



اللجنة القطرية لتحالف الحضارات
Qatar Committee for Alliance of Civilizations

The Tenth Annual Report of Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations 2019

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Preface

In 2018, the Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations (QCAOC) conducted various activities through internal and external participations in the events in regards with the alliance of civilizations. The Committee achieved intensive interaction, coordination and cooperation with organizations and bodies concerned with the alliance of civilizations, locally and abroad. Both, through forums, conferences, and global meetings that (QCAOC) took part in, or direct cooperation with the international and regional organizations in setting up strategies and plans relevant to the alliance of civilizations.

During 2018 (QCAOC), also implemented a range of programs and activities aiming at introducing the concept, evolution, and goals of the Alliance of Civilizations (AOC). In addition, the Committee was keen on promoting the prominent role of Qatar in the field of alliance of civilizations, befitting its vital contribution as a major supporting country for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).

This report, prepared by the secretariat of (QCAOC), aims at documenting the work of the Committee that includes a number of activities and programs implemented in 2018. The report consists of several parts; the first of which elaborates on the inception, mission, and goals of (QCAOC).

The second part of the report deals with Qatar's Plan for the Alliance of the Civilizations for 2018-2022, which is based on: Qatar National Vision 2030, Qatar 2nd National Development Strategy 2018-2022, and the permanent constitution of the state and the Arab Strategy for the Alliance of Civilizations.

The main participations in meetings, conferences and forums related to the areas of the Alliance of Civilizations were highlighted in section three of the report

The fourth part highlights the key events organized by (QCAOC); Alliance of Civilizations fellowship Programme, as well as meetings with the stakeholders of the Alliance of Civilizations file in the state. As for the fifth and last part, it reviews (QCAOC) in media awareness of the alliance's implications through its website, field visits to local educational, youth, and cultural institutions. In addition, taking part in exhibitions at the sidelines of local events.

Finally, I have, but to express appreciation to all local institutions concerned with the alliance of civilizations for their close cooperation with Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations. I would like to thank the representatives of the institutions at (QCAOC), and experts and researchers at the Committee Secretariat for their incessant efforts and wishing this report will illustrate the efforts of the State of Qatar in the field of alliance of civilizations,

Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
President of the Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations

First: Introducing Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations

1. Establishment:

Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations (QCAOC) was founded by the Cabinet Decision No. (8) of 2010. The Committee seeks to promote the objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations (AOC) as a soft power tool of preventive diplomacy, and through cooperation with all active parties internationally and regionally.

2. Mission:

(QCAOC) pursues to upgrade the role of the State of Qatar in highlighting the contribution of the Islamic civilization, alongside with other civilizations in human progress. Moreover, promoting dialogue and conflict resolution, asserting the values of tolerance, solidarity and peace among peoples, and in combating extremism and fanaticism, as well.

3. Vision:

Achieve closer cooperation among races, religions and cultures, also to establish the rules of solidarity, exchange of expertise and benefits among the peoples on the principles of truth, justice, equality, and in order to accomplish the noble goals of humanity in large.

4. Tasks:

The Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations undertakes the following tasks:

- Oversee the development of the States' action plan for the Alliance of Civilizations.
- Follow-up the State's contributions to the Alliance of Civilizations.
- Supervise the State's projects; on-going and proposed ones for the Alliance of Civilizations.

- Suggest topics for studies related to the Alliance of Civilizations.
- Arrange meetings and forums of the Alliance of Civilizations.
- Follow up and coordinate the State participations in the meetings and forums of the Alliance of Civilizations.
- Follow-up the awareness raising programs for the general public which underline the need to respect all cultures, and the importance of alliance by using all possible means.
- Oversee the Committee's website to highlight the State's plan for Alliance of Civilizations.

5. Members:

Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations comprises of representatives from the ministries of the State and its departments, institutions of civil society concerned with the Alliance of Civilizations related issues, and include:

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs, President.
- The representative of the State of Qatar at the AOC, vice-chairman.
- A representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, member.
- A representative of the Ministry of Culture, and Sports, member.
- A representative of the Ministry of endowment (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs.
- A representative of the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour, & Social Affairs.
- A representative of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, member.
- A representative of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, member.

6. Secretariat of the Committee:

The Secretariat of Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations, undertakes the following tasks:

- Following-up the implementation of the Committee's decisions and recommendations.
- Prepare periodic follow-up reports on the activities and achievements of the Committee.
- Document all issues pertaining to the work, minutes of meetings, and correspondence of the Committee.

Second: Qatar's Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations

Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilization developed a State plan for the period (2018-2022) which comes to keep up with the new generation of national plans for the Alliance of civilizations. The plan was based on a number of basic principles represented by the directives of the political leadership, the permanent constitution of the State of Qatar, Qatar National Vision 2030, and the National Development Strategy (2011-2016). It was also drawn on the Unified Arab Strategic Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations (2016-2019), and It was also based on the declarations and recommendations of the seven previous global forums of the Alliance of Civilizations.

Plan objectives are based on a number of principles derived from Arab and Islamic civilization that have complemented human history with the values of tolerance and cooperation among nations and peoples. Also, pillared on principle of international peace and security, and the principles of human rights endorsed by the international community. In addition, it depends on the basic premises and the vision of (QCAOC), which calls for closer cooperation between races, religions and cultures, and establishing bases of solidarity and sharing experiences and benefits among peoples on the fundamental basis of right, justice, and equality, in order to achieve the lofty goals of humanity as a whole.

The overall objective of the plan is to achieve understanding between nations and peoples, to establish solid relations between them and to remove the causes of division and misunderstanding in order to accomplish peaceful coexistence, acceptance of the other and respect for different peoples and cultures

The subsidiary objectives of the plan which includes the four areas of Alliance of civilizations (education, youth, media):

1. Education:

Educational institutions should:

- Contribute to a positive role in promoting the world's civilizations and convergence networking.
- Promote common human values and the principles of right and justice and mutual respect which is committed to human rights.

- Activate bilateral and multilateral agreements, educational initiatives, and university chairs to promote the Alliance of Civilizations.

2. Youth:

The youth movement should perform the following tasks:

- Introduce the world's civilizations, achieve convergence, communication and interaction between them.
- Raise awareness among youth about the importance of rapprochement between peoples and civilizations.
- Raise the youth on common human values and the principles of right, justice and mutual respect committed to human rights, and establish a culture of dialogue, acceptance and coexistence with others.

3. Immigration:

Immigration should play a positive role in the following:

- Introduce civilizations and achieve rapprochement among peoples.
- Achieve positive co-existence among different religious, cultural and ethnic groups,
- Lessen tensions between cultures, especially among religious and cultural minorities.
- Ensure the rights of expatriates and refugees, and their access to social, health and educational care.
- Preserve the identity and cultural and religious privacy of minorities in the countries of residence.

4. Media:

Media should undertake the following:

- Promote principles of mutual understanding and cooperation, as well as the rapprochement of different cultures and religions.

- Raise awareness of hurdles that confront dialogue among cultures, address them and find out solutions to them.
- Develop traditional and modern media programs to promote the convergence of civilizations.
- Enhance media production which deals with different civilizations and religions.
- Form effective public opinion pro issues of tolerance and respect for religions through social media, which fuel a constructive community dialogue.
- Raise local and international awareness of the importance of dialogue between cultures and followers of religions to bring the views of different parties closer together, in order to reach a common ground of vision, based on human and religious values, that will promote peaceful coexistence among members of society.

The plan included Qatar's initiatives implemented in the areas of the Alliance of Civilizations over the past period, which were carried out by many institutions and agencies that implement activities closely related to the Alliance of Civilizations. These organizations include Silatech Foundation, Education Above All Foundation, Reach Out to Asia Foundation, Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Centre, Al Jazeera Network, Qatar Debate and other institutions.

Qatar's Plan of the Alliance of Civilizations (2018-2022) covers the implementation of several programs and activities aimed at achieving the goals of the Alliance of Civilizations in its four areas (education, youth, im and media).

1. Education:

- **First objective:** establish curricula for the Alliance of Civilizations, introduce academic programs, and provide postgraduate scholarships for university students in the Alliance of Civilizations, and include the Alliance of Civilizations in the curricula of primary, middle and secondary schools.
- **Second objective:** develop scientific encyclopaedias and specialized periodicals to promote

the principles of dialogue among civilizations and to consolidate the values of objective scientific knowledge about the other.

- **Third objective:** provide awards for outstanding researches and funding solid researches related to dialogue among civilizations.
- **Fourth objective:** develop the security awareness of young people, in order to fortify their minds and protect them from intellectual distractions through the implementation of programs and events that enhance intellectual security.

2. Youth:

- **First objective:** engage in Global Youth Movement for the Alliance established in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan in 2011.
- **Second objective:** spread the culture of debates among the youth in order to develop a culture of dialogue and difference with others and accept the opinions of others.
- **Third objective:** hold a global forum for youth to exchange dialogue and learn about different cultures.
- **Fourth objective:** activate bilateral agreements signed between the State of Qatar and the countries of the world regarding youth.

3. Immigration:

- **First objective:** promote the effective enforcement of the legislation in regards with the rights of workers, and obliging employers to abide by the laws and regulations that ensure those rights, and provides ways and means of worker safety.
- **Second objective:** expand activities to publicize various cultures, enhance communication and interaction between cultures.

- **Third objective:** promote knowledge of expatriates of different nationalities in the Arab-Islamic culture, and in Qatari customs and traditions.
- **Fourth objective:** expand the activities of charities and civil society organizations in terms of supporting expatriates, both physically and spiritually.

4. Media:

- **First objective:** support the production and dissemination of information materials that promote intercultural understanding.
- **Second objective:** ensure that reporters being committed to professional codes of conduct, apply the international standards, while developing them to serve the goals of the Alliance of Civilizations.
- **Third Objective:** enhance the knowledge of reporters on pressing international issues, especially Arab and Islamic ones, bolster their ability to provide the general public with accurate and balanced information.
- **Fourth objective:** produce materials and media intended to improve the public attitudes of different cultures.

Third: Participation in conferences, meetings and forums

1. Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilization Launches Award for 2019:

Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations, in cooperation with Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science have launched the second edition of the 2019 Qatar Alliance of Civilizations Award for individuals and schools. The Award aims to encourage high school students in Qatar to provide the best research, and the achievement of excellence among different educational institutions.

The themes of the Award include: Qatar and the global partnership in development, the role of education in promoting dialogue among civilizations, educational curricula and its role in promoting the culture of the Alliance of Civilizations, its dialogues, and school initiatives to promote dialogue among civilizations and acceptance of the other.



2. The first meeting of Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations after its re-formation:

Qatar committee for the Alliance of Civilizations held its first meeting under the chairmanship of His Excellency Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Ahmad Bin Hassan Al Hammadi on Wednesday, 30 October 2019, in the presence of members of the Committee representing the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education and Higher Education, Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs, Culture and Sports, Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs. At the meeting, the Committee was introduced and various topics were reviewed with regard to the tasks of the Committee, its annual report and the review of the most important programs and activities of the Committee in cooperation with other institutions. During the meeting, a presentation was made on the United Nations initiative of the Alliance of Civilizations in terms of its origins, objectives and most important programs and projects it undertakes, and the need to follow up on the implementation of the State Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations was noted.



3. Intercultural Dialogue Forum: Visions Come True:

Qatar committee for the Alliance of Civilizations participated in the discussion session within the program of the Intercultural Dialogue Forum: Visions come true, organized by Banking Studies and Business Administration Independent School for Girls on Thursday, 31 October, 2019. A presentation was made to address the efforts of Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations in promoting awareness of the importance of dialogue among civilizations and cultures as one of the tools of soft diplomacy. The objectives and scope of the Qatar Award for the Alliance of Civilizations, which aims to instil the concepts and contents of the Alliance of Civilizations in its four areas (education, youth, migration and the media), as well as to encourage students to present the best research in various areas of the Alliance of Civilizations. The session also touched on the themes of the Award for this year, which focus on the role of education in promoting dialogue among civilizations.



4. International Day for Tolerance:

Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations participated in the celebration of the International Day for Tolerance that organized by Assalam Primary School on December 1, 2019, which included some activities: photo exhibition, theatre shows and songs urge the cultivation of the culture of tolerance among students.

In addition, experts from Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations gave lectures on the concept of tolerance and the International Day for Tolerance and the efforts of the United Nations to achieve tolerance, as well as the efforts of Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations to promote the culture of tolerance and respect for the other in order to ensure peaceful coexistence in Qatar.



Fourth: events organized by the Committee

Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations organized many events and activities related to the areas of the Alliance of Civilizations in cooperation with international, Arab and regional organizations, the most important of which can be summarized as follows:

1. Honouring the winners of Qatar Global Award for Dialogue among Civilizations:

Committee of the Alliance of Civilizations, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized a special ceremony to honour the top three winners of the 2018 Qatar International Award for Dialogue among Civilizations for 2019.

The ceremony was attended by His Excellency Mr. Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, as well as His Excellency Dr. Hassan bin Rashid Al-Dirham, President of Qatar University. The first winner of the award was Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Abdel Salam from the Arab Republic of Egypt for his study tagged “The Impact of Muslim Immigration on Far Eastern Culture and Arts”.

The winning research in the second place was: dialogue among civilizations, is a study in the cognition and values system for the researcher: Dr. Bashir Khalifi, Algeria.



2. The Alliance of Civilizations Fellowship Program:

In cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat of the Alliance of Civilizations and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations organized, a special program for the Alliance of Civilizations fellowship delegation from July 8-12, 2019, which included 12 prominent youth leaders from Europe and the US.

The event, hosted by the State of Qatar for the tenth consecutive time, was part of a deeper understanding of young people in the Western and Muslim worlds by giving them an opportunity to increase their awareness of cultural, political, religious and social differences and the role that youth can play in reducing extremism and intolerance on both sides.

The delegation was met by His Excellency Dr. Ahmad bin Hassan Al-Hammadi, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vice-Chairman of the Qatari Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations, as well as with Her Excellency Ambassador Lulwa Rashed Al-Khater, Assistant Foreign Minister, Spokesperson of the Ministry.

The fellowship program included visits to key stakeholders in Qatar, which carry out Alliance of Civilizations related activities and programs, such as Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zeid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Centre. In addition to visiting some cultural heritage and archaeological sites in the State of Qatar, the National Museum of Qatar, the Museum of Islamic Art, Souq Waqif and Msheireb Museums.



Fifth: Media and Awareness

The Committee focuses on media and awareness, with a view to involving all society members in its activities and programs, raising awareness of the importance of the Alliance of Civilizations, which is one of the tools of soft diplomacy in resolving conflicts and disputes, promoting international peace and security, sensitizing young people to cultural diversity and promoting respect for one another. The most important activities of the Committee related to this area were as follow:

1. Launch of the new website of Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations:

The year 2019 saw the launch of the new website of the Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations: www.qcaoc.gov.qa, which aims to raise awareness of the goals, activities and programs of the Alliance of Civilizations, the new website document all the work of the Committee since its inception in 2010.

The committee's publications, reports, studies, plans, and activities were also posted, in addition to the partnerships held by the committee with some governmental organizations such as Qatar University, and Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science. The website also includes the Committee's participation in international and Arab conferences and forums.

2. Awareness Program:

As part of the implementation of Qatar Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations in regard with awareness, the Secretariat of Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations held several introductory meetings with students of academic and educational institutions and youth institutions with a view to publicizing the issue of the Alliance of Civilizations and the activities of the United Nations Secretariat for the Alliance of Civilizations. A review of the major activities that implemented by Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations, where the awareness program included visits to the following educational institutions:

- Qatar University - Faculty of Arts and Sciences.
- Qatar Banking Studies and Business Administration Independent School for Girls.
- Doha Secondary School for Boys.

- Ali Bin Jassim Secondary School for Boys.
- Al Wakra Scondary School for Girls.
- Aisha Bent Abi Bakr Secondary School for Girls.

The awareness program included lectures on the introduction of the historical concept and promotion of the Alliance of Civilizations and the general and special objectives it seeks to achieve, an indication of the efforts of the High Representative and the United Nations Secretariat for the Alliance of Civilizations, and a review of the outstanding programs and activities carried out within the four areas of the Alliance: education, information, migration and youth. In addition to underlining the role played by Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations at the international and regional levels in achieving the goals that the Alliance seeks to achieve.



3. Accompanying Exhibition of the 11th Conference of “Reach Out To Asia, ROTA”:

Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations participated in the exhibition that accompanied the events of “ROTA’s 11th Annual Youth Conference held in Doha, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Educational City between 15-16 March 2019, this year’s Conference Theme was:

“Youth: A Catalyst for Peace and Dialogue for Development”, some of Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations’ publications and brochures, which illustrate the work and activities it has undertaken since its inception, have been presented.



4. Educating on The United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

In cooperation with Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations held training workshops to introduce The United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is a roadmap for development, combating poverty, achieving social justice and reducing the risks of climate change. Emphasis was placed on the 16th goal of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, universal access to justice and the building of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. In addition, Qatar’s efforts to achieve most of the targets of the 16th Sustainable Development Goals 2030 for peace, justice, and strong institutions have also been reviewed.

