

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Islamic Declaration on Climate Change (Istanbul, 18 August 2015)

Daud AbdulFattah Batchelor

Islamic scholars provided a clarion call to the Muslim ummah to work together to take urgent measures to protect the earth's environment and restore its balance (*mizan*) in **The Islamic Declaration for Climate Change** promulgated in Istanbul on 18th August 2015. The Declaration called for a global mindset change to recognise the moral obligation of wealthy and oil-producing states to reduce their consumption and production patterns; and to realise that to chase after unlimited economic growth in a finite overloaded planet is not viable. It drew attention to evidence of the serious deterioration and corruption of many features of the global environment and that negotiations on addressing global climate change have been in deadlock since the 2005 Millenium Ecosystem Assessment was published.

The Islamic Declaration on Climate Change called for specific actions by the following groups:

The Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) and the Meeting of the Parties (MOPs) to the Kyoto Protocol should: Agree to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions (GGEs) do not exceed a rise of 2 percent, and ideally do not reach a 1.5 percent increase in global temperature, as soon as possible, and ideally agree to set this binding target at the Paris Conference being held in December 2015.

Well-off nations and oil-producing states should: Lead the way in phasing out their GGEs by no later than 2050, and provide generous financial and technical support to the less well-off to achieve an early phase-out of their GGEs; reduce resources consumption; refocus their concerns from unethical profit from the environment, to that of preserving it and elevating the condition of the world's poor; and invest in the green economy.

People of all nations and their leaders should: Aim to phase out GGEs and to commit to 100% renewable energy as soon as possible; Realise that growth must be pursued wisely and in moderation, increasing the resilience of all, especially those most vulnerable to climate change impacts – countries, indigenous people, women and children - and help them in adaptation strategies; Establish a fresh model of well-being as an alternative to the current financial model which depletes resources, degrades the environment and deepens inequality.

Corporations, finance and the business sector should: Take responsibility for their profit-making activities by reducing their carbon footprint and other environmental impacts; Commit to a 100% renewable energy target, as early as possible, by divesting from the fossil fuel driven economy; and Change from the current business model to adopt a circular sustainable economy.

All groups should: Collaborate and cooperate in friendly competition in this endeavour; and the drafters of the Declaration welcomed the similar initiatives from a number of other world religions.

These are all praiseworthy goals and the Declaration deserves support from Muslim governments and all Muslims towards protecting planet earth and achieving a better future for our present and future generations. The Declaration ended with pertinent warnings from the Noble Qur'an to those who "strut arrogantly on the earth", and a hadith where the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) reminded us of our duties as stewards to acquit ourselves well (as we are accountable for our actions).

Round Table Discussion: 'Islamic Perspectives on Sustainable Development' (IAIS Malaysia, 25 August 2015)

Ahmad Badri Abdullah

On 25 August 2015, IAIS Malaysia organised a round table discussion with an interesting topic entitled '*Islamic Perspectives on Sustainable Development*'. The panelists were Professor Mohammad Hashim Kamali (Founding CEO of IAIS Malaysia), Dr. Daud Abdul Fattah Batchelor (IAIS Malaysia), Dr. Chandra Muzaffar (President of International Movement for a Just World), Associate Professor Dr. Azilah Sarkhawi (International Islamic University Malaysia), Professor Gamini Herath (School Business of Monash University, Malaysia), and Mr. Ahmad Shaiful Alwi (on behalf of Dr. Adi Setia Md. Dom, IIUM). The objective of the discussion is to bring— focus the attention of leaders, stakeholders