



K A I C I I D
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D I A L O G U E
C E N T R E



2017

ANNUAL REPORT





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The Organization at a Glance

What is the International Dialogue Centre?

The International Dialogue Centre is an international organization with the mission of promoting dialogue to help people understand, respect and value different religions and cultures. The Centre works to promote diversity and understanding and to strengthen social cohesion.

The Centre is the first intergovernmental organization that convenes policymakers and religious actors as peers to encourage dialogue between people who may never meet or cooperate, to talk out their problems, especially if there is a cultural or religious issue at stake. The Centre welcomes people of all religions and cultures.



Our Council of Parties is composed of the **REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA**, **KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA** and **KINGDOM OF SPAIN** with the **HOLY SEE** as a Founding Observer

OUR VISION

Our vision is a world in which there is respect, understanding and cooperation among people; justice, peace and reconciliation; and an end to the abuse of religion to justify repression, violence and conflict.

The Centre is proud to have a diverse, **MULTICULTURAL TEAM** with **52** professional staff from **29 COUNTRIES**



The Board of Directors comprises prominent representatives from **5** major world religions – **BUDDHISM, CHRISTIANITY, HINDUISM, ISLAM** and **JUDAISM**



Our staff is **54% FEMALE** and **46% MALE**



The Centre has concluded **MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING** with **12** organizations



The Centre established a consultative body called the Advisory Forum with over **50** members from **DIVERSE RELIGIONS, RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND NGOs**



2 Declarations – the **VIENNA DECLARATION** and the **ATHENS DECLARATION** – signed by High Level religious leaders denouncing violence in the name of religion



We apply IRD for peace and reconciliation in **4** distinct scenarios – **ARAB REGION, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, NIGERIA** and **MYANMAR**



OUR ROLES

We help create the platforms, knowledge, and commitment that foster interreligious dialogue (IRD) and strengthen social cohesion in our focus countries.

We support international and national institutions in using IRD to work for **POSITIVE CHANGE**

We convene **RELIGIOUS LEADERS, POLICYMAKERS** and other stakeholders to engage in IRD

We create and disseminate knowledge on IRD to help achieve **PEACE** and **RECONCILIATION**



FOREWORD

KAICIID within the Global Framework

His Excellency Faisal Bin Muaammar, KAICIID Secretary General

The 2017 Report offers our stakeholders an annual update about the many ways in which we promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue to support peaceful coexistence, social cohesion and sustainable peace. We work closely with our Council of Parties, our multireligious Board of Directors and our geographically and religiously diverse Advisory Forum (page 11), as well as our international, national and local partners (page 36).



Our mandate – the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue – is motivated by our conviction that the shared human values that unite all religions, all faiths and all cultures around the world, are also a fundamental source of protection for human dignity and the equal worth of all human beings.

social cohesion through social media and education; with the European Commission on the social inclusion of migrants into European societies, and with the African Union on advocating for interreligious dialogue among its Member States.

In the five years since KAICIID was founded, we have observed a growing awareness of the importance of religious communities, and their leaders, in strengthening coexistence and common citizenship, and in achieving our shared aims, such as those of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Members of the international community and State governments increasingly rely on the networks and influence of religious communities to achieve these goals, and recognise that marginalising religious communities can often negatively impact peacebuilding and development goals. And, of course, the rise of conflicts fuelled by the manipulation of religion can logically only be addressed through the involvement of religious leaders and communities. The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), through its unique architecture as the only intergovernmental organization that is governed by religious leaders, has emerged as a key player in building bridges between religious leaders and policymakers to develop shared solutions.

At the same time, we have been working with religious leaders and their communities to strengthen their own interreligious understanding, and their ability to use dialogue to push back against all forms of discrimination based on religion or belief. In 2017 alone, we have trained approximately 1200 religious leaders and dialogue advocates in Europe, the Arab region, Africa and Asia. In many cases, the people we have trained go on to train others in their communities, creating a multiplier effect that spreads the culture of dialogue around the world.

Religion is a powerful motivating factor in human identity, and religious leaders have tremendous influence globally and locally. Interreligious dialogue helps us to recognise what we have in common with our neighbour, and that differences between us need not divide us. The platforms we have helped set up in the Arab region, the Central African Republic, Myanmar and Nigeria are examples of interreligious cooperation as a counterweight to the manipulation of religion for violence.

When policymakers understand the concerns of religious communities, and value their contributions, and vice versa, communities and societies benefit. In 2017, we worked with a wide variety of international partners: with the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect to help religious leaders prevent hate speech, incitement to violence and genocide; with UNESCO and UNDP on building

Together with our partners, and our growing network of religious leaders and their communities, we are committed to furthering our vision: a world in which there is respect, understanding and cooperation among people; and, an end to the abuse of religion to justify violence and conflict.

Members of the international community and State governments increasingly rely on the influence of religious communities to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals**

In 2017 alone, we trained approximately **1,200** religious leaders and dialogue advocates in Europe, the Arab region, Africa and Asia

Religion is a **powerful motivating factor** in human identity, and religious leaders have tremendous influence globally and locally



Strategic Focus on External Relations

Ambassador Alvaro Albacete, KAICIID Deputy Secretary General

In the past decade, political actors demonstrated an increased interest in and awareness of, the substantial role that religious actors can have in international relations and diplomacy. This has resulted in their inclusion in the programmatic activities and policy frameworks of some of the main international organizations and networks. The sensitization of international stakeholders to the potential that religious actors hold, has been progressively visible in areas of sustainable development, humanitarian aid, social cohesion, as well as peace and reconciliation.



The international community made significant steps towards acknowledging the positive role that religious leaders can play in the field of prevention and/or reconciliation. Above all, this is visible in conflicts where religion has been manipulated to justify violence. In this context, the cooperation between governmental and non-governmental actors emerges as a priority need, as the religious and interreligious matters have traditionally been addressed by NGOs.

In 2017, the Secretariat continued building a solid network of partners with cross-cutting strategic expertise, supporting KAICIID's aim to enhance its contribution to the field of interreligious dialogue, thus implementing its mandate. Effective working relations with the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations, and many other inter-governmental and regional institutions, contributed to a rich record of achievements of the Centre. As a positive effect, the Centre has increased its visibility in multilateral fora and has been energetically engaged with partners both internationally as well as in the field.

With its structural uniqueness, KAICIID represents the first international body that is mandated to bridge the gap between religious and political representatives and provide platforms for a facilitated dialogue between these two sets of actors towards constructive cooperation. KAICIID's external relations focus on the negotiation and implementation of activities which are designed to contribute to the international agendas such as the UN SDG 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063.

Encouraged by the positive response to KAICIID activities, both from partner organizations and participants of our dialogical events, we look towards 2018 with enthusiasm and readiness to continue promoting peace and social cohesion globally, by building partnerships to facilitate interreligious and intercultural dialogue locally.

In light of the above, the KAICIID External Relations priorities can be identified as: (a) development and coordination of effective cooperation with partner organizations (including the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations, etc.), (b) promotion of dialogue with non-Member States and (c) exchange of information and engagement with the Vienna-based diplomatic community.

Development and coordination of effective cooperation with partner organizations including the **African Union** the **European Union** and the **United Nations**

Building **global partnerships** to facilitate IRD and ICD

Exchange of information and engagement with the Vienna-based **diplomatic community**



Translating Strategy to Action in IRD

Fahad Abualnasr, KAICIID Director General

2017 was, in many ways, a year of volatility and change. The growing challenges of poverty, inequality, terrorism, displacement and conflict were met, in many parts of the world, with a return to the perceived safety of national borders and exclusionist rhetoric. Each of those problems are global in nature.



By bridging policymakers and religious leaders, we have attempted to help formulate inclusive solutions to these challenges. The continued support we have received from our Council of Parties is proof that religion, and interreligious dialogue, continues to be at the heart of the global agenda. In our partnerships with other multilateral organizations, civil society and policymakers, we see a growing interest in interreligious dialogue as one of the tools of diplomacy and conflict resolution.

our work highlighted the need for religious leaders to be at the heart of all peacebuilding efforts.

Under the KAICIID partnership with the UN Office on Genocide Prevention on the Plan of Action for Religious Leaders to Counter Hate Speech, and in partnership with the Islamic Cultural Centre and the London Mosque, we addressed the issues of countering discrimination, hate speech and hate crime and fostering social cohesion.

In the Arab region (see page 32) – a primary focus of our work – our programme to support peaceful Christian-Muslim coexistence has four key parts: the launch, in 2017, of the Network of Religious Faculties and Institutes in the Arab World, the first of its kind in the world; social media training for peace advocates seeking to spread dialogue instead of hate on the internet; our Fellows programme, which trains “ambassadors of dialogue” to build bridges of peace in their communities; and the umbrella organization which connects all these initiatives: a platform of the highest leadership of Christian and Muslim religious leaders in the region.

Our renewed strategic framework, developed in 2016 for a period of four years, guided our work towards a world in which there is respect, understanding and cooperation among people; justice, peace and reconciliation; and, an end to the abuse of religion to justify violence and conflict.

As we deepened our impact in parts of the world, we broadened it in others: reaching thousands of people in 2017 through our Fellows programme (see page 40), our youth programme (page 20), and our Programme for the Social Inclusion of People Seeking Refuge in Europe (page 19). We also launched a “Dialogue Knowledge Hub”, which makes multiple resources and online courses on interreligious dialogue freely available to everyone, anywhere in the world. We also expanded our outreach to our host community, with dozens of carefully-selected lectures and events at our historic Vienna headquarters.

In each of our focus areas, changing circumstances created new challenges, which we met with the support of our partners and religious leaders in those areas. In Myanmar (see page 26), where increasing violence threatened to destabilize communities, the KAICIID-supported Peaceful Myanmar Initiative, one of the country’s most prolific interreligious networks, was able to reach hundreds of people with its message of social cohesion and coexistence through numerous events and trainings. In Nigeria (see page 29), the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace, a platform of Christian and Muslim religious leaders supported efforts to draft a bill condemning hate speech in the country. In the Central African Republic (see page 28),

In order to be effective, the solutions to societal challenges need to be global and inclusive. The international community must work together to address our shared challenges. Religious leaders, and religious communities, need to be part of this effort. This is the belief that has sustained our work through 2017 and will continue to shape our work in the years to come.

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through our Fellows programme, our youth programme, and our programme for people seeking refuge in Europe



Dr. Hamad Al-Majed
Faculty Member, Imam Muhammad Bin Saud University



Dr. Kezevino Aram
President, Shanti Ashram



HE Bishop Miguel Ayuso
Titular Bishop of Luperciana, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue



HE Metropolitan Emmanuel
Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople



The Reverend Mark Poulson
Secretary for Interreligious Affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury and National Interreligious Affairs Adviser for the Church of England



Sheikh Ul-Islam A. Pashazade
Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims' Board, and Sheikh Ul-Islam of Caucasus



The Reverend Kosho Niwano
President-Designate Rissho Kosei-Kai



Chief Rabbi David Rosen
International Director of Interreligious Affairs, American Jewish Committee



Dr. Mohammad Sammak
Secretary-General of the National Committee for Christian-Muslim Dialogue



The Advisory Forum

Governance



The Centre is overseen through a multilateral governance structure: The Founding States of the Centre (Republic of Austria, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kingdom of Spain with the Holy See as a Founding Observer) constitute the “Council of Parties” responsible for overseeing the work of the Centre. The Board of Directors comprises high-level representatives of major world religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism).

Council of Parties

The Council of Parties is the organ of the Centre in which the Parties to the Centre’s Establishment Agreement are represented, with the Holy See attending as Founding Observer. The Council convenes at least once a year. Its functions include the election of members of the Board of Directors and the appointment of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General.

The Council of Parties adopts the Centre’s financial regulations, work programme and annual budget. The Council of Parties also, on the basis of proposals of the Board of Directors, nominates the members of major religions and faith-based and cultural institutions to the Advisory Forum.

It approves international agreements and the establishment of cooperative relationships with public or private entities that can contribute to the Centre’s work. The Council of Parties also decides on the admission of new parties and observers to the Agreement.

The Council of Parties has continuously supported the work of the Centre through, inter alia, organizing events with KAICIID’s participation (e.g. Informal Meetings among EU-28 on Dialogue of Cultures and Religions, held in May (Vienna, Austria), or the Madrid Conference on Victims of Ethnic and Religious Violence in the Middle East). Furthermore, representatives of the diplomatic entities of the Member States have been among the participants of various activities of the Centre around the world, including events from KAICIID’s Executive Management and Programmes departments. Most prominent being the attendance of the permanent representatives to the UN at the New York Launch of

the *Global Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent and Counter Incitement that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes*.

As the Centre’s host country, the Republic of Austria has actively supported the Centre’s local outreach activities as well as hosted multiple working meetings in view of exploring joint activities in Austria in 2018.

Board of Directors

The Centre’s Board Members have also contributed directly to the Centre’s programmes and activities, such as, inter alia, through the Social Inclusion for People Seeking Refuge in Europe programme (PSR) and the Dialogue Knowledge Hub (DKH) including its online course. Moreover, KAICIID’s Board Members have strengthened the overall visibility and credibility of the Centre by representing KAICIID at various prominent gatherings, including the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland; the Religious Summit Meeting in Mount Hiei, Japan; the International Meeting for Peace organised by the Community of Sant’Egidio in Muenster and Osnabrueck, Germany; and meetings co-organised by the EU.

In June 2017, the Centre warmly welcomed the addition of Dr. Kezevino Aram, Director of Shanti Ashram, a Gandhian centre for international development, learning and collaboration. The Centre was also pleased to welcome His Virtue Prof. Dr. Allahshukur Pashazade, who is the current Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims’ Board (CMB), and Sheikh ul-Islam of Caucasus, as the newest addition to the Board in November 2017.

Advisory Forum

Taking opportunity of the vast knowledge pool of the Members of the Advisory Forum, the Secretariat has actively engaged Members to be part of its activities, the latest example being the Interfaith Symposium organized by KAICIID and the Islamic Cultural Centre of London in November 2017 in which the Forum Vice-Chair held a keynote speech. In addition, on numerous occasions, the Secretariat has sought the support of the Forum’s Members to develop and facilitate their activities, e.g. during the organization of the International Interreligious Encounter in Buenos Aires in early October.

The Framework of KAICIID IRD

KAICIID's wide and expanding operation in 2017 reflects the growing global and institutional interest toward the positive role that religious agencies and actors can play in interreligious dialogue and social cohesion.

Several lessons and assumptions can guide interventions in interreligious dialogue (IRD). First, religious agencies and actors have an important role to play in responding to the social, cultural, and political problems facing their societies. Second, there is a gap between policymaking institutions and processes driven by secular ideology/culture and their religious constituencies. This gap limits the capacity of policymakers to generate and implement effective solutions to complex problems such as the perception of prejudice, discrimination, violent extremism, the environment, etc. It also marginalizes and excludes religious agencies from contributing to effective solutions.

Third, bridging religious institutions and leaders in public spheres (governance, culture, economic development, etc.) is still a major challenge, as both parties need to be engaged equitably in order to encourage best practices for peaceful and inclusive solutions. Thus the Centre works with partners to establish the correct balance in these areas.

Fourth, the manipulation of religious identity to justify violence and exclusion has been, and is being done, by all faith communities. Violence in the name of religion is not exclusive to one faith. On the contrary, when we adopt this type of narrow narrative, we harm our efforts to build inclusive and just societies. As an intergovernmental organization with a multi-religious Board of Directors and Advisory Forum representing the major religions of the world, KAICIID's strategy works to foster interreligious dialogue with a multitude of actors across the globe, to contribute to peace processes, and foster social cohesion.

To that end, the Centre has focused on creating spaces to foster IRD in conflict areas. With a methodology of non-violence, inclusivity, and dialogue, the programming has specifically focused on conflict regions within Asia, Africa and the MENA region. While the central programming has targeted four focus areas, namely the Arab region, Central African Republic, Myanmar, and Nigeria, the work that the Centre has implemented has a further reach in each of these regions. The programmes are not only designed to foster peace, but also to strengthen regional social cohesion as a way to prevent future violence. Over the course of the last year, KAICIID has supported and built interreligious platforms in each of the focus countries, as well as launched a network of interreligious faculties in the Arab region. Furthermore, the Centre has expanded its Social Media Programme to include trainings beyond Iraq in countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia.

In all of these activities, KAICIID has worked with well-established partners such as the AU, Interfaith Mediation Centre, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, OIC, and UNDP. These partnerships help build bridges between religious actors and institutions, by strengthening engagement between the two, and holding dialogue as a main component.

In 2017, at the UN Headquarters in New York, KAICIID was especially honoured to work with the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect, the World Council of Churches, and the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, to launch a *Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes*. Shortly thereafter, the Centre completed the first projects of the Plan of Action's implementation, which are outlined on "UN Plan of Action" on page 46.



Beyond formal partnerships, KAICIID worked diligently in 2017 to build the capacity of individuals in dialogue. In October, the Centre celebrated the graduation of its fifth cohort of Fellows, marking 153 graduates since the programme began in 2014. The KAICIID International Fellows Network has developed a virtual platform so that alumni can continue to exchange ideas and work together long after graduation. This year also marked the launching of the second regional cohort – the Arab Fellows.

The KAICIID Scouts programme, which partners with the World Organization of the Scout Movement, is designed to bridge the secular and the religious, as well as women and youth. Over the last year, the Scouts Programme launched the Dialogue Badge Programme, and trained scores of Scouts in dialogue. Moreover, the programme implemented the first dialogue projects with Scouts from the Eurasia Region and began planning the first collaboration with WAGGGS.

KAICIID also worked to develop and disseminate knowledge on IRD through educational platforms. In 2017, the Centre launched the KAICIID Dialogue

Knowledge Hub, a virtual database of IRD e-resources. With this tool, researchers and practitioners can examine best practices in IRD and directly learn from other active practitioners of IRD.

Despite the above achievements, KAICIID is deeply aware of the pressing needs and existing gaps in the field of ICD/IRD. The Centre aims to intensify our investments, along with other partners, in order to address them. These challenges include: the need to increase youth engagement in IRD; the need to increase the institutional representation of women in IRD; and the need for more concrete tools and mechanisms to facilitate constructive linkages between policymakers and religious agencies and actors.

The Centre plans to continue to highlight these gaps as priority areas in 2018 for further collaboration with KAICIID partners, in order to strategically target efforts toward effective solutions.

"With a methodology of non-violence, inclusivity, and dialogue, the Centre has focused on conflict regions within Asia, Africa and the MENA region, to create spaces to foster IRD."



LEARNING

Educating and training people on dialogue and mutual understanding

Interreligious and intercultural dialogue (IRD/ICD) is a growing field of theory and practice, the tools and methods of which KAICIID seeks to develop, further professionalize and teach. Across its activities, KAICIID has built upon and improved its educational and training programmes. The Centre offers IRD courses and activities, as well as regularly participates in initiatives to improve educational resources in conflict situations. Our aim is to teach, train and inform people about IRD as a means to transform exclusion into inclusion, misunderstanding into respect and conflict into peace.

The Centre seeks to build the capacity of individuals and institutions from youth to elder, grassroots to highest levels, KAICIID staff to stakeholders, to facilitate dialogue and to train further dialogue facilitators. Some are new to IRD, and others are already facilitators who share our vision of promoting and integrating IRD as an indispensable part of improving peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

Manuals and Tools for Interreligious Dialogue
2017 was a significant milestone in KAICIID's development and implementation of educational resources and knowledge sharing to support and facilitate training.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Launched in 2016, through a major Intra-Muslim dialogue conference organized in Vienna, the CAR country programme seeks to foster an environment in which religious actors work together to contribute towards building trust, reconciliation, and sustainable peace in their local communities and across the country.



A Dialogue Facilitation Training Manual was developed in the Central African Republic (CAR) and piloted in Bangui at the first of four Training of the Trainer (ToT) sessions conducted in May 2017. The manual, which was given out to participants for use at future trainings, focuses on intercommunal dialogue, as well as on dialogue and training skills. It is also complemented by a user's guide to facilitate the trainer's implementation of a given workshop.

Myanmar

KAICIID's engagement in Myanmar aims to support the development of IRD platforms in the country, advocate for policy changes for the rights of religious minorities in Myanmar and promote IRD through targeted activities with key stakeholders.



In a country facing daunting interethnic and interreligious challenges, the KAICIID supported Peaceful Myanmar Initiative (PMI) published a Myanmar-focused **STUDY GUIDE FOR DIALOGUE AND PEACE**. This interreligious dialogue and conflict resolution manual (available in Burmese and English) is a reference tool for peace educators in the country, who facilitated dialogue trainings and other capacity building activities in their communities. It also served as an essential tool for the PMI, which focused on training a network of interreligious dialogue advocates to promote social cohesion in their communities. The study guide explored the roles of religious identity in conflict and conflict transformation, and assisted participants with acquiring practical skills and methods in facilitating IRD and promoting social cohesion.

In addition, a number of Fellows Alumni worked together to develop an **IRD TOOLKIT FOR THE SOUTH-SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION**, and three Myanmar members of the 2017 KAICIID International Fellows Cohort trained 84 young religious leaders and Buddhist monks in Intrafaith Dialogue, Trauma Healing and Peacebuilding.

The KAICIID International Fellows Programme

brings together leaders and educators from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and other religious backgrounds from around the world for training in dialogue facilitation, intercultural communication and promoting social cohesion. The programme equips Fellows with the skills to educate their students and communities about IRD so they can become active peace advocates in their communities.



KAICIID has developed a **MANUAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS AS A SPACE FOR DIALOGUE**, which includes various training strategies, such as: group work, role play, simulations, practical exercises, presentation skills and interactive learning strategies. The draft manual was fine-tuned through a series of trainings implemented by KAICIID with various partners since 2015 throughout the Arab region. It was further tested during TOTs, including the September training in Tunisia (in collaboration with UNDP) which was a follow-up to the initial training in Tunisia in February 2017. Feedback from trainees as well as case studies from their previous experience has been implemented into the manual.

KAICIID Programmes for Youth

With more than 50 million members active around the world, the Scouts represent the largest youth generation in history and are key leaders as well as a positive force for peace. Together, KAICIID and the Scouts work together to support young people in promoting peace through dialogue with the Dialogue for Peace Programme. Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and first dialogue training, the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and KAICIID have trained more than 1000 Scouts from all six scouting regions.



Under the umbrella of KAICIID's Arab Region Programme

the Centre established the Network of Religious Faculties and Institutes in the Arab World, in order to initiate dialogue between Muslim and Christian scholars. KAICIID and UNESCO also partner to promote dialogue in formal and non-formal education, such as through the Global Citizenship Education (GCED) programme, as well as the establishment of the Arab States Regional GCED Network. The GCED Network connects representatives working on GCED, and a forms a community of practice for monitoring, data collection and evaluation.



Dialogue Knowledge Hub

“The Dialogue Knowledge Hub is a step towards achieving KAICIID’s mission to enhance interreligious and intercultural dialogue. The more people practice interreligious dialogue, the more effective it is. The more people can participate in shared activities with those of other religions, the less likely they are to view others with fear or suspicion, or tolerate racism or xenophobia in their communities.”

Professor Patrice Brodeur, KAICIID Senior Adviser

The DKH offers a three-credit bachelor degree course that can be offered at any academic institution as part of an ongoing collaboration with renowned universities such as the University of Montreal, the Complutense University of Madrid and the Institute for the Sciences of Religions in Barcelona. All of the course materials are accessible online and participants can follow along from the comfort of their own homes. The course is currently available in both French and English.

“ This class was a source of personal, spiritual and social enrichment for me. I feel like I have more tools to become a better world citizen. I want to become a peace maker.
Annie Altidor

After taking the online course, Ms. Altidor decided to change her field of study from theology, and to apply for a DESS (Master’s Degree) in Spiritual Intervention. She was successfully accepted into the programme and her professional future is now intertwined with interreligious dialogue.

In November 2017, marking the five year anniversary of the Centre, KAICIID launched the Dialogue Knowledge Hub (DKH). The newest addition to KAICIID’s virtual presence serves as a resource for leaders of religious communities, policymakers, researchers, teachers, journalists, students, and anyone seeking to promote IRD in their communities. The database also provides compelling

evidence of the positive contribution of IRD to achieving development goals. Innovative and educational, it is the first e-resource of its kind to incorporate a wide variety of databases for actors and organizations engaged in IRD. Furthermore, its diverse and balanced approach to gender, religious representation and geographical reach in terms of its data

gathering methodology makes it a credible and comprehensive resource. The DKH tools include: The interactive online **Peace Map** of the world illustrates the diversity of work in IRD, showcasing different organizations and their activities around the world to promote conflict resolution, development, education, and human rights.

Drawn from KAICIID’s network of beneficiaries, the **Promising Practices** database is a library of innovative, tested activity ideas and implementation instructions to support anyone who wants to practice IRD in his/her own community or across the globe. **Dialogue Voices** is a global mosaic of religious leaders’ and

dialogue experts’ viewpoints on the importance of IRD. These inspiring voices explore how and why IRD is practiced around the world. The DKH **Statements for Peaceful Coexistence** is a collection of positive and powerful statements from religious leaders and institutions of the five major world religions. It serves as a strong refutation to the

allegation that people of faith are silent in the face of violence in the name of religion. The **Almanac of Cyclical IRD Events and Interfaith Calendars** is a comprehensive calendar of dates of key significance from a variety of religions, and important interreligious events.



ARAB REGION: In 2017, **71** young religious leaders, social media activists and dialogue practitioners were trained on using Social Media as Space for Dialogue. **15** of them have been trained to utilize the manual as trainers

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: **180** community leaders were trained on intercommunal dialogue facilitation. **32** imams were trained on the theological basis of dialogue in Islam

MYANMAR: **352** religious leaders and civil society activists have been trained on promoting peace and interfaith harmony, through the Peaceful Myanmar Initiative (PMI) network and through a pool of 16 dedicated PMI “Peace Educators”

NIGERIA: **24** religious representatives were trained on IRD for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation

Together with WOSM, KAICIID has developed a set of four educational manuals to provide Scouts with tools for dialogue facilitation and training. These include the **BUILDING BRIDGES GUIDE FOR DIALOGUE AMBASSADORS**, which frames dialogue theory and application for Scouting, and the **DIALOGUE BADGE HANDBOOK** both finalized and due to be published in early 2018. Additionally, the **FACILITATOR MANUAL** and the **SCOUT DIALOGUE TRAINER MANUAL** which offer knowledge, exercises and practical tips on facilitating and training others in dialogue, were also developed in 2017 and are expected to be published in late 2018. These educational materials are designed to help Scouts expand the Dialogue for Peace Programme within Scouting and beyond.

Training to Transform

KAICIID held numerous TOT workshops and activities around the globe in 2017, which equipped participants with the necessary skills to be trainers in IRD. The trainings have been implemented in order to build a sustainable pool of certified trainers in dialogue techniques, able to disseminate their skills and put their knowledge at the service of their respective communities. During the ToT workshops, participants learned to evaluate conflict dynamics and to create a safe space for dialogue through which to address a particular issue. Additional techniques of dialogue included strategic listening and problem solving, and fostering successful conditions for dialogue.

In 2017, 71 participants from the Maghreb countries (Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia and Libya) and Lebanon were trained and equipped with the skills to use social media as a space for dialogue, strengthen social cohesion and promote mutual trust and peaceful



The Programme for the Social Inclusion of People Seeking Refuge in Europe (PSR)

launched in February 2017, strives to support refugee integration through dialogue-based projects. Like the EU Common Basic Principles of Immigration Integration Policy, KAICIID recognises that integration is a two-way process, and seeks to enhance the integration capacity of both people seeking refuge and European host communities.



coexistence. Fifteen of them have been trained to utilize the manual as trainers. This group will be part of a larger pool of social media trainers formed from across the Arab world. In addition, participants have developed their own campaigns (10 in total, in addition to a regional campaign) to promote dialogue, common citizenship and social cohesion in their respective countries. The trainers, with KAICIID support, are expected to establish a network of dialogue practitioners using social media to promote dialogue and social cohesion. This training programme is a continuation of the 2015 programme launched in Amman, which included trainings in Jordan, Egypt and Iraq and trained approximately 420 people in the Arab region.

Moreover, the KAICIID International Fellows Programme (KIFP) is based on the premise that by providing select leaders and educators with the knowledge, skills, and practice related to IRD and peacebuilding/conflict resolution, they will be empowered to take an active role as leaders, trainers, and resource persons for dialogue in their communities. Additionally, the Fellows serve as focal points for implementing IRD training and education in their affiliated institutions.

This year, 48 new international Fellows participated in three residential trainings and various online sessions designed to build their capacity to mentor and train their students and followers in IRD. Approximately 70% of respondents to post-training surveys indicated their



about the law, culture and society, but do not often have the opportunity to dialogue about it, especially in their mother tongue. KAICIID's pilot initiative **PROJECT INTEGRATION THROUGH DIALOGUE** provides this opportunity (see Section: Transforming, page 33). The first step in bringing this initiative to life was to recruit and train four Austrian women, who have roots in either Syria or Afghanistan, in the art of dialogue design and facilitation. Starting in March 2017, the team began facilitating dialogues among groups of Arabic-, Farsi-/Dari- and Pashtun-speaking groups of asylum-seekers and refugees in Vienna, and conducted over 180 individual dialogue sessions reaching over 160 participants. Based on their training and work with KAICIID, the team developed a toolkit containing plans and activities which will be piloted through early 2018. As the project continues to grow, the team will continue to serve as trainers and mentors for newcomers in Vienna, as well as mentors to future dialogue facilitators working with people seeking refuge in Europe.

training experience altered earlier assumptions and gave them a greater appreciation of the role of identities which influence the dynamics of IRD. Furthermore, the majority of Fellows indicated a readiness to work toward putting their skills into practice in their institutions.

Incorporating dialogue into the Scout movement is KAICIID's flagship programme for youth. Educating youth in dialogue helps them to contribute to building a more just society. In this context, KAICIID's work with WOSM – the largest youth movement in the world – is a logical step in developing a broad and sustainable youth programme at the Centre. The main educational element of KAICIID's collaboration with WOSM resides within the jointly developed Dialogue for Peace programme of trainings.

In 2017, this programme provided trainings to over 150 Scouts, 25 of whom received ToT certification as the first step toward becoming dialogue trainers. This reflects the continuity and growth of the programme as over the two previous years 200 Scouts and 30 trainers received training.

Certification for Scout Dialogue Trainers is based on a strict set of criteria, including dialogue knowledge, training delivery style, dialogue facilitation skills as well as cultural and diversity management, designed to ensure high quality trainings and knowledge transfer. In Vienna, asylum seekers have access to information

Online learning and resources

The rapid creation and advancement of communication tools has dramatically changed lives, redefining perceptions and self-perceptions.

Knowledge generation is now moving from multi-disciplinarity to interdisciplinarity, with new fields of interdisciplinary knowledge emerging daily. One such field is IRD. While it is a scientific field of study, it can be applied to everyday human life, within all contexts and for all situations, and never so urgently as in conflict.

As IRD becomes a critical tool for creating social cohesion in the 21st century, the interest in and need for credible online resources increases daily. Previously,



only a few accredited e-learning resources on IRD existed. To meet the need, KAICIID developed the **DIALOGUE KNOWLEDGE HUB (DKH)** which is a comprehensive, open-access, online platform offering 10 e-tools (see page 17).

Each and every one of the DKH e-tools contributes to a sustainable and significant increase in knowledge or awareness of users interested in IRD worldwide. Through these e-tools, solid knowledge on IRD is taught (e.g. the online course), updated processed-data on IRD are rendered accessible (e.g. databases), and awareness around IRD is raised (e.g. Almanac, calendars).

Studies – needs assessments, baseline studies, situation reports

In addition to providing educational materials, training, and online resources, the Centre aims to identify gaps within the current IRD framework, and give specific recommendations to strengthen the established dialogue platforms' role in promoting mutual respect and expanding IRD advocacy activities.

KAICIID conducted **DIAGNOSTIC AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDIES** in 2017 for the Centre's four focus countries and regions, gathering data from research, desk review and interviews. The studies offer a comprehensive analysis of conflict situations and drivers including socio-economic issues, the politicization of religion, the lack of IRD knowledge and capacities, etc. Focusing on the religious landscape, as well as mapping national and international actors involved in IRD activities, the studies provide relevant recommendations to better position the Centre and increase its contribution to peace and reconciliation. This is particularly true for the areas of convergence of interreligious efforts, education in interreligious dialogue as well as prevention of hate speech.

Furthermore, the baseline study titled, **SURVEY ON SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT IN SCOUTING ANALYSIS REPORT** improved understanding of spiritual development element in Scouting and served as a solid basis for corresponding resolutions made during the 41st World Scout Conference. The report was based on in-depth analysis of data received from online surveys carried out by WOSM and provides valuable contextual data on the strength and the challenges faced by Scouts in the sphere of spiritual development.

In 2017 KAICIID conducted post-graduation surveys of 2015 and 2016 Fellows alumni (with a participation rate of approximately 60%). 100% responded that KIFP training made a lasting contribution to their learning and professional development.

Moreover, 98% indicated that the training positively changed the way they viewed their role in their institution or community and in many cases the way their colleagues and peers viewed them.

One 2017 Fellow reported:
 "One of the unexpected ways that KIFP changed me was pushing my thinking in a much more international direction. I had thought that I already was very internationally minded, but the truth is that having few colleagues working outside of North America and Western Europe, it was easy to overlook the vastly important work that is happening in other parts of the world. I hope to encourage my institution and community to be more intentional about forming international partnerships so that we can learn from our colleagues who are working in different contexts around the world, and also build relationships with one another."



CONNECTING

Establishing a global hub for interreligious and intercultural dialogue

KAICIID believes that religious communities should be actively involved in building peace in their societies. When religious communities and their leadership are closely connected to each other, and are able to work together to implement concrete initiatives for the common good of all people in the country, the benefits of multi-religious cooperation go beyond the immediate, and result in better understanding of the Other, closer interlinkages with policymakers, and increased social cohesion.

This cooperative action by members of the various platforms and networks is designed to foster peace and reconciliation. Another result of this cooperative action is the generation of a comprehensive body of knowledge on IRD for peaceful coexistence and social cohesion in conflict situations and linkages to the broader field of IRD in general.

KAICIID works with religious and non-religious actors by facilitating dialogical platforms. As a bridge-builder and connector, using IRD dialogue as its methodology, KAICIID strives to ensure maximum possible inclusion of all the world’s mainstream religious and spiritual traditions into its activities and programmes.

In this context, KAICIID is creating diverse IRD platforms and networks in conflict situations and at the regional/global level that generate deep and robust processes of dialogue on the causes of, and potential solutions to, conflict. These platforms act as connecting spaces through which individuals and institutions can engage with one another in order to exchange knowledge. As a result, mutual understanding as well as respect and trust among and between religious leaders and policymakers, including issues relating to universal human rights, is enhanced.

Central African Republic

The CAR Country Programme supports the CAR Interfaith Platform, which was established in 2014 by three of the most senior religious leaders in country. The Platform contributes to the reduction of intercommunal tensions and the establishment of lasting peace in CAR. The Platform’s leaders were supported by KAICIID in 2017 to conduct country-wide advocacy efforts for peace and reconciliation in conflict-affected areas, through seven Quick Impact



KAICIID believes that religious communities should be actively involved in building peace in their societies

Projects (QIPs). In addition, the follow-up Intra-Muslim Committee formed after the Intra-Muslim Conference, hosted at KAICIID headquarters in 2016, was supported over the past year in their efforts to unify the Muslim leaders and develop their capacities to participate in national reconciliation efforts and to engage in IRD with the Christian community.

The CAR Country Programme also implemented, in collaboration with the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and the OIC, a “Round Table on the Role of Religious and Community Leaders in the Implementation of the Peace Agreements in the Central African Republic”. The Round Table convened over 20 religious and community leaders from both the Christian and the Muslim communities, as well as observers, including representatives of the CAR government, and defined their contribution to the implementation of the previous peace agreements. All stakeholders endorsed the resulting Action Plan, emphasizing the commitment of the international community.

Myanmar

In 2017, the Centre focused its efforts in Myanmar, operationalizing the PMI as a multireligious and inclusive network to serve sustainable networks and platforms. These Burmese-led activities were designed to build bridges between diverse religious, ethnic, political and regional communities. The PMI comprises approximately 50 prominent religious leaders from various traditions (Buddhists, Christians, Hindus and Muslims) and CSOs, which aim to promote peaceful dialogue across Myanmar, including in Rakhine State. In 2017, the PMI has become one of the most inclusive and active IRD networks in Myanmar. As a result, other networks joined the PMI in organizing high-impact activities. Over 500 people were directly involved in three large scale events, while another 84 participated directly in three pilot initiatives in three focus areas.

In May, the PMI led interfaith conference brought together over 200 participants, which formed an interfaith network spanning all seven Mandalay districts and issued a list of recommendations for future work with IRD. In September 2017, the PMI organized and successfully launched a large scale event

in celebration of the International Peace Day. Nineteen local organizations and networks presented their work on promoting interfaith harmony in the country for several hundred attendees. Moreover, the PMI network facilitated a national-level interfaith dialogue event in Yangon in December, bringing together 200 policymakers and religious leaders from across the country, making it historically, the first nation-wide interfaith forum.

Nigeria

As part of the Centre’s commitment to creating platforms, a KAICIID-supported inclusive IRD platform was launched in January 2017 to address contentious issues and promote peaceful coexistence in Nigeria. As a country with almost equal distribution of Muslims and Christians, IRD is at the core of peaceful intercommunal coexistence. The inauguration of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace of Nigeria (IDFP) took place in January 2017 along with its official registration in October, and includes up to 100 representatives of all Muslim and Christian denominations in Nigeria. Its General Assembly meets once a year and has elected 40 members into the Central Coordination Council (CCC), which meets quarterly for the coordination and development of interfaith initiatives in the context of its six working groups (Advocacy and Sensitization, Gender and Child Rights, Legislation, Media and Publicity, Early Warning Early Response as well as Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning).

The Executive Committee oversees and guides the implementation of the Action Plan adopted in January 2017, which focuses on establishing interreligious networks to promote IRD and peaceful coexistence;



Women seeking refuge have enormous potential and need to be at the heart of the integration process

developing religious education programmes and tools; conducting advocacy efforts and promoting IRD and social cohesion; sensitizing religious leaders and the general public on dialogue and peaceful coexistence; as well as addressing violent extremism and hatred.

Arab Region

In 2017, the Arab Region Programme established a regional platform, the Network of Religious Faculties and Institutes in the Arab World (NRFI), tasked to promote and initiate academic dialogue and exchanges between Muslim and Christian scholars to develop a scientific approach that fosters religious and cultural diversity in the Arab world. The first meeting of the NRFI steering committee took place in December 2017. KAICIID also succeeded in 2017 in laying the foundation for the establishment of an IRD umbrella platform in the Arab region, tasked with coordinating interreligious initiatives and dialogue efforts in the region. “The Regional Dialogue Platform for Religious Leaders and Institutions in the Arab World” went through a consultative process with religious leaders in the Arab region in preparation for its official launch during KAICIID’s Second High-Level Meeting “Interreligious Dialogue for Peace: Promoting Peaceful Coexistence and Common Citizenship”, which took place in February 2018. As a preparatory step in this process, KAICIID organized a two-day consultation in December 2017 to agree on the creation and the functioning modalities of the regional platform.

Fellows

KAICIID Fellows establish deep bonds during training and KAICIID continues to facilitate building relationships through the KAICIID Fellows Network (KFN). KFN is a professional alumni network which expanded from 64 to 112 members in 2017. The network supports the continued development and education of Fellows by facilitating new opportunities to build and practice their skills and experience in the field and to share experience and expertise with their peers. In 2017, KAICIID facilitated opportunities for Fellows to participate in important international forums and academic conferences of other important organizations including: Caux Forum, 2017 G-20 Interfaith Summit, Partnership on Religion and Development and more.

The KFN connects alumni through the KAICIID Fellows Online Platform, an interactive virtual hub launched this year, designed to meet the professional development and learning needs of a rapidly growing global community. Through the platform, Fellows remain connected with KAICIID and one another and access and share important updates, information and resources related to IRD.

The development of a South, SouthEast Asia IRD toolkit was initiated in 2017 by KFN members who volunteered to work together to draft and edit a



user friendly regional IRD toolkit. The toolkit aims to provide useful contextual information on IRD and summary analysis on countries in the region. It includes important contextual information and useful tips for engaging in IRD, drawn from existing good practice case-studies from countries throughout the region. The toolkit is expected to be finalized in 2018.

In December, KFN Members from Europe, UK and the Americas held a conference which focused on the cooperation between religious leaders and policymakers to improve social cohesion in urban areas in the Transatlantic countries. The conference was hosted by Temple University Dialogue Institute in cooperation with KAICIID and will result in a special publication of the Journal of Ecumenical Studies in 2018.

Social Inclusion of People Seeking Refuge in Europe

In recent months, European voters and institutions have demonstrated concern about how asylum policies will affect development and social cohesion in the next generation. Young people seeking refuge have tremendous potential, but also face enormous challenges and may become vulnerable to exploitation, including by those espousing extreme political or religious views.

Dialogue between sectors is key. Faith-based organizations (FBOs) and religious organizations have played significant roles in supporting refugee youth, and have developed expertise and best practices that should be considered by policymakers and other stakeholders. At the same time, FBOs working at the grassroots level should have access to research, tools and resources developed in other countries or at a European level. They can also learn from peers facing similar challenges in other countries.

In December 2017, KAICIID and the European Commission Representation in Austria co-hosted a Youth Roundtable followed by an Experts’ Workshop on “Educating to Understand the Other: Faith-based Support for Young People Seeking Refuge,” in order to better understand youth perspectives, identify challenges and create recommendations. Workshop attendees formulated a number of recommendations, including the creation of a network of practice for grassroots organizations working on inclusion and dialogue for young people seeking refuge in host communities.

Myanmar

“We emphasize the urgent need for initiatives and efforts to aid all those who are suffering in Myanmar, and to rebuild the trust between our communities, so that Myanmar may once more be a country where people of different religions and cultures live in harmony, side by side.”

Peaceful Myanmar Initiative

Myanmar, the second largest country in SouthEast Asia, with around 56.8 million inhabitants, is a country facing both political and economic transition. It struggles with identity issues along ethnic and religious lines (with more than 135 recognized ethnic groups). A number of violent attacks target the Muslim community in various parts of the country, particularly in Rakhine State.

“ A key goal of the PMI is to establish and support sustainable dialogue between religions and communities. We do so by supporting interfaith forums and by inclusive dialogue events and peace celebrations. All of these are aimed at supporting harmony and trust. Anders Frantzen, Programme Manager

In September 2017, the KAICIID-supported platform Peaceful Myanmar Initiative (PMI) gathered representatives of diverse religious organizations in Myanmar along with CSOs in a powerful demonstration of interreligious solidarity and cohesion.

Hosted in Yangon, the International Peace day event, promoted interreligious solidarity and peacebuilding in Myanmar. This year’s event was particularly important in the context of escalating violence which has left thousands dead, and hundreds of thousands displaced, homeless or forced into refugee camps.

In February 2017, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report which spoke of the “devastating cruelty” deployed against the Rohingyas by Myanmar’s security forces; documenting serious human rights violations. In August 2017, another surge of violence resulted in over 1,000 people killed, according to the UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar.

In this context, the International Peace Day, drew considerable attention, not only from CSOs and PMI network partners from across Myanmar working to promote peace, but also from local government officials and state media.

Although some CSOs and NGOs based in Yangon withdrew official attendance due to the risk of violent backlash, more than 250 registered visitors attended and more than twenty CSOs and religious organizations exhibited their grassroots projects to promote peace and participated in discussions about building peace and social cohesion.

“Holding celebrations of peace and having different religions together in the same place and the same time is the only way to promote peace and stability through dialogue,” U Sein Di Ta, PMI Member and Head of the Asia Light Foundation said.

The event also included theatre and musical performances by young people, which called on the people of Myanmar to unite by overcoming their differences and appreciating one another’s unique talents and contributions.

At a panel discussion moderated by Khin Sandar, a KAICIID Fellow and peace advocate in Myanmar, local expert Daw Nan Shan, the Programme Director at the Shalon Foundation; U Ohn Maung, a legal advocate and General Secretary at the Peace Cultivation Network; and Daw Phyu Phyu Thin, member of Parliament at Pyithu Hluttaw,

discussed ways in which CSOs and religious organizations could help restore community relations, which have been severely damaged by the ongoing crisis.

Religious organizations can reach a large number of people, and can combat hate speech and incitement to violence, acting as an early warning system in areas where intercommunal tensions threaten to erupt into violence.

Compared to a year ago, local stakeholders today are more aware of interfaith projects and the work of the PMI. Many stakeholders

indicate that the PMI network has become the most inclusive and active IRD platform in the country, and a network with which other networks want to cooperate to advance IRD and peace projects in Myanmar.

In October, the State Counsellors Office called KAICIID’s Country Expert to request him to attend a meeting on how the National League for Democracy (NLD) Government can implement a “nationwide interfaith peace campaign”. Such a request, regardless of what it may lead to, would have been unheard of only a few months ago.

TRANSFORMING

Promoting social cohesion in focus areas

KAICIID sees ICD and IRD as important tools to prevent or transform conflict by changing perception and understanding. Conflict is often associated with violence; yet, in reality, all human relationships are affected by conflict, which is not always negative. Instead, conflict can provide opportunities to strengthen relationships between people.

To that end, KAICIID uses dialogue to build understanding between people involved in conflict – either to prevent conflict escalation at the stages of difference or disagreement, or to transform conflict at the stages of rehabilitation or reconciliation. Dialogue and conflict transformation do not replace the processes of conflict resolution or management. Instead they help prevent violence from occurring or re-occurring by strengthening social cohesion through trust and understanding.

Furthermore, cultural and religious identities are often mobilized for political purposes, which may result in stereotyping, discrimination, and hatred that contribute to incitement or that prevent reconciliation. Therefore, the Centre focuses on ICD and IRD, which bridge people across religious and cultural lines, and which acknowledge those identities.

Sub-Saharan Africa CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The CAR has been in crisis since conflict broke out in early 2013 over the ousting of Francois Bozizé by Michel Djotodia, with over one million people displaced due to violence perpetrated along religious and ethnic divides. In this context, KAICIID is pushing for the establishment of operational and sustainable mechanisms that strengthen the capacity of the religious leaders (with an initial focus on the Muslim community) to prevent violence and engage in interreligious dialogue for reconciliation.

In partnership with members of the CAR Interfaith Platform, KAICIID implemented several IRD initiatives in 2017 aimed at sensitizing the general population and reducing tensions in targeted areas.

The initiatives were in direct response to the Action Plan from the 2016 Vienna Conference which highlighted the need to (1) establish inclusive

mechanisms that strengthen the capacity of CAR religious and community leaders to successfully engage with each other in IRD for peace and reconciliation, (2) provide an early warning mechanism to monitor, mitigate and prevent interreligious violence in conflict areas; and (3) call for the development of religious actors' capacity to coordinate and conduct interreligious initiatives.

The Centre also conducted a diagnostic and needs assessment study to map IRD actors and identify eventual gaps to be addressed by KAICIID and its

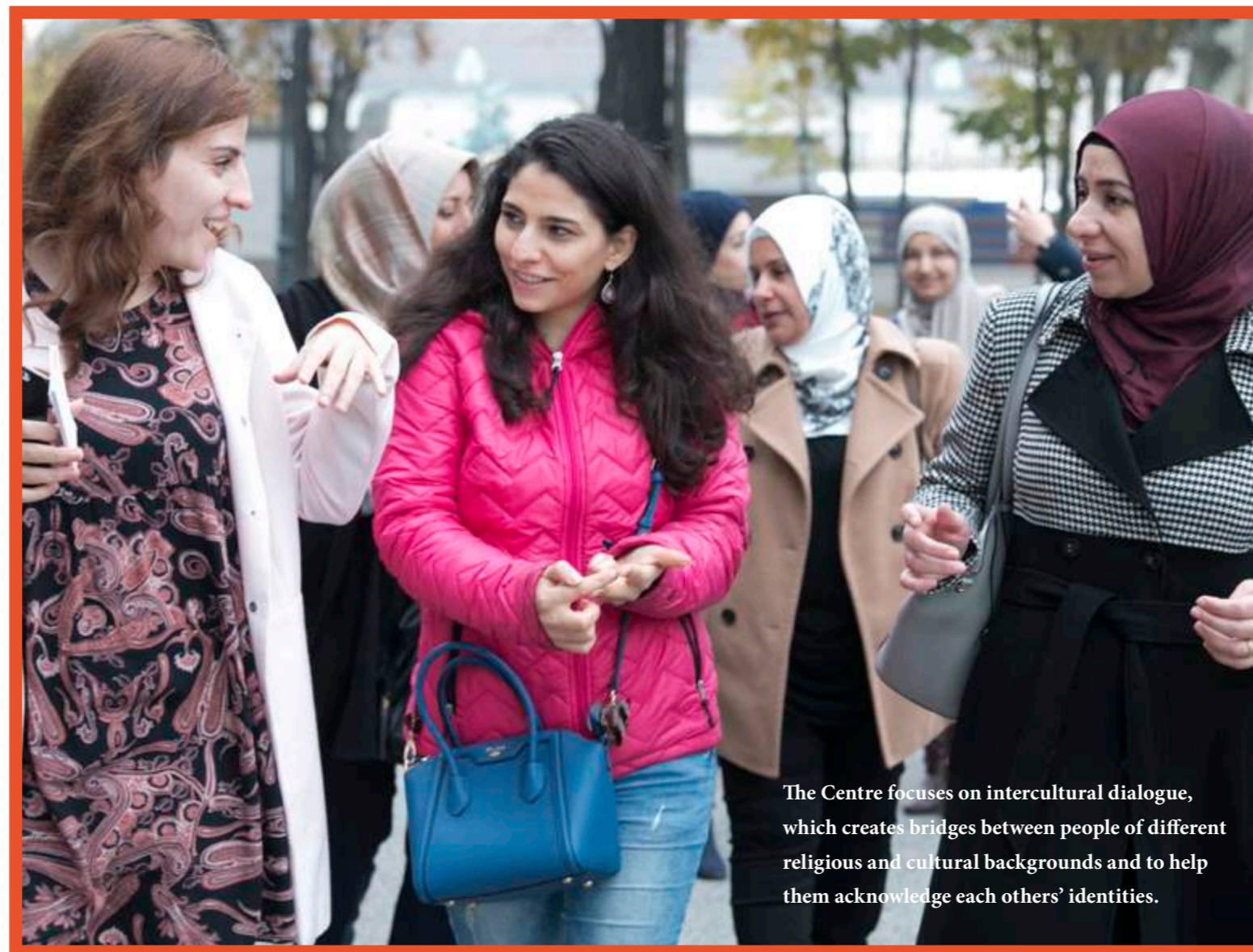
partners. Based on the identified needs and building upon the positive interaction with CAR government officials and key partners in the country, the Centre and its partners OIC and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers held a roundtable in Dakar to discuss the religious and community leaders' contribution to the implementation of the peace agreements signed previously by the CAR stakeholders. This initiative is designed to support religious and community leaders in the implementation of Dakar Action Plan, with its concrete activities designed to help end violence and build lasting peace in the country.

NIGERIA

Rising tensions along religious, regional, ethnic and political fault lines have led to deteriorating interreligious relations in Nigeria. Religious representatives lack consistent messages or clarity on how to address issues of representation, national security, hate speech and social cohesion. The lack of sustained dialogue as well as the ongoing tensions have made the country susceptible to mistrust and created dysfunctional relationships between the various religious groups.

To address this issue in 2017, KAICIID focused on supporting initiatives which contributed to the promotion of mutual understanding and social cohesion, conducted by the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP), an IRD platform that includes around 100 Christian and Muslim organizations and leaders from all over the country. Various initiatives have been implemented or are currently in the process of being implemented by the IDFP member organizations.

- The first, conducted in partnership with Search for Common Ground (SFCG), focused on building a consensus among key religious leaders regarding the protection of holy sites in Northern Nigeria, based on the principle that they should be safeguarded as places of peace and should not be targeted during conflict.
- A second initiative, a Peace and Security Capacity Building Workshop for 115 young Muslims and Christians, was held in partnership with the Nigerian Army Resource Centre (NARC) as a sustainable response to the misuse of religion to justify violent conflict. The workshop targeted young people as crucial partners to end ethno-religious violence in the future.
- IDFP member organizations have also started to implement nine other initiatives that focus on interreligious collaboration to prevent hate speech, promote freedom of religion, and engage with media and young people.
- Furthermore in 2017, KAICIID also supported efforts invested by some of its partners in the country to ban hate speech. This led to a draft bill that was submitted to the national parliament for discussion. The bill preventing hate speech is at the core of a campaign tackling the deterioration of relations among people of different faiths and ethnicities in Nigeria.



The Centre focuses on intercultural dialogue, which creates bridges between people of different religious and cultural backgrounds and to help them acknowledge each others' identities.

Central African Republic

In October 2015, the UN Security Council called “upon the international community to continue to support the CAR by addressing critical priorities articulated by Central Africans during the Bangui Forum on National Reconciliation” and “commended the joint action of religious leaders in the CAR in pursuing intercommunal peace.”

Renewed violence in the Central African Republic has forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes – either facing displacement internally within the country, or to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. The crisis has become one of the worst humanitarian disasters of our time, according to UN reports.



Le Comité d'Action pour la Paix et la Réconciliation
du 8ème Arrondissement
KAICIID
CID
DIALOGUE
CENTRE
CAPR8
Organise l'année de
surveillance Intercommunautaire

“Religious leaders are often the first to see warning signs of violence in their communities and to be able to serve as examples of interreligious cooperation. The religious leaders of the CAR, particularly at the local level should be empowered and supported in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the country’s peace accords.”
Ambassador Alvaro Albacete, KAICIID Deputy Secretary General

In 2017, KAICIID focused on developing its sustainable grant programme, designed to support the work of local NGOs and further the Centre’s efforts to build lasting in-country partnerships.

In CAR, the KAICIID grant programme awarded funds to CARP8, a local NGO that aims to facilitate the return of Muslim internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their district of original residence.

A crisis of renewed violence has had several consequences for civil society, including the deterioration of social tissues, the non-respect of human rights, a hatred source for intercommunal conflict, and violence.

With the support of KAICIID funding, CARP8 works to raise awareness about intercommunity dialogue, peaceful coexistence, social cohesion, and the free movement of people.

In October 2017, CARP8 assisted 40 IDPs, including Christians and Muslims, to reintegrate into their original places of residence in the 8th district. In November, an additional 30 IDPs returned to the 8th District and have begun commercial activities.

CARP8 also used KAICIID grant funds to implement a number of intercommunity activities and trainings designed to increase

trust and social-cohesion between the Muslim and anti-Balaka communities. These activities included a peace walk, the cleanup of specific structures to improve community living conditions, and an intercommunity festival. The programme was instrumental in contributing toward the creation of a harmonious social climate where all participants could express themselves and participate in the development of their community.

In addition to the work with CARP8, KAICIID has supported the CAR Interfaith Platform since 2015. The Centre recently awarded three individual grants to platform members to support their advocacy efforts to reduce tensions and violence and build peace in CAR. The grants directly support field work in those areas of the country that suffer outbursts of violence.

Building on the success of initiatives such as CARP8, KAICIID plans

to continue the grant programme in 2018 in order to partner with in-country NGOs and grassroots projects which support the work of the Centre. These partnerships contribute to the long-term sustainability of violence prevention and the Centre’s commitment to using interreligious dialogue in transforming conflict.

The KAICIID Nigeria Programme also benefited from three KAICIID Fellows (see sections on Learning and Connecting for more details) who conducted initiatives in the country. One Fellow trained 40 student leaders from FBOs in tertiary institutions on capacity enhancement, networking and sustained dialogue on interreligious and intercultural matters. In response to the faith-based arguments some have made against IRD and against improving interreligious relations, the second Fellow produced a compendium of faith-based responses. As part of the Fellows microgrants programme, which provides grants for interfaith initiatives, another KIFP Fellow trained 100 women in the development of early warning indicators and early responses to conflict, facilitating Christian and Muslim dialogue, building confidence, increasing gender-awareness, and emphasising the role of women in peacebuilding and participation.

Arab Region

The violence committed in the name of religion in Iraq and Syria threatens the survival of religious minorities, the social and religious fabric, and relations between religious communities. By claiming to act in the name of religion, violent groups damage the image of religion, leading to increased polarization and community tensions. The “United against Violence in the Name of Religion” initiative (UVNR) launched by KAICIID in November 2014 provides the framework for KAICIID’s current initiatives to reduce violence and promote dialogue, social cohesion, and common citizenship, and embrace cultural and religious diversity as the basis for justice and peace.

The programme supports religious leaders, dialogue practitioners and policymakers, who jointly work on peacebuilding and reconciliation in the Arab region, taking into account the religious dimension of the existing conflicts. In 2017, the programme focused on the implementation of social media campaigns that were designed by the participants at the ToT workshops organized in the region. Ten social media campaigns benefited, in this regard, from technical and financial support so they could work to prevent hate speech and further promote the use of social media as a space for dialogue at the country and regional levels.

In addition, and in the framework of the 2017 Arab Region Fellows Cohort, 21 IRD-related initiatives were implemented within 12 Arab countries, directly impacting over 1000 people (not including people

Social Cohesion Index

A multi-level and multi-dimensional social cohesion index was developed in partnership with UNDP regional hub for Arab States, aimed at assessing peoples’ horizontal and vertical perceptions, enabling policy makers to take these into account when developing national policies and strategies. The index is designed as a survey instrument that polls public perceptions and sentiments, and quantitatively measures intra- and inter-group dynamics, social ties, and citizen-state relationships. As a follow-up to this initiative, UNDP will initiate a pilot testing phase in a multi-stage roll out of the index across Arab countries. This will contribute to enhancing the conceptual understanding of social cohesion and to developing more targeted programmatic interventions in the Arab region.



reached through print, film and social media coverage). Initiatives included, among others, a joint initiative on promoting the role of women in IRD in Syria and Jordan; a rehabilitation and reintegration initiative for 10 Yazidi survivors of so-called ISIS/Daesh detention centres in Iraq; and a series of meetings for 30 religious and community leaders to develop an inclusive religious curricula for Iraqi schools. A Facebook page was also launched by KAICIID Fellows to promote and share their initiatives throughout the Arab world.

South-East Asia/Myanmar

Against the backdrop of a devastating security deterioration in Rakhine/Arakan State that unfolded in August 2017, KAICIID-conducted interreligious and peacebuilding efforts were not only relevant, but extremely timely. This year the Centre continued to support the development of a national and regional interreligious dialogue platform, the PMI, which has become the largest and most inclusive interfaith dialogue network in the country. Through this platform, the Centre has advocated for policy

changes regarding the rights of religious minorities in Myanmar. The PMI further promoted IRD through targeted activities with key stakeholders, such as through the PMI grants committee which issued approximately 10 small grants to dialogue and peacebuilding activists since its establishment in September 2016, in order to promote IRD and support intercommunal harmony projects on the ground.

EUROPE: Integrating People Seeking Refuge

Europe is grappling with the best way to ensure the successful long-term integration of people seeking refuge into the labour market, education system, and society. But while governments and civil society have initiated many excellent integration projects and policies, challenges remain and migration issues remain a hot topic. To meet the need, KAICIID has supported refugees and asylum-seekers through two of its programmes.

The KAICIID Local Outreach Programme

aims to promote IRD and ICD through outreach activities for the local public. These multicultural and interactive events range from expert lectures, to music performances, to art and photography exhibitions, as well as efforts to cooperate with local NGOs in their support for refugees and asylum seekers.

In June 2017, KAICIID’s Local Outreach “Refugee Support Initiatives” project which began in 2015 culminated in a story-telling photo exhibition, which documented two years of efforts in support of refugee integration. The exhibition provided insights into the everyday life of four KAICIID-supported asylum seekers and refugees, highlighting their integration as engaged members of their local communities. These four stories serve as models for successful integration to the other 900 newly arrived persons that KAICIID engaged over a one-and-a-half year period.

The exhibition was displayed at KAICIID’s headquarters in Vienna and moved to Voitsberg, Styria, in August, where all four featured individuals reside. Additionally, a virtual version of the exhibition was available online and was featured in a promotional booklet.

KAICIID also launched a dedicated initiative in early 2017, which shifted its support for refugee integration,

to the PSR Programme. The new initiative aims to provide longer-term programming which enhances the two-way process of refugee integration in Europe through cooperative projects and other efforts (See section on Connecting for more).

In March 2017, the PSR Programme initiated “the pilot project Integration through Dialogue,” which coordinated participation from 13 groups of asylum seekers and refugees (over 160 individuals in all) living in Vienna. Each group participated in 12 to 15 dialogue sessions spread over the course of several months, each of which allowed participants to ask questions and exchange perspectives on a different integration-related topic: these ranged from everyday activities like shopping to diversity and discrimination, to cultural expectations about the roles of women and men. The project places value on

Culminating in 2017, over the past three years, KAICIID has:

- Supported language learning for refugees and asylum seekers residing in Austria’s rural areas
- Provided German-language learning materials for programme participants
- Coordinated with the interreligious NGO MenschenRechteReligion to host bi-monthly visits to Austria’s capital as an incentive for those regularly attending German-language classes
- Introduced participants to the Austrian Parliament, the Austrian Foreign Ministry, religious sites, the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance, and various museums including the Belvedere and the Natural History Museum.
- Offered customized city tours in Arabic and Farsi, ending with a German-language tour which marked participants’ progress in language learning and integration.



PROJECT INTEGRATION THROUGH DIALOGUE reached over **160** people seeking refuge in Vienna who met in one of **13** dialogue groups. Of these participants, **120** were women, who were the main focus of the project

Each group met between **12** and **15** times, for a total per group of between **18** and **25** hours of dialogue about integration and life in Austria



creating a comfortable space of trust for participants and encourages them to approach integration proactively and dialogically.

The dialogues were led by the dialogue facilitation team, made up of Austrian women with roots in either Syria or Afghanistan, who received training in dialogue design and facilitation, and who spent a month visiting and familiarizing themselves with the landscape of support services available to asylum seekers and refugees in Vienna. In addition to the four core facilitators, a further 20 Vienna-based refugee workers received KAICIID training in dialogue design and facilitation and conflict resolution, and took part in a workshop on “Conflict-Sensitive Refugee Work” led by the Berghof Foundation.

Based on the needs of participants, as well as the results of evaluations and focus group discussions, the team developed an Integration through Dialogue Toolkit of activities and dialogue topics, which will be finalized, translated from German into English, and published in 2018. The Centre has also planned a report about how Austrian institutions can better reach and motivate people seeking refuge.

The dialogue facilitators designed small projects that were funded by microgrants in 2017. The projects eventually reached over 110 women, including Austrians and people seeking refuge, who participated in dialogue workshops for intercultural exchanges about cooking, dance and the celebration of various festivals.

Other regions

This year, the Fellows Programme launched a microgrant initiative for members of the Fellows Alumni Network. Microgrants provide an incentive for alumni to continue engaging in the field of IRD.

Priority is given to joint cost-sharing initiatives in IRD. Currently, nine Fellows are implementing microgrant initiatives in six countries.

Fellows Programme evaluations conducted in 2017 showed that 57% of the 2015 and 2016 alumni who responded to the survey could cite examples of ways they are working for change within their institutions

Joint programming gives young Scouts the skills and confidence in dialogue needed to promote a culture of peace and create positive change in their communities across the globe. The Dialogue Badge Programme launched in August 2017 ensures that collaborative efforts resonate on a national and local level.



and/ or communities . Examples are diverse, ranging from the development of new curriculum and IRD programmes, to advocacy and even the establishment of new IRD organizations.

Youth

In order to build peace and strengthen cohesion around the world, today’s youth cannot be ignored. Their role as change agents is recognized at all levels, as reflected in UN Security Council Resolution #2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. For this reason, KAICIID has worked to enhance the capacity of youth to engage in dialogue as a tool of conflict prevention and resolution – primarily through cooperation with WOSM, which allows KAICIID to reach out to 50 million members in 164 countries.

The 41st World Scout Conference confirmed that dialogue has been embraced and institutionalized within the Scout Movement. KAICIID is working to seize the momentum and begin replication efforts within other global youth movements and networks.

COLLABORATING

Working with partners to achieve common goals

Since its inception, KAICIID has worked strategically with a wide variety of partners in the fields of dialogue, peace and reconciliation, and has collaborated extensively with actors ranging from individual experts and consultants to multinational global bodies. Such relationships, whether temporary or long-term, have shaped and enriched the Centre's work in 2017 and allowed KAICIID to promote its principles of dialogue worldwide to serve global goals (such as UN SDGs 4 and 16, and several AU Agenda 2063 aspirations). Through pooling knowledge, experience and resources, KAICIID and its partners have been able to sensitize and scale up their work to better-reach key stakeholders and conduct activities in widening zones of implementation. KAICIID's governance structure, which combines both political and religious representatives, continues to provide a versatile framework for unique –in some cases trailblazing – cross-sector collaborations.

LOCAL OUTREACH has hosted **41**
academic and cultural events which have engaged
1,500 members of the local public

Local Outreach

As the Centre is advantageously headquartered in Vienna, a prominent seat for international organizations and diplomatic representations, outreach to the local Austrian public is an integral part of the Centre's activities. KAICIID directly engages with Austrian religious communities, NGOs and civil society actors, through academic and cultural activities. These range from the "Religions in Dialogue" lecture series to musical performances, such as a recent concert featuring traditional Southern African Zulu music fused with classical Mozart. Through opening the Centre's doors, conducting outreach to Austrian religious communities, and providing briefings to interested university students, think-tanks and youth groups, KAICIID has positively shared its work and principles with a wide national and international audience. Furthermore, recognizing the needs of its host country, KAICIID was among numerous organizations which pooled resources

to provide for the arrival of thousands of people seeking asylum in Austria in 2016. This initiative was commemorated by a 2017 photo exhibition, with multiple showings in the city.

Diplomatic Outreach

Capitalizing on its seat at the hub of international and diplomatic representation, KAICIID's external relations team has been active in Vienna's diplomatic circles, informing national representatives about KAICIID's work as it becomes relevant to growing numbers of countries. Within the framework of KAICIID's External Relations Strategy, regular contacts with the diplomatic community have been maintained through bilateral meetings with Ambassadors accredited to Austria in 2017, as well as the KAICIID-hosted ambassadorial reception in December for the UN Eastern European Regional Group and an open-house event with the UN Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC).

Governments

KAICIID seeks to build bridges between religion and policymaking, confident that when the two sectors work coherently, they will have deeper impact in peace and development. The Centre's unusual governing structure provides an effective hinge for this dual-nature outreach and collaboration. The Centre's Council of Parties has been energetically engaged with KAICIID activities in 2017, raising the visibility of the Centre in multilateral fora, such as at the AU, EU and UN. One of the fruits of this advocacy was the KAICIID co-organized launch at the UN headquarters in New York chaired by UN Secretary General Guterres, in July 2017, an event strongly supported by Permanent Missions of the KAICIID Member States.

Moreover, strengthening diplomatic ties with actors worldwide has opened opportunities for collaboration between KAICIID and other governments. The interreligious meeting organized in October in Buenos Aires, Argentina with the participation of the Argentinian Secretary of State for Religious Affairs and other high-level political representatives, represented a milestone in KAICIID's efforts to broaden its geographical presence in South America. The event was organized by KAICIID in partnership with the government of the city of Buenos Aires, with



the support of Religions for Peace Latin America, Scholas Occurrentes and facilitated by Mr. Claudio Eelman, Member of the KAICIID Advisory Forum and Executive Director of the Latin American Jewish Congress. These valuable collaborations help to enhance the global nature of the Centre, which seeks opportunities to expand its membership and its work.

Linking Religious Organizations to Policymaking ones

Closely complementing the work with state actors, the Centre's Board of Directors and Advisory Forum of dialogue experts form the basis for KAICIID's interactions with religious stakeholders, who play a pivotal role in resolving conflicts and concerns affecting their communities. Having been approached by senior members of the European Jewish and Muslim communities, several KAICIID Board members helped to facilitate three meetings of the Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council at the Centre in 2017, resulting in agreement on an action plan and the prospect of registering the organization in 2018. The platform constitutes a mechanism for interreligious

discussion and solidarity at a moment when the nature of European identity and desirable integration is in question, a concern shared by both religious communities and state actors. In the context of such encounters, KAICIID has been able to promote a collaborative, dialogical approach.

For example, in security and social cohesion, KAICIID representatives spoke at the Interfaith Symposium 'Countering: Fear and the Rise of Discrimination, Hate Speech and Hate Crimes in the UK' organized by KAICIID and the Islamic Cultural Centre of London in November 2017 calling for patience and interreligious solidarity whilst the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent joined the Caritas as partners on KAICIID's PSR Programme, and at KAICIID's expert workshop on interreligious education for youth seeking refuge, co-hosted by the European Commission and Parliament in December this year. KAICIID has also worked closely with the AU to weave the consultation of faith communities into its decision-making processes (see Tactical Approach Joint Programming below).

Networking to serve the field

In recent years, recognition of religion as a key force for conflict resolution has grown, as has the number of international coalitions seeking to harness it. Within these networks, NGOs, academic institutions, and religious and secular international organizations cooperate on monitoring, implementing and learning from interreligious solutions to development challenges. Positioned at the heart of the field, KAICIID is an active member in four interlinked networks, as follows:

Since 2014, the Centre has cooperated with Finn Church Aid, acting secretariat for the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (the Network), to support peacebuilding activities in CAR, becoming a member of the Network Core Group (which also includes the UN Mediation Support Unit in the Department of Political Affairs, UNAOc, the OIC and RfP) in 2015. In 2017, KAICIID continued to play an active part on the board of the Network, supporting its advocacy work to the UN and its agencies in New York and funding the convention of the 8th Advisory Group Meeting during which the Network began a review of its structure and service to the field. KAICIID has also cooperated extensively with the Network in CAR (see Transforming).

KAICIID also works with PaRD, which gathers members (governments and international intergovernmental organizations) and partners (FBOs and networks) to harness the positive impact of religion and values in sustainable development and humanitarian assistance. It has directed the attention of its members to workstreams which encourage collaborative research and project work based on selected SDGs. KAICIID has been particularly active in the Sustaining Peace (SDG #16) workstream, contributing to the concept through input to the Sustaining Peace Discussion Paper and attending monthly coordination calls as well as twice-yearly face-to-face meetings. The Centre also considers “Gender Equality and Empowerment” (SDG #5) workstream relevant to its mandate. In 2017, the Centre has focused on creating a more positive attitude towards the central topic of Preventing Violent Extremism, sending representatives to highlight the case for de-escalating the problematization of religion in projects like iDove, which the Centre continues to support.

An older UN initiative to mobilize diverse agencies and actors to act coherently to achieve SDGs is the UN Interagency Task Force, which asked KAICIID

to co-sponsor, and its Senior Advisor to facilitate, the first Strategic Learning Exchange on faith literacy and engaging FBOs in June 2017. KAICIID has continued to be involved in the development of additional Strategic Learning Exchanges on this topic, strengthening collaboration with UN agencies and shaping the emerging relationship between the UN and religious entities, particularly in terms of promoting best practices. KAICIID has given input to three different Strategic Learning Exchange meetings in 2017 and will co-sponsor another in Amman in 2018, hand in hand with its partners in the focus region.

Any actor in the field of interreligious development work will agree that monitoring and quantifying the impact of faith is a challenge which effects the level of involvement and support for FBOs in development. The Joint Learning Initiative (JLI), a network of which KAICIID is a Board Member, envisions full and appropriate engagement of the capacities of faith-based groups, along with other sectors, to achieve SDGs based partially on evidence of the value of their work. KAICIID is involved in the Evidence Working Group, with which it shares its own methods and data, and for which it helps to gather further proof of impact in the sector. Evidence gathered through this partnership could in future constitute crucial support to KAICIID’s advocacy for faith-based involvement with policymakers and practitioners, and enables the Centre to raise the profile and spot synergies between its programmes and those of other actors, especially via other Working Groups on refugees, peace and conflict and mobilization of local faith communities. With the JLI and other educational institutions including the International Peace Institute and the Harvard Pluralism Project, KAICIID collaborates to build up a body of evidence for the unique contribution religious and faith-based entities make to peace, as well as designs precise monitoring and evaluation systems for them. KAICIID’s resources are publically-available on the DKH online platform launched in November 2017.

KAICIID among International organizations (IOs)

Since 2012, KAICIID has benefited from long-term partnership frameworks with at least 14 major international organizations and networks, entering into formal collaboration with PARD, UNAOc and the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect in 2017.



In December 2017, KAICIID and the European Commission Representation in Austria co-organized a two-day experts workshop in Vienna

Tactical: Advocacy towards EU/UN

KAICIID is convinced that dialogue enriches peace processes and negotiations and increases the sustainability of projects implemented by international actors. KAICIID’s outreach functions have systematically made KAICIID’s work in IRD/ICD known to global actors, introducing the Centre to officials of the AU, EU, OSCE, UN, and the wider diplomatic community. Between 2015 and 2017, the Secretariat revitalized bilateral ties with EU officials based in Vienna (European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, European Commission and Parliament Representation) and strengthened relations among Brussels-based officials from both the European Commission and the European External Action Service, through a number of meetings and ad-hoc consultations. As a result of an ongoing coordination effort between the Office of the Deputy Secretary General and the Coordinator for Dialogue with Churches, Religious and Philosophical and Non-confessional Organizations, the Centre organized the first technical meeting between KAICIID and EU officials (at which the European Commission, the European External Action Service, the European Parliament and several other organs were represented). Held in May 2017 in the premises of the European Commission within the framework of Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU),

the meeting involved a presentation of KAICIID’s structure and programmes to the EU officials and as well as a mapping of existing synergies between the two organizations. A workshop was organized between KAICIID and the European Commission representation in Vienna in December 2017 within the framework of the PSR Programme.

Building productive relations with UN affiliates and agencies remains an imperative in KAICIID external relations, both through regular coordination and exchange of information, and through joint programming. In 2017, the Centre conducted several bilateral meetings with representatives of various UN entities, and had the opportunity to speak at international summits and consultative processes with global policy goals. It maintains an exchange with a number of UN affiliates and agencies including UNDP, UNAOc, UNCCT, UNDP, UN Women, UNSDGF, UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and other UN affiliates and agencies. Additionally, KAICIID has partnered with UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States and the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) to launch a regional network for Global Citizenship Education in Luxor, Egypt in October 2017, to support the delivery of Global Citizenship Education in the Arab World.

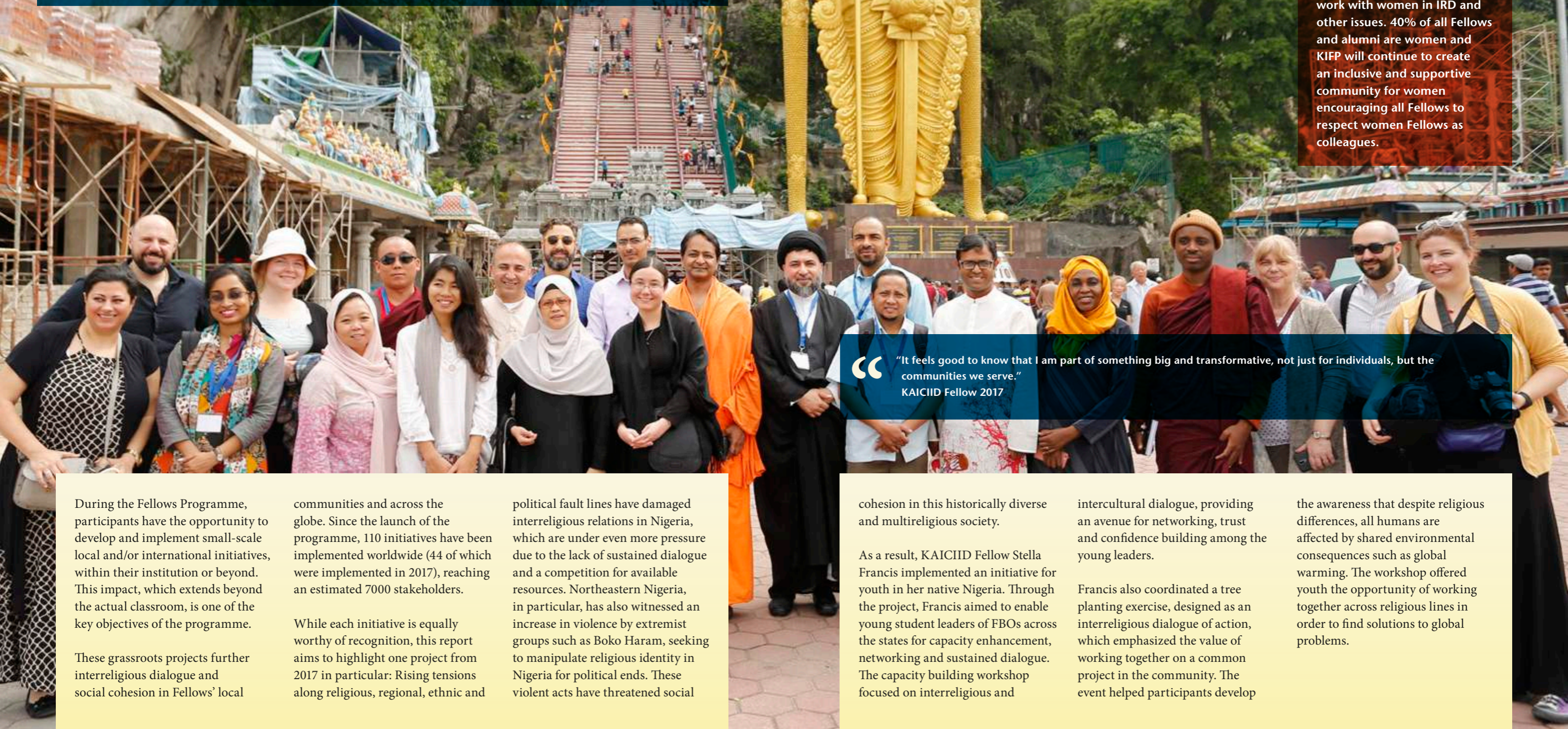
SUCCESS STORY

Fellows Programme

“In our Fellows programme we trained over 150 mid-career teachers who are training tomorrow’s religious leaders. During their training, the Fellows apply for microgrant support for projects. Thus far 110 projects have trained another 7,000 dialogue advocates. If the practice of interreligious dialogue can spread quickly using just microgrants, imagine the benefits if we all invest in dialogue.”

Faisal Bin Muaammar, Secretary General of KAICIID

The KAICIID International Fellows Programme (KIFP) prioritizes the inclusion of women (because of the important role that women play in interreligious peacebuilding) by providing them with opportunities such as leading trainings, prioritizing grants for women’s initiatives as well as further learning and development. Several women in the post-graduation survey indicated KIFP empowered them as women leaders and/or in their work with women in IRD and other issues. 40% of all Fellows and alumni are women and KIFP will continue to create an inclusive and supportive community for women encouraging all Fellows to respect women Fellows as colleagues.



“It feels good to know that I am part of something big and transformative, not just for individuals, but the communities we serve.”
KAICIID Fellow 2017

During the Fellows Programme, participants have the opportunity to develop and implement small-scale local and/or international initiatives, within their institution or beyond. This impact, which extends beyond the actual classroom, is one of the key objectives of the programme.

These grassroots projects further interreligious dialogue and social cohesion in Fellows’ local

communities and across the globe. Since the launch of the programme, 110 initiatives have been implemented worldwide (44 of which were implemented in 2017), reaching an estimated 7000 stakeholders.

While each initiative is equally worthy of recognition, this report aims to highlight one project from 2017 in particular: Rising tensions along religious, regional, ethnic and

political fault lines have damaged interreligious relations in Nigeria, which are under even more pressure due to the lack of sustained dialogue and a competition for available resources. Northeastern Nigeria, in particular, has also witnessed an increase in violence by extremist groups such as Boko Haram, seeking to manipulate religious identity in Nigeria for political ends. These violent acts have threatened social

cohesion in this historically diverse and multireligious society.

As a result, KAICIID Fellow Stella Francis implemented an initiative for youth in her native Nigeria. Through the project, Francis aimed to enable young student leaders of FBOs across the states for capacity enhancement, networking and sustained dialogue. The capacity building workshop focused on interreligious and

intercultural dialogue, providing an avenue for networking, trust and confidence building among the young leaders.

Francis also coordinated a tree planting exercise, designed as an interreligious dialogue of action, which emphasized the value of working together on a common project in the community. The event helped participants develop

the awareness that despite religious differences, all humans are affected by shared environmental consequences such as global warming. The workshop offered youth the opportunity of working together across religious lines in order to find solutions to global problems.



The dialogical approach will contribute to ‘empowering learners to act towards a more peaceful, just, inclusive and sustainable world’ and to the achievement of SDG 4.7. In the same way, the long collaboration with KAICIID has placed IRD/ICD at the heart of the Plan of Action launched with UNOGPDP in July 2017.

Tactical Approach: Joint Programming

It is through joint project work, particularly under its Catalysing IRD/ICD in International Organizations that the Centre seeks to support international peace and reconciliation by demonstrating and enabling their incorporation of IRD techniques into their policies. With partners curious about the subject of religion or culture, the Centre has designed ‘taster’ activities to show how IRD/ICD could serve the partner’s particular niche or mandate. In April 2017, the Centre and the OSCE organized a joint ‘taster’ workshop ‘Who Believes in Dialogue?’ at which interfaith veterans offered expertise on themes relevant to the OSCE’s work in security, such as the pros and cons of insider dialogue facilitators in conflict resolution.

Within other long-term partnerships, KAICIID is helping to graft IRD/ICD into the DNA of organizational best practice. With the AU, KAICIID collaborated to reactivate the African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum in 2016, which constitutes a mechanism to sustainably ensure the voices of religious communities from across the continent

can inform policymaking. In 2017, through several gatherings of the Forum’s Steering Committee, founding documents and a six-year strategy plan have been drafted ahead of the next Forum in 2018.

With possibly the widest impact worldwide, KAICIID’s collaboration with the WOSM seeks to incorporate dialogue into the daily life of the movement and thus introduce the culture of peace and values of dialogue to up to 50 million young people who are members. In 2017, after three years of systematic development and advocacy work together, the dialogue approach was institutionalised by the 41st World Scout Conference and the Dialogue Badge programme successfully launched. Additionally, the team continued working on the Dialogue for Peace Programme Trainings, studied the Spiritual Development aspect of educational programmes within Scouting and started developing joint M&E mechanisms in order to evaluate the impact of this collaborative work.

With buy-in and organic, thoughtful progress, KAICIID is pleased to see its partner-base grow in 2017, and in many cases engage in long-term strategies of engagement with both religious and cultural actors and with the Centre. KAICIID looks forward to a corresponding increase in global familiarity and openness towards interreligious and intercultural dialogue among stakeholders in international peace and reconciliation.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

External relations – the way forward

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The priorities for the External Relations build on the Centre’s Strategic Plan 2016-2019 which recognizes the evolving nature of the international agenda and priorities as well as the evolving nature of other organizations. The Centre’s commitment to multilateralism is a defining principle of its core policy, as KAICIID’s work is carried out through, with, and for, partners. Therefore, throughout 2018 KAICIID will increase the efforts to cooperate with regional and sub-regional organizations to prevent the duplication of efforts, increase synergy as well as focus on the implementation of existing formal cooperation agreements.

AU

Since the establishment of the Centre, KAICIID has developed solid cooperation with several international actors. One of the outstanding examples of such cooperation is the partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC). KAICIID values the unique cooperation and institutional relations with the AUC and remains committed to support streamlining the dialogue between religious leaders and politicians within the framework of the African Union Agenda 2063. The AU Commission and KAICIID will jointly organize the Interfaith Dialogue Forum in the fourth quarter of the year convening representatives of

interfaith councils and civil society organizations from the Members States of the AU.

UN

KAICIID attaches special importance to its co-operation with the UN and building relations with relevant UN entities, in particular under the UN SDG 16 promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies. The Centre will build upon the successful cooperation with the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect by focusing on the implementation of the Plan of Action. In addition to organizing relevant international conferences with multiple UN entities, with the aim to raise awareness of the importance of interreligious dialogue as a tool for conflict prevention and resolution, the Centre will strive to promote grass-root activities in the countries of KAICIID’s focus, empowering target populations such as women, marginalized groups, journalists and youth.

EU

The Centre remains committed to deepening exchanges between the two Institutions and carrying on the consultations on possible synergies, as concluded during the technical working-level meeting under the framework of Article 17 of the TFEU that was held in Brussels, in spring 2017. It will strive to operationalize the cooperation with the EU through



the implementation of joint activities and accelerate action through the involvement of the EU delegations in our programmes on the ground.

2018 is a pivotal year towards that path as it can provide several opportunities for both organizations to join forces in order to foster dialogue among people of different faiths and cultures and instil mutual respect in the region. Specifically, the EU declared 2018 to be the **EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE**, which falls under the Centre's mandate to promote intercultural dialogue.

One of the Founding Member States of the Centre, **THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA** will assume the rotating presidency of the council of the EU in the second semester of 2018, a development which will turn the focus to Austrian activities. KAICIID will contribute to the organization of the second **FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS FORUM** taking place on 25, 26 and 27 September 2018 in **VIENNA** which will focus on the theme of "**BELONGING**".

OSCE

In 2018, special attention will be paid to streamlining KAICIID relations with the OSCE high ranks, whose activities are very much complementary to the Organization's activities in the human dimension of security. KAICIID values the leading role of the OSCE in the field of conflict prevention and mediation and envisions institutional partnership by developing common projects such as the Interfaith Dialogue Expert workshop, organized jointly by the OSCE and KAICIID in April 2017.

DIPLOMATIC OUTREACH

The Secretariat will continue building upon the relations with Vienna-based diplomatic representatives and deepen engagement with diplomatic representations from European, Africa, Asian-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean Countries. As a culmination of these efforts, and in an attempt to strengthen further platforms for dialogue among KAICIID and the local diplomatic community, the Secretariat is planning to hold a working meeting followed by an Ambassadorial Reception.

Resource Mobilization

In order to achieve KAICIID's missions and objectives, organizational capacities must be expanded, which is where the resource mobilization strategy will be most effective.

The 2017 Programme and Budget was approved by the Council of Parties at a total of 11.1 million Euros, covering the programmes and activities of the Centre in line with KAICIID's Strategic Plan for the period 2016–2019 which was approved by the Board of Directors on 19 November 2015. Of the approved 11.1 million Euros, 98.8% was expended during 2017. This figure is subject to the final audit of the 2017 financial statements.

Resource mobilization is not only significant for gaining institutional credibility and outreach, but is equally important to achieve long-term financial sustainability and to forge partnerships. Financial autonomy would augment the legal and managerial independence KAICIID has already achieved. It would also expand budgetary capacity to scale up successful programmes and offer means for non-member states and NGOs to become closely engaged with KAICIID. This latter outcome is essential in broadening KAICIID's partner base.

Resource mobilization is also beneficial for KAICIID as it enhances cooperative relationships with diverse and reputable public and private entities. The uniqueness of KAICIID, as an organization that contributes to building peace in conflict areas worldwide by focusing on common religious values and IRD as solutions, should be emphasized as an asset in order to appeal to a diverse array of donors. Donors benefit as religious leaders are brought together with policymakers, making the resolution of conflicts much more feasible. Recruiting a wider pool of support for the unique and symbolic status of KAICIID is fundamental to the achievement of the mission of the centre.

Moving forward, we will need to consider how donors may reach us and how we may best approach them. We are working to engage a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector, corporate social responsibility funds, philanthropy, endowments, crowd-funding platforms, etc. For 2018, we aim to operate with an annual budget that would be covered from CoP contributions, secure funds and through donors-supported specific projects. Forward planning is essential, and we are working on a calendar of major 2018 programmes that KAICIID can use to engage donors. We are also working with our Board of Directors and Advisory Forum, who are an invaluable and unique resource for KAICIID, and provide access



to a wide global range of potential partners. We must also ensure that we continue to hold the support from our COP whenever appropriate, to facilitate our engagements when we approach new funders.

Monitoring and Evaluation

2017 was a landmark year for monitoring and evaluation in the Centre with the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Policy – the foundation for building coherent planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems. This was undertaken using a results based framework to enhance the Centre's accountability and learning. In line with the Strategic Plan, there is now in place an organization-wide results oriented reporting system, and a monitoring and evaluation training package to improve staff technical knowledge and skills on a continuous basis. A number of internal evaluations were carried out to further support and nurture learning across the Centre's different programming areas. In addition, a high-level midterm programme assessment of the past and current programmes under the Strategic Plan was commissioned, with a particular emphasis on issues of efficiency, effectiveness, relevance and sustainability.

The conclusions and recommendations will strengthen the Centre's current and planned programmes, as well as help to refine the desired baseline data and programme indicators against which a comprehensive programme evaluation can be carried out in 2019/

2020, coinciding with the conclusion of the current Strategic Plan.

These efforts on the part of management provided a timely opportunity for deep and constructive reflection on emerging paradigms for effective monitoring and evaluation practices, and the crucial role of policies and procedures that guide and buttress such activities. The value of the independence of the evaluation function, and the need for this aspect to be clearly and unequivocally reflected in the evaluation policy has become increasingly recognized and appreciated. The credibility and subsequent use of evaluations depends on their independence. This core principle needs to be protected to secure access and report with confidence to all stakeholders. KAICIID will continue to deepen the discourse on this topic in the years to come.

Finally, the strategic shift to results based framework has yielded benefits. These include the building of in-house knowledge and expertise, implementation efficiencies, enhanced credibility through setting aside specific resources for evaluation, and the ability to engage more effectively in promoting a culture of results across the whole organization. During 2018, a set of monitoring and evaluation guidance and trainings will be developed to complement the gains made so far and initiate a full roll-out of the Monitoring and Evaluation Policy.

UN Plan of Action

“A 360-degree approach which brings religious leaders, policymakers, and civil society to the dialogue table is the only way to build solutions that work.”

Faisal Bin Muaammar, KAICIID Secretary General

“All religions teach respect for life, and recognize human beings as fundamentally equal. These principles summon us to show respect for all human beings, even those with whom we might profoundly disagree or whose cultures might seem alien. I urge the widest possible dissemination and implementation of this Plan of Action. It can help to save lives, reduce suffering, and realize our shared vision of peaceful, inclusive and just societies in which diversity is valued and the rights of all individuals are protected.”
Antonio Guterres
UN Secretary General

In July 2017, the UN and KAICIID introduced the first ever initiative of its kind, the *Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent and Counter Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes*. Formally launched by Secretary-General António Guterres at a meeting at UN Headquarters in New York, the plan was developed over two years of intensive consultation at the global

and regional levels, organized by the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, with the support of KAICIID, WCC, and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.

The Plan of Action was developed in response to an alarming spike in recent years in hate speech and incitement to violence against

individuals or communities, based on their identity. Incitement to violence, in public discourse and the media, is both a common warning sign and a precursor of atrocity crimes. The Plan of Action is the first document to focus on the role of religious leaders and actors in preventing incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes and the first to develop context for specific regional strategies with this objective.

Implementation of the Plan of Action will contribute to the prevention of atrocity crimes, especially in areas affected by religious and sectarian tensions and violence.

The Plan of Action is also designed to enhance the respect, protection and promotion of human rights, including the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of religion or belief and peaceful assembly.

More than 30 initiatives were developed by actors who had been involved in the plan’s development by the end of 2017. KAICIID, itself, has begun incorporating the Plan of Action in its existing programmes and continues to develop new projects under the plan. This included a panel, which was hosted in November for an audience of more than 200 people, on ways to counter rising hate speech

and crime in the UK, post-Brexit. The Centre also held a two-day workshop on fostering inclusive societies in South Asia in December 2017. These existing initiatives and future initiatives under the Plan of Action will contribute to not only preventing incitement to violence, but also strengthening diversity and social cohesion, and the building of inclusive, just societies.



List of Abbreviations

- AU – African Union
- CCC – Central Coordination Council
- CSOs – Civil Society Organizations
- DKH – Dialogue Knowledge Hub
- EU – European Union
- FBOs – Faith Based Organizations
- GRULAC – UN Latin American and Caribbean Group
- ICD – Intercultural Dialogue
- IDFP – Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace
- IDPs – Internally Displaced Persons
- IRD – Interreligious Dialogue
- JLI – Joint Learning Initiative
- KFN – KAICIID Fellows Network
- KIFP – KAICIID International Fellows Programme
- MoU – Memorandum of Understanding
- NARC – Nigerian Army Resource Centre
- NGOs – Non-governmental organizations
- NRFI – Network of Religious Faculties and Institutes in the Arab World
- OIC – Organization of Islamic Cooperation
- OSCE – Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- PaRD – International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development
- PMI – Peaceful Myanmar Initiative
- PSR – Programme for the Social Inclusion of People Seeking Refuge in Europe
- QIPs – Quick Impact Projects
- RfP – Religions for Peace
- SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
- SFCG – Search for Common Ground
- TFEU – Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union
- TOT – Training of Trainers
- UN – United Nations
- UNAoC – UN Alliance of Civilizations
- UNCCT – United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
- UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
- UNDPA – United Nations Department of Political Affairs
- UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
- UNSDGF – United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Fund
- WAGGGS – World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
- WOSM – World Organization of the Scout Movement





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