior religious leaders from other religious traditions participated as observers and witnesses of issuance of the Declaration.

We – each based upon the solemn religious obligations of his or her own religious tradition – are committed to collaborating on a four-fold plan of action:

- 1) To the identification of the authentic religious teachings within each respective religious tradition that provide a basis for robust notions of citizenship for all communities;
- 2) To informal and formal education within our respective religious communities about the above noted religious teachings;
- 3) To work respectfully with relevant state authorities to help ensure that national legal codes for citizenship and human rights for all communities are consistent with contemporary international standards and
- 4) To initiate concrete cooperative action among our communities to advance inclusive citizenship for all.

Committed to common action, we respectfully call upon

- All religious believers around the world to:
  - Honor their religious tradition’s teachings on the religious obligation to support the full citizenship of all;
  - Draw strength from the fact that the world’s major religions – each on its own terms –share the solemn religious obligation to honor the citizenship and rights of all; and
  - Engage in concrete and principled multi-religious cooperation to advance full citizenship for all communities.
- Muslim majority states to:
  - Support and facilitate the broad education of their populations on the core Islamic teachings, enshrined in the Marrakesh Declaration, related to citizenship for all,
  - Ensure that educational materials for schools include positive and accurate information about religious communities; and
  - Work with legal and constitutional experts to recommend that legal codifications be consistent with the authentic Islamic teachings set out in the Marrakesh Declaration that provide a basis for citizenship with full rights for all communities.
- States with Muslim minorities to:
  - Encourage and support multi-religious exchanges designed to educate their populations about authentic Islamic and other religious communities’ teaching in support of inclusive citizenship.
  - Advance policies to engage multi-religious cooperation to strengthen inclusive citizenship for all, and
  - Take appropriate measures to counter the incitement to violence based on religious and ethnic identity.

We note with appreciation that Japan and the other G7 states will soon meet in Ise-Shima, Japan. We respectfully appeal to the Japanese government to communicate to the meeting of the G7 states our shared multi-religious commitment to help prevent and transform violent religious extremism, including in particular our commitment to advance full citizenship with the equal rights for all communities. We urge that the G7 states continue to collaborate to prevent and transform violent conflict with due regard for the limits of force and the protection of fundamental human rights. We further urge that G7 states support and – as appropriate – collaborate with multi-religious efforts to advance full citizenship with equal rights for all communities. We also urge the G7 states to creatively include in their development assistance schemes the principled engagement of religious communities and their desires to cooperate with one another for the

---

common good. In particular, we urge the support of religiously affiliated youth in their efforts as citizens to work together to build inclusive and just societies.

We ask the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations to continue its invaluable mission of providing a working bridge between governments and the civilizational—including specifically the religious—heritages and assets essential for building the common good.

We call upon *Religions for Peace* to remain a servant of all religious communities' principled desires to advance concrete multi-religious action to promote citizenship with equal rights for all communities.

We appreciate partnership with governmental officials and the people of Japan through the participation of H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan; Hon. Mr. Sadakazu Tanigaki, General Secretary, Liberal Democratic Party; Hon. Mr. Katsuya Okada, President, Democratic Party; and other eminent political and diplomatic leaders and representatives.

---