

## **The Muslim Seven Year Action Plan on Climate Change 2010-2017 - summary**

### **Introduction**

There are 1.4 billion Muslims worldwide. In Istanbul in July 2009, more than 50 religious scholars from across the Muslim world endorsed this long term plan for action on climate change. This support was led by Dr Youssef Al Qaradawi, the President of the International Union of Muslim Scholars.

It was also supported, among others, by the Mufti of Egypt, Dr Ali Jumma; the Mufti of Palestine, Dr Ekrama Sabri, Dr Salman Alouda, a prominent Saudi Arabian scholar, and Said Ali Mohamad Hussein Fadlallah, the Lebanese Shia scholar, as well as by ISESCO (the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), Al Fatih University in Turkey and representatives of Ministries of Environment and Awqaf of Islamic countries from Kuwait, Bahrain, Morocco, Indonesia, Senegal and Turkey.

The plan has been drawn up by Earth Mates Dialogue Centre (EMDC) a non profit NGO (non-governmental organisation) based in the UK, in co-operation with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

An initial workshop to draw up the plan was held in Kuwait in October 2008, where 22 participants from Islamic NGOs, academics, government figures and Muslim environmental activists and environmental specialists from 14 Muslim countries and Muslim communities met to share their experiences and contribute to the plan for Islamic action on the environment. They agreed on the vision and mission of the Muslim Seven Year Action Plan and on practical recommendations.

### **The Vision for the Muslim Seven Year Action Plan: M7YAP**

We envision a world that is environmentally safe for our children and the next generations; where all nations of all religions live in harmony with nature and enjoy justice and a fair share of God's bounties.

### **The Mission of M7YAP**

Mobilise all the resources of the Islamic Umma to contribute to the ongoing global efforts dealing with climate change based on a Seven Year Environmental Conservation Action Plan that reflects Islamic Principles and values.

## **Recommendations and commitments:**

Establishment of an umbrella organisation, Muslim Associations for Climate Change Action (MACCA) to manage and implement the seven year climate change plan. This will be an international NGO based in London. The first General Congress of MACCA will meet by the end of November 2009 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The General Congress of the Association will comprise 75 representative members from different Islamic countries and Muslim communities of the world and will discuss and approve the long- and mid-term plans.

### **These include plans to:**

- Create a Wakf in 1 year in order to implement the Climate Change plan;
- Establish Islamic labels for different products. This would be an Islamic environmental labelling system with strict authenticity standards;
- Work towards a ‘Green Hajj’ with the Saudi Minister of the Hajj. Aim to have the Hajj free of plastic bottles after two years and introduce environmentally friendly initiatives over the next five to ten years to transform the Hajj into a recognised environmentally-friendly pilgrimage. The vision is that pilgrims on the Hajj will take back an understanding of care of creation as an act of faithfulness;
- Pilot the construction of a ‘green mosque’ to showcase best practice in heating, light, design etc. Plan to use this as a model for building other mosques worldwide;
- Develop two to three Muslim cities as ‘green cities’ which can act as a role model for greening other Islamic cities. Select 10 cities in the Muslim world to be greened after the success of the first phase;
- Focus on education on the environment:
  - Make more material on the conservation of the environment available to places of Islamic learning, focusing on the training of imams and in schools;

- Develop guidebooks for teachers in primary, middle and secondary schools over the next three years;
  - Develop educational materials for non formal education in the next three years.
  - Prepare guidelines and train imams on environmental conservation and climate change issues
  - Sponsor 10 post graduate students to work on Islam and climate change over the next five years.
  - Establish a chair for professorship in dealing with climate change
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- Develop a best practice environment guide for businesses;
  - Apply environmental principles in the publication of the Quran. Work towards printing a 'green Quran' on paper that comes from sustainable wood supplies.;
  - Re-introduce Islamic rituals from an environmental perspective. Use the Hajj season to distribute these ideas and the Friday Khotbas;
  - Establish a special TV channel for Islam and the environment to be broadcast in different languages;
  - Develop an international prize for research related to environmental conservation.