

## The 6<sup>th</sup> Doha Interfaith Dialogue Declaration 13-14 May 2008

We, over 200 participants from over 30 countries, have attended the Sixth Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in Doha from 13-14 May, 2008. The conference was opened by H.E. Faisal bin Abdullah Al-Mahmud, Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs. We wish to express our thanks to His Highness Shaikh Hamad bin Khalifah Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar and to the people of Qatar. We also thank the organizers, notably the Doha International Center for Dialogue, the University of Qatar and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

We have addressed the theme Religious Values: Perspectives on Peace and Respect for Life. As Muslims, Christians and Jews, we engaged in dialogue not only about the ideals, values and practical teachings of our respective religions, but also we discussed some of the difficult and tragic issues which disfigure our world and create violence and injustice in so many contexts.

In particular, we examined the ethical dimensions of issues such as suicide, abortion, euthanasia, desecration, human trafficking, sale of organs and violence in the media. We sought ways for common action to exercise individual and communal responsibilities to tackle these problems.

We agreed on the following:

- 1- Interfaith dialogue is a necessity at every level, international, regional and local; working groups on different levels and sizes should be established with emphasis on issues such as education, peace-building and the promotion of solidarity and understanding among different communities and cultures.
- 2- Values such as equality, human dignity, human freedom, tolerance and respect for religious diversity and the sanctity of all life, should be practiced and taught, and young people should be encouraged to play a central role in this respect.
- 3- A matter of great concern is the way in which peace is troubled by abuse of religion and by widespread disrespect for religious symbols ranging from desecration to violent caricature; we urge education for mutual understanding and action from governmental and non-governmental organizations to promote respect among all religions and communities.

- 4- The Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue is requested to follow up these recommendations and to facilitate new initiatives to promote a culture of interfaith dialogue and cooperation. Education about other religions is particularly important in this respect, at both school and university levels.