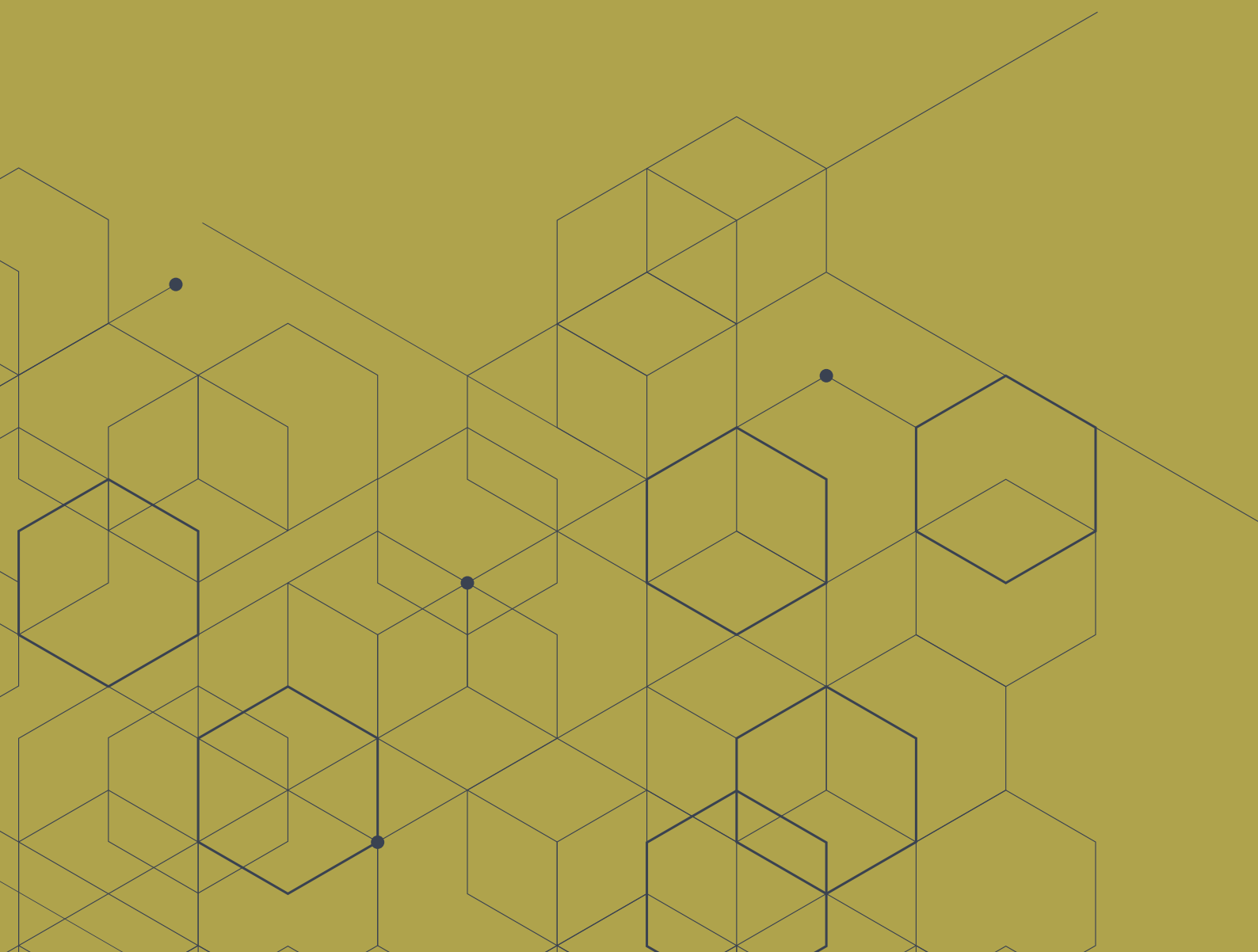


KAICIID EXTERNAL RELATIONS

STRATEGIC Framework

OCTOBER 2021



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KAICIID DIALOGUE CENTRE



For any queries concerning the external relations strategic framework, please contact the relevant duty station based on the information provided below.

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STRATEGIC Framework

KAICIID'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS FRAMEWORK IS GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES THAT INSPIRED THE CENTRE'S CREATION, WHICH ARE EMBEDDED IN ITS ESTABLISHMENT AGREEMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND THE PROVISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

A priority target for the Centre is to secure long-term availability of resources on a predictable basis through resource mobilization initiatives, based on joint programmes and co-financed initiatives.

KAICIID's External Relations priorities are based on the Centre's intergovernmental character and follow the guidance of its two governing bodies: the Council of Parties (Member States) and the Board of Directors (Religious representatives).

KAICIID is a committed supporter of multilateralism and thus prioritizes the implementation of joint activities with States, other intergovernmental organizations and policy actors. KAICIID recognizes the important role of establishing relationships with key stakeholders in **trust-building, peace and development processes**.

The work of the Centre in the area of external relations encompasses the following five interlinked pillars:

1. Cooperation and political relations with non-Member States

The Secretariat continuously seeks to reach out to non-Member states that are champions of IRD and peacebuilding, strategically promoting policies in favor of coexistence, inclusiveness, and social cohesion. On a political level, all engagements with non-Member States are conducted with a view on the possibility for enlargement.

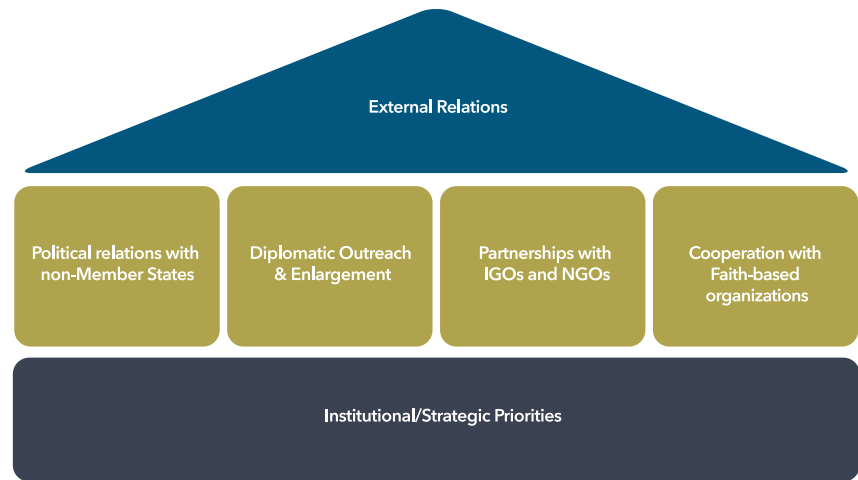
At the field/operational level, KAICIID can increase the number of partnering Third States through:

- » **Co-design, co-financing and/or joint implementation of activities with states where the interventions are planned, financed or implemented.**
- » **Co-design, co-financing and/or joint implementation of activities with States in third countries**, also through IGOs, funds and other multilateral mechanisms.
- » **Foster political synergies between the Center and the Council of Parties Member States foreign policy priorities** by strengthening cooperation between KAICIID and non-Member States.

2. Diplomatic outreach and enlargement of the Council of Parties

The Centre strives to construct sustainable, long-term partnerships with relevant actors. The Centre seeks continued commitments from partners towards building rigorously implemented and evaluated field programmes that are designed for impact.

Enlargement represents one of the main pillars, as well as enabling factors, for the implementation of KAICIID's external relations activities. The enlargement of the CoP refers to the model, rules and procedures and decisions towards the adherence of Third States to the Council, either as Observers or Member States. Aiming at fulfilling its global mandate, the Centre must work towards establishing strong partnerships with non-Member States, with a view on enlargement. Enlargement is not to be seen as merely a procedural or political achievement, but rather as a long-term commitment to multilateralism.



3. Partnerships with key intergovernmental entities and international non-governmental organizations

KAICIID has made a significant progress in establishing solid relations with international and regional organizations in the past years, among which a significant highlight was becoming a member of the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), and the multiple cooperation agreements (MoUs) signed with various UN actors. The thematic areas for cooperation include promotion of global citizenship, countering hate speech, promotion of women's rights and gender inclusion, promotion of inclusive and sustainable peace etc. Together with the UN and other regional actors and IGOs, KAICIID is in the position to deliver expertise and joint implementation of programmes, capacity building initiatives and dialogue processes. It can also shape the IRD aspect of their policies and operations in the context of the delivery on the respective mandates, acting as a catalyst and multiplier.

4. Cooperation with religious and faith-based organizations

KAICIID identifies the pivotal role of Faith-based organizations (FBOs) and religious leaders in developing key concepts of peace and non-violence, in

countering regional narratives and thus their participation in solution-oriented processes is instrumental. The Centre's approaches focus in establishing, maintaining and expanding its partnership with faith-based organizations at international and regional level around capacity building through facilitation of trainings, workshops and creation of safe spaces, knowledge sharing, advocacy and participation in interfaith global networks aiming to exchange know-how and provide technical and logistical support.

5. Contributing to the achievement of the key priorities of the Members of the Council of Parties

Key partners:

United Nations:

Since 2016 the Centre actively reached out to a broad range of international actors, including United Nations entities such as the UNOSAPG, UNESCO, UNDP, UNAOC, UNICEF, UNEP and others resulting in a number of successful initiatives.

European Union:

The Centre was identified as a key actor in the field of interreligious dialogue (Parliamentary question from January 2015 on the Facilitation of interfaith dialogue, speech by former HR Ms. Mogherini) and the Council of the European Union, in its 3367th meeting (6044/15). Since 2016 KAICIID has cooperated with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency on capacity building and knowledge sharing activities and the biennial event Fundamental Rights Forum, as well as with the European Commission, European Parliament and EEAS within the framework of Art. 17 TFEU and field work.

The Centre builds on the strategic context to work as a convener for dialogue and a catalyst for peace and intercultural and interreligious understanding based on the respective priorities defined by its Governance during annual and or special sessions and regular review of programmes and policies.

Interdependence, complexity, uncertainty and a rapid pace of change characterize today's international arena. Addressing the current threats to international peace and stability (including the proliferation of hate speech and radicalization on the internet, technological and other barriers which contribute to increasing inequality) require coordinated effort and cooperation among global actors. KAICIID's response to this international context is to join the global agendas through multilateral relations to ensure that the Centre's future priorities continue to create positive and transformative impact for individuals, communities, and the international context, it will draw upon its dialogue approaches to consult a diverse range of voices around the priority themes of the new Strategic Plan [2022-26], engage its longstanding and ever-expanding networks, and leverage strong partnerships.

KAICIID seeks to establish synergies and cooperation with other relevant actors, rather than working in isolation. Its commitment to multilateralism through partnership with governmental and intergovernmental organizations, such as the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, ASEAN and key States are of particular relevance for the Centre's strategic priorities. Operational effectiveness is embedded in the nature and core objectives of the Organization, and explicitly reflected in the Establishment Agreement (Art. II(b)).

The core aim of KAICIID's external relations approach is the establishment of comprehensive, coherent, and effective institutional partnerships, including streamlined, synergetic resource utilization. The Centre aims to diversify its resource base and ensure cost-efficient and effective programmatic implementation aligned with strategic and political goals.

Institutional partnerships established in this manner create enabling spaces for interreligious and intercultural cooperation and mobilize the agency of key actors in the contexts where KAICIID operates, in particular in geographic areas such as: Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and South East Asia and thematic areas such as: preventing violence in the name of religion or belief, combating hate speech, promoting social cohesion and common citizenship.

ARTICLE II (B) OF THE CENTRE'S ESTABLISHMENT AGREEMENT MAKES REFERENCE TO COOPERATION "WITH APPROPRIATE INTERRELIGIOUS, INTERCULTURAL AND OTHER BODIES AND INITIATIVES WITH SIMILAR GOALS AS WELL AS WITH STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS".

Key partners:

African Union:

KAICIID has signed an MoU with AU in 2013 and since then have been partnering for the organization of the African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum.

Civil society and Networks:

KAICIID works with these actors to advocate for and support towards the development of policy recommendations, build exchange platforms through the cooperation with PaRD, G20 Interfaith Forum, EuLeMa, MJLC etc.

Academia, think tanks, media and others:

KAICIID collaborates with these key partners to advocate for and develop evidence-based tools and initiatives such as through the work with University of Montreal, European Forum Alpbach, ISCREB, University of Complutence etc.

All partnerships with external partners are governed by the following principles:

- a) **Alignment with Global Agenda:** All external relations engagements are aligned with the values and policies of KAICIID. Partnerships are prioritized in alignment with the global policy agendas, namely the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and regional policy frameworks, such as the policy direction of Europe (EU, Council of Europe and OSCE), Agenda 2063 of the African Union.
- b) **Complementarity and Benefit:** Partnerships must provide comparative strengths, synergies and contribute to clearly defined outcomes and results that are beneficial to all stakeholders.
- c) **Accountability and Transparency:** Agreement between partners on transparent decision-making, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms among all parties and levels.
- d) **Effectiveness in Equity:** Promoting decisions by means of widest input from the partners as well as Members of the Council; generating recommendations that have broad support and strive for consensus-building based on equally valued contributions from all partners. Creating commitment and ownership through the participation of stakeholders thus increasing the likelihood of successful implementation.
- e) **Flexibility:** Partnerships should be able to adjust to the changing reality and needs of the Centre and the changing international landscape. Remaining flexible over time can be challenging, however it is necessary in order to respond to emerging needs.
- f) **Diversity, Participation and Engagement:** Bringing together the principal partners, with sectoral and geographic balance, supporting and challenging all stakeholders to be actively engaged and remain engaged. As a convener, KAICIID does not only create bilateral partnerships but cultivates a culture of multi-stakeholder partnerships that benefit from synergies and joint engagement.
- g) **Independence from Vested Interests:** Ensure strong due diligence and integrity measures to prevent undue commercial influence or partisan decision-making.

KAICIID also invests in its own organizational transformation by building:

Inclusive, diverse and safe working environments, as well as leadership and gender equality.

Programming that addresses priority issues at the international and regional levels.

Programmes and initiatives that support international policy agendas.

Robust State capacity to implement National Action Plans on issues related to discrimination, racism and intolerance, integration of refugees etc. and support through capacity building for relevant public authorities.

Field activities that support the work of in-country EU and UN offices and delegations.

KAICIID's Value Proposition:

KAICIID utilizes **advocacy** to raise awareness of IRD as a tool to enhance peace and social cohesion. KAICIID connects and enhances the ability of policy makers and religious actors to constructively respond to current challenges. KAICIID provides both technical and substantive expertise and co-financing. This is particularly visible in outreach activities implemented with UN partners and other regional actors and IGOs.

For partners, KAICIID **brings expertise and joint implementation of programmes, capacity building initiatives and dialogue processes**. It can also shape the IRD aspect of organizational policies and operations, and support delivery of mandates, acting as a catalyst and multiplier.

The “KAICIID approach” to the development and implementation of programmatic activities is characterized by the inclusion of IRD **methodologies, capacity building, and the networking channels between policymakers and religious actors**, with the aim of incorporating dialogue systematically in multilateral and other institutions.

This has resulted in some significant results including the establishment of the AU Interfaith Forum, the Dialogue for Peace programme in the Scouts movement), as well as building and advancing the field of IRD.

KAICIID's particular added value can be identified as follows:

- **Methodology and Expertise/Dialogical Approach:** For KAICIID, dialogue is a means to foster an attitude of openness and to increase the understanding of diversity in today's world. Contrary to popular belief, dialogue does not necessarily mean that one needs to accept or agree with someone else's point of view, but rather to acknowledge and recognize it. Dialogue can take place in both formal and informal settings. Dialogical approaches are inclusive, creative, and empowering processes, where participants feel “safe”, thus enabling them to be transparent and willing to “take risks”.
- **Mandate:** The Centre is a specific actor in preventive diplomacy and peace-building. KAICIID has assumed an active role in leading and

facilitating dialogue processes at both policy and grassroots levels, engaging a diverse set of stakeholders in bold transformative processes. Through this work, KAICIID has proven to be a reliable partner to global actors, such as UN entities (UNAOC, UNESCO, UNDP) the African Union or the World Scout Organization together with its work with refugees and excluded and disadvantaged groups.

- **Governance:** KAICIID's particular governance structure (policy-makers through the Council of Parties and religious leaders through the Board of Directors, governing the Organization together) is the main added value as it embodies the core mandate of the organization. This particular governance model furthermore, equips the Centre with the knowledge and know-how in the contexts it operates.
- **Operations:** Through its operational expertise, KAICIID has positioned itself as a center of excellence for capacity-building in IRD (interreligious dialogue) and peacebuilding. The Centre has assumed a key role in informal education and capacity building through IRD/ICD (interreligious / intercultural dialogue) towards peaceful and inclusive societies affected by violence in the name of religion.
- **Outreach and Advocacy:** Through its governing bodies, operations and engagements, KAICIID has developed a particularly relevant network of stakeholders and as such it is a critical partner that can connect with religious actors worldwide and engage them in transformative processes.
- **Structure:** The comparatively small size of the Organization allows for flexibility to address partners' requests in a swift, agile and holistic manner.
- **Convening Capacity:** KAICIID is an organization that makes it possible for governments, religious leaders and civil society to work jointly.

