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network for
Dialogue

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KAICIID DIALOGUE CENTRE

2019



ANNUAL REPORT





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About the International Dialogue Centre



A unique mandate with a mission to promote dialogue to foster respect among cultures and religions



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 Board of Directors comprises prominent representatives from **5** major world religions — Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism

The Advisory Forum comprises **39** members representing **8** different religions

The Centre has a multicultural staff from over **29** countries
Our staff is **50%** female and **50%** male

The Centre has concluded Memoranda of Understanding with **12** organizations

There are **40+** additional partnerships with governmental and religious organizations

The 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

AUSTRIA **SAUDI ARABIA** **SPAIN** **HOLY SEE**



We apply interreligious dialogue for peace and reconciliation through **5** key platforms





The role of convener

Towards the end of 2019, KAICIID staged two events in its host city of Vienna, which illustrated two of its most significant contributions to interreligious dialogue.

The Centre draws much of its mandate and value from its unique ability to bring together individuals and organizations who otherwise might never engage with each other. The conference titled, ‘The Power of Words: The Role of Religion, Media and Policy in Countering Hate Speech’ convened experts from all relevant spheres — cardinals and pastors, imams and rabbis, policymakers, government officials, journalists and dialogue practitioners — to discuss ways to address the growing threat of hate speech around the world.

As Secretary General, I took pride not just in the quality, range and passion with which delegates addressed the issue of hate speech itself, but also in their public recognition of KAICIID’s unique convening power.

As Adama Dieng, the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Advisor for the Prevention of Genocide, pointed out during the conference, hate speech cannot be tackled by bodies such as the United Nations alone. It needs partners in the media, in civil society... “And of course, we need the religious leaders.”

In many parts of the world, especially in those parts where security and social structures have broken down, it is the local religious leader who often steps in. It follows that the whole human development narrative, whether at the IO, NGO

or municipal levels, requires the perspectives of religious leaders in order to be truly effective.

In December 2019, we hosted a graduation ceremony for a record 93 Fellows as part of a conference outlining the role of dialogue in implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Over the past five years, KAICIID has trained 276 Fellows, who have returned to their local communities, skilled in methods of facilitating dialogue and working for peace across religious, ethnic and other social boundaries. The Fellows represent KAICIID’s commitment to creating peace multipliers and catalysts for change.

All of KAICIID’s local programmes, in the Arab Region, the Central African Republic, Europe, Myanmar and Nigeria, support dialogue amidst the challenges of globalism, cultural and religious difference and racism. But they also act collectively as a licence for KAICIID to contribute to discussion at the policymaking table — not as a lobbyist or legislator or even campaigner, but as a convener capable of bringing the perspectives of the religious world to the global quest for human development.

In October, for instance, the Centre was declared as the newest member of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Group of Friends, a development that will further cement the longstanding cooperation between the two organizations.

If 2019 has seen great strides in KAICIID’s programmatic work and ambitions, it has also been a time for internal assessment and reflection.



The Centre has grown at astonishing speed since the founding impulse by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, who reached out to then Pope Benedict XVI in one of the most significant commitments to interreligious dialogue this century.

But as the world changes, presenting new challenges and opportunities, so must we. To that end, we have initiated two major reviews: One is a totally independent evaluation of the organization itself, taking into account all aspects of programmatic outputs, internal organization and governance as well as KAICIID’s standing among external stakeholders. The second, currently taking place as you read this, is a strategy review intended to shape the Centre’s programming for the years to come.

These processes are vital for good governance and the efficient running of KAICIID but also for the wellbeing of our gifted and committed staff, without whose efforts KAICIID would never have got off the ground. Our human capital is our greatest asset. I would also like to thank our founding Council of Parties members — the Republic of Austria, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kingdom of Spain, with the Holy See as a Founding Observer. And special thanks, also, to our Board of Directors, as well as all our partners and allies across the globe for their tireless support.

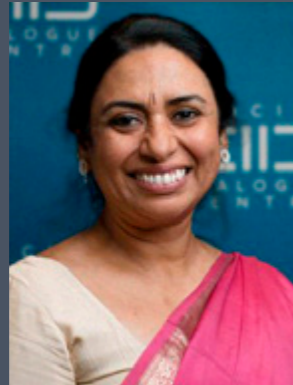
“The whole human development narrative requires the perspectives of religious leaders in order to be truly effective”

Faisal Bin Muaammar, KAICIID Secretary General

KAICIID BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Faculty Member,
Imam Muhammad Bin Saud University



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President, Shanti Ashram



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President of the Pontifical Council
for Interreligious Dialogue



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Board, and Sheikh Ul-Islam of Caucasus



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International Director
of Interreligious Affairs,
American Jewish Committee



DR. MOHAMMAD SAMMAK
Secretary-General of the
National Committee for
Christian-Muslim Dialogue

KAICIID's breadth of governance

“The Board of Directors comprises high level representatives of major world religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism”

Through the vast pool of knowledge available from the Advisory Forum members, the Secretariat is briefed on developments in areas where the Centre operates, such as the Arab Region, Africa, Asia, and beyond. In 2019, the Secretariat sought the support of Forum members on numerous occasions, including representing KAICIID as panellists in high level events, such as the United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week.

KAICIID is governed by two principal bodies — the Council of Parties and Board of Directors. The Centre's founding Member States (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 KAICIID's work. The Board of Directors comprises high level representatives of major world religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

to the work of the Centre since its inception. In 2019, representatives facilitated meetings with high-level officials from their respective governments. Representatives of the diplomatic entities of Member States have been among the participants of the Centre's various activities around the world, including events from KAICIID's Executive Management and Programmes Departments.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KAICIID's Board Members have also contributed directly to the Centre's programmes and activities such as the Programme for the Social Inclusion of People Seeking Refuge in Europe (PSR) and the Dialogue Knowledge Hub (DKH), including the launching of its many online courses in 2019. Moreover, Board Members have strengthened the overall visibility and credibility of the Centre by representing it at various prominent gatherings, including KAICIID's international conference, 'The Power of Words: The Role of Religion, Media, and Policy in Countering Hate Speech'; the 2nd Baku World Summit of Religious Leaders; and the Religions for Peace 10th World Assembly.

ADVISORY FORUM

The Advisory Forum is a consultative body comprising influential leaders from world religions, religious and cultural institutions and communities, representing more than 20 countries. The Forum supports the activities of the KAICIID Board of Directors and advises on their programmes.

COUNCIL OF PARTIES

The Council of Parties consists of representatives of those parties to the Agreement for the Establishment of the Centre, with the Holy See attending as a Founding Observer. The Council convenes at least once every year. Its functions include the election of members of the Board of Directors as well as the appointment of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General. The Council adopts the Centre's financial regulations, work programme and annual budget. Also, based on proposals from the Board of Directors, the Council nominates members of major religions and faith-based and cultural institutions to the Advisory Forum.

The Council of Parties approves international agreements and the establishment of cooperative relationships with public and private entities that can contribute to the Centre's work. It also decides on the admission of new parties and observers to the agreement. The Council of Parties has offered continuous support

The 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



Enabling spaces for interreligious and intercultural cooperation

One of the key areas of work of the Centre's external relations function, headed by the Deputy Secretary General Alvaro Albacete, is the development of KAICIID's partnerships with governmental and intergovernmental organizations, as mandated by the Centre's Council of Parties.

Throughout its history, KAICIID's external relations have established comprehensive, coherent, and effective institutional partnerships with the United Nations, African Union (AU), and European Union (EU), creating enabling spaces for interreligious and intercultural cooperation.

KAICIID does not and cannot work in isolation from global political agendas. The Centre aligns its external relations activities, partnerships and programmatic focus with relevant policy frameworks, in particular the three 'P's of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: People, Peace and Partnership. KAICIID's work is coordinated with United Nations entities and compatible mandates, such as the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and others, as well as the AU and EU.

The Centre continuously seeks to expand its cooperation with governmental and intergovernmental organizations and networks with a mutually held vision of multilateral cooperation for peace and social cohesion. In its approach, KAICIID



aims to involve all relevant stakeholders while focusing on results, transparency, and mutual accountability. In this manner the Centre strives to increase effective and efficient utilisation of resources by joining efforts with reputed and experienced partners from the public sector, supporting dialogue with civil society, and focusing on faith-based organizations (FBOs) and religious institutions in order to deliver impactful results on matters of policy and implementation.

To commemorate 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, KAICIID, in partnership with Arigatou International, United Nations partners, the AU, governments of Germany, Mexico, Morocco, UAE and other partners, gathered an interreligious panel to

explore the role of religious leaders and communities in promoting human rights and protecting children. Held on the sidelines of the 40th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 6 March 2019, the panel brought together religious leaders, human rights experts and representatives of United Nations Member States to share successes and to examine how religious communities have worked closely with the United Nations and Member States over the past 30 years in promoting the rights of a child.

In May 2019, on the margins of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, UNODC and KAICIID, in cooperation with members of civil society, organized a special event on FBOs' engagement in crime prevention, where representatives from various religious and institutional backgrounds shared their experiences. More than 100 people attended the event, which was the first of its kind hosted by UNODC, demonstrating the keen interest in the work of FBOs and religious leaders in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

UNODC and KAICIID are committed to strengthening this collaboration in view of the upcoming 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Through active engagement with international networks such as the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development, the Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development, the G20 Interfaith Forum, the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and others, KAICIID contributes to the inclusion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue methodologies in the work of intergovernmental entities, foreign policy activities of states and other partners. Following the success of the 2018 G20 Interfaith Forum in Buenos Aires, the Centre co-organized the 2019 G20 Interfaith Forum in Japan, resulting in key recommendations to policymakers of the G20 Group, and focusing on, among others, the contribution of religious communities to safeguarding the environment and religious sites, fostering education for peace, the rule of law and the protection of human rights.

In June 2019, as an interreligious dialogue (IRD) knowledge centre, KAICIID convened experts and practitioners from UNDP with the goal of learning from each other and exchanging experiences that are relevant to the contexts in which the two organizations work. The experts delineated a set of follow-up activities that promote IRD for the benefit of local communities torn by violence.

In September 2019, KAICIID became a member of the Group of Friends of the UNAOC, strengthening institutional links with the United Nations. KAICIID partnered with UNAOC to provide key expertise during development of the Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites. KAICIID remains committed to this partnership in the implementation phase of the project and will embed segments of the plan in its core programmatic activities in order to translate policy into action.

As an international organization affiliated with two European Member

States (Austria and Spain), and with headquarters in Vienna, KAICIID is well placed to be involved in IRD activities in Europe and to implement a wider range of initiatives there. As such, a process of continuous engagement and practice of mutual invitation has been established under the EU's activities within the framework of Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Art. 17 TFEU). As dialogue partner of the EU institutions, KAICIID is regularly invited to seminars and other relevant activities organized by the European Parliament implemented under Art. 17 TFEU. Also, HE Metropolitan Emmanuel, KAICIID Member of the Board of Directors, is actively involved in the EU High Level Annual meetings with religious actors.

In 2019, the Centre organized ad hoc visits and consultations with EU institutions, as well as permanent representations of the Member States of the KAICIID Council of Parties, within the framework of its European Fellows Programme. In addition, experts from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, together with Vice-President of the European Parliament, Mairead McGuinness, have been engaged in network meetings of the Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council to support religious freedom.

A process of continuous engagement and practice of mutual invitation has been established under

the EU's activities in line with its global strategy and the European External Action Service. In this context, on 6 September 2019, the KAICIID Secretariat attended the launch of an EU-sponsored initiative, Global Exchange on Religion in Society, hosted by Ms. Federica Mogherini, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Vice-President of the European Commission. A diverse crowd of 150 representatives of civil society, governments and religious institutions gathered in Brussels for the event. Participants, among them KAICIID graduates from the International Fellows Programme, discussed different experiences of religious engagement from across the world to better understand how the new Global Exchange initiative can complement and interact with existing programmes.

In 2019, KAICIID's external relations placed greater emphasis on nurturing dialogue with state champions of interreligious cooperation. The Centre looks forward enthusiastically to 2020 as it plans to institutionalize these partnerships and re-confirm its position as a trusted partner in a complex and evolving international landscape, strongly committed to its mandate to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to prevent violence, enhance social cohesion and build a culture of peace.



“KAICIID does not and cannot work isolated from global political agendas”

The Group of Friends — a vital role within the Alliance of Civilizations



KAICIID has been declared as the newest member of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Group of Friends, a development that will further cement the longstanding cooperation between the two organizations.

The announcement was made on 27 September 2019 by the High Representative for UNAOC, HE Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, during its annual Group of Friends Ministerial Meeting, which took place on the margins of the high level segment of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly at its headquarters in New York.

As a member of the Group of Friends, KAICIID will provide input, advice, and support to the UNAOC

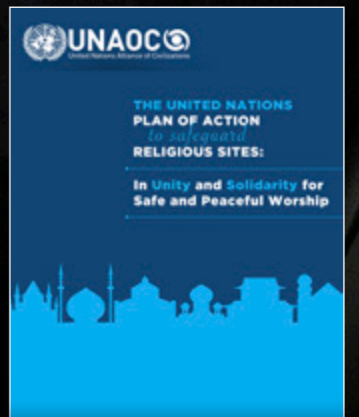
on key aspects of its activities and mandate. This follows years of collaboration between the organizations and a Memorandum of Understanding, signed in 2017, pledging cooperation on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

KAICIID also supported the development of the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, developed by the UNAOC and launched by United Nations Secretary-General, HE Mr. António Guterres on 12 September 2019. The Centre will also work with the UNAOC on the implementation of the Plan in collaboration with other United Nations entities and relevant stakeholders. KAICIID Deputy Secretary General, Álvaro Albacete, and Senior

Advisor, Mohammed Abu-Nimer, participated in a series of consultations concerning the Plan at United Nations headquarters.

The Centre also hosted a follow-up meeting in June 2019 at its premises in Vienna, Austria, where Mr. Moratinos met with religious leaders and representatives of faith-based organizations from around the world to discuss the project.

The plan, entitled 'In Unity and Solidarity for Safe and Peaceful Worship', was produced in the aftermath of attacks on places of worship, including the attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, on the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, and on three Catholic churches in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, 2019.



“There is a strategic complementarity between UNAOC's focus on intercultural dialogue and KAICIID's focus on interreligious dialogue, which together can create enabling contexts towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies”

Álvaro Albacete, KAICIID Deputy Director General

Promoting interreligious dialogue locally

In 2019, KAICIID continued to actively address issues of violence and hate speech in its focus countries, strengthening its efforts to equip stakeholders and communities with the tools to promote peace and mutual understanding. Through collaboration with local partners, the Centre has:

- ❖ Supported the establishment of networks and dialogue platforms which bring together diverse religious leaders and interfaith actors, training them to spot warning signs of violence
- ❖ Advocated policies that foster safe, inclusive communities and promote dialogue as a means to address conflict situations
- ❖ Funded small-scale initiatives and activities that contribute to peacebuilding efforts in its focus countries.

In the **ARAB REGION**, along with the KAICIID-supported Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab World, the 2019 KAICIID Arab Fellows cohort was launched, training 32 religious and civil society leaders to develop and implement activities promoting peaceful coexistence in their respective communities.

The Centre also achieved another important milestone thanks to a powerful hate speech conference hosted in October 2019 (see page 16). Recommendations from the conference will be consolidated in a KAICIID action plan to prevent and counter hate speech in 2020.



In **ASIA**, the Centre has continued to support the Paungsie Metta Initiative, which is the leading interfaith dialogue platform in the country, to address violence and promote social cohesion. It also achieved an important milestone, with the official launch, in September, of the

IRD Training Centre in Pyin Oo Lwin, with the view to upgrading it to an institute with a university-style curriculum.

Furthermore, KAICIID worked towards upscaling the positive experience in Myanmar to a regional level. To that end, it held its second International Workshop titled, 'Together for Diversity', in Jakarta, in collaboration with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the participation of the ASEAN Foundation Secretariat and Institute for Peace and Reconciliation. The workshop's participants, including religious leaders and policymakers from across the region, showed a strong commitment to stop violence, protect holy sites and ensure inclusive education.

“Through collaboration with local partners, KAICIID has advocated policies that foster safe, inclusive communities and promote dialogue as a means to address conflict situations”

In **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**, the Centre contributed to relaunching the interfaith Plateforme des Confessions Religieuses de Centrafrique (PCRC), through the holding of its second general assembly and the review of its governance as well as the development of a new strategic plan for the period 2020–2023. Moreover, KAICIID continued to strengthen the platform's presence across the territory, through capacity building of its local field operations or 'antennas'.

Ahead of the general elections of 2020, KAICIID is supporting the efforts of religious leaders to counter hate speech through a nationwide advocacy campaign against rumours and fake news.



“In Asia, the Centre has continued to support the Paungsie Metta Initiative, which is the leading interfaith dialogue platform in the country, to address violence and promote social cohesion”



In the same vein, the Centre supported the formal establishment of a network of journalists educated in conflict sensitivity. The network actively engages with policymakers, and advocates the strengthening of legislative policy tools to ensure that CAR media become more inclusive and play a positive role towards the prevention of conflict.

In **NIGERIA**, KAICIID supported and engaged with its partners in the implementation of activities on the rights of women and children, intra-Muslim understanding and capacity building. The programme has also supported and facilitated the creation of early warning mechanisms in the north-east of the country as a means to prevent and defuse violence and tension.

The Arab Region

For centuries, religion has been a pivotal part of the political and social spheres in the Arab region. Unfortunately at times it has also been misused by religious actors and politicians, harming both religious values and the image of religion. As a result, violence and hate speech have become woven into public discourse, contributing to a crisis of misperceptions among religious communities in the region.

KAICIID promotes interreligious dialogue in the region through targeted programmes, which are based on a knowledge of the underlying conflicts as well as an understanding of the crucial role of religion.

The Centre has consistently invested in building the capacity of religious leaders and institutions to promote a culture of dialogue, pluralism and common citizenship through countering hate speech and incitement to violence, and implementing best practices in local and regional contexts.



In 2019 KAICIID actively engaged religious leaders and continued its support for religious institutions through the Arab Fellows Programme, all under the framework of the 'Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab Region', launched in Vienna in May, 2018. The Centre also engaged religious academic scholars and institutions in the 'Network of Muslim and Christian Faculties and institutes in the Arab Region', launched in Amman in May, 2017. Both platforms made great strides in the implementation of their action plans, providing safe environments for religious leaders and institutions to work jointly on promoting peaceful coexistence and common citizenship through interreligious dialogue.

Building on the action plan of the 2018 Vienna conference, the KAICIID Arab Region Programme brought together key religious leaders and

policymakers from Iraq in order to develop a policy paper which addresses the fundamental principles of citizenship and the need to prevent hate speech.

As part of its mission to equip young leaders with dialogue skills, the Centre maintained a high rate of engagement through its 'Social Media as Space for Dialogue' programme, welcoming over 700 participants across 12 countries. Through the training, participants learn to launch peace campaigns on social media

platforms in order to counter hate speech and incitement to violence.

Building on its efforts to include youth in decision-making and peacebuilding efforts, KAICIID launched the 'Arab region youth forum' in December 2019, welcoming more than 90 participants from 15 Arab countries to Amman, Jordan. The Forum aimed to equip youth with the skills to implement local and regional initiatives that contribute to peacebuilding and social cohesion in the region. As an outcome of the

event, participants have adopted a joint action plan for 2020, and elected steering committee members to follow up on its implementation.

KAICIID also worked to further empower women, launching the first project aimed specifically at building the capacity of women in the field, and connecting women from different faith backgrounds to strengthen their contribution to peacebuilding processes at the local and regional levels. In December, the 'Women's Empowerment in IRD' project steering committee conducted its first meeting to agree on the 2020 work plan as well as the selection criteria for its leadership.

Finally, the Centre has supported ten initiatives from seven Arab countries through its small-grant programme. Projects targeted capacity building, dialogue facilitation, awareness raising, media sensitivity and support for marginalised communities.

“As part of its mission to equip young leaders with dialogue skills, the Centre maintained a high rate of engagement through its 'Social Media as Space for Dialogue' programme”



Harnessing the Power of Words



In October, almost 200 prominent religious leaders, theologians, diplomats and representatives from intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations from around the world gathered in Vienna to discuss how to tackle hate speech with new policies and dialogue.

Hosted by KAICIID, the inaugural conference, 'The Power of Words: The Role of Religion, Media, and Policy in Countering Hate Speech', called on expert research and personal testimony given by delegates from dozens of countries, including Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, the UK and the US.

Speaking on the opening day of the conference, the former president of Austria, Heinz Fischer, talked about the disastrous

consequences of hate speech on societies around the world. "Social media is almost the invitation for hard and aggressive language," he said. "They are partly anonymous and it is proved that the language used in social media is growing in aggression. The language, the sentence and hate speech can have disastrous consequences in certain circumstances."

Hate speech has long been regarded as encouraging discord and hostility in parts of the Arab region and further afield. 'The Power of Words' conference was therefore a response to the United Nations' Plan of Action on Hate Speech, unveiled earlier this year.

Religiously and politically motivated hate speech presents a huge danger, often leading to violence against marginalised

groups. In recent years, Europe has witnessed a rise in political populism and hate speech targeted at refugees, foreigners, and various minority groups, including Muslims and Jews. In the Arab region, ISIS and Al Qaeda have promoted dangerous discourse across social media and religious media networks, targeting people who disagree with their ideology.

KAICIID supports hundreds of initiatives and social media campaigns to develop positive public narratives that counter this hatred and incitement to violence, instead promoting interreligious cooperation, peacebuilding, diversity, and inclusion. The Centre will spend EUR 1.5 million to counter hate speech across its programming in 2020.

“The language used in social media is growing in aggression”

Heinz Fischer, Former President of Austria

The Africa Region

KAICIID focuses its efforts in Africa on three strategic areas:

- ❖ Fostering spaces for dialogue and interreligious collaboration through the creation and support of interreligious platforms
- ❖ Building the capacity of religious representatives, policymakers, community leaders, and other relevant actors in order to foster interreligious collaboration
- ❖ Working with local civil society, faith-based and non-governmental organizations to increase impact at the policy and the grassroots levels through targeted interventions.

KAICIID works closely with the main interfaith platform in Central African Republic (CAR), the *Plateforme des Confessions Religieuses de Centrafrique* (PCRC), which engages in local mediation with armed groups and works to defuse intercommunal tensions. In 2019, KAICIID supported the PCRC national secretariat and its early warning mechanisms, known as antennae offices, across 14 prefectures in CAR.

In Nigeria, the KAICIID-supported Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) has increased its engagement of vulnerable groups in the context of its action plan, holding a workshop on the rights of women and children with an interfaith perspective and in collaboration with United Nations Women.

In August, the IDFP observed the United Nation's International Day of Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief by visiting internally displaced person (IDP) camps in Abuja, Nigeria, donating essential items and raising awareness of the impact of conflicts across the country.

Many people across Nigeria are suffering from religiously motivated violence. In the north-east of the country, the devastating conflict caused by Boko Haram has left thousands dead, while millions have fled to IDP camps for safety. In other



parts of the country, religion is being politicised and misused to divide and polarise communities for political gain, often destroying the communities and driving people from their homes.

On a regional level, these national efforts have been strengthened through collaboration with the African Union (AU) on the operationalisation of the African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum (AU-IFDF) and its steering committee. Through this partnership, the Centre promotes the inclusion of Africa's diverse religious communities in decision-making processes and the facilitation of joint work between religious leaders and policymakers to implement the AU's Agenda 2063. In August 2019 the steering

committee issued a statement calling for increased collaboration between faith leaders and policymakers to address migration, peacebuilding and environmental challenges across Africa.

STRENGTHENING THE DIALOGUE APPROACH

During 2019, KAICIID promoted the sustainability of its interfaith platforms by providing technical and fundraising skills to mobilise potential donor resources and diversify funding and support. The Centre also continued to collaborate with CAR authorities to ensure that the peace process is accompanied by effective national reconciliation initiatives, with the support of religious leaders.

“In August 2019 the steering committee issued a statement calling for increased collaboration between faith leaders and policymakers to address migration, peacebuilding and environmental challenges across Africa”

Through collaboration with the PCRC, KAICIID piloted successful training activities which targeted religious leaders, journalists, social influencers and activists. Furthermore, the Centre is developing a comprehensive strategy for training on interreligious education in CAR through its partnership with the University of Bangui and the École Normale Supérieure. In September, KAICIID Senior Adviser Dr. Patrice Brodeur delivered a master class on interreligious dialogue to graduate students in conflict management.

In Nigeria, the Centre worked with members of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) to determine its strategic focus for the future, given that its current action plan timeframe concluded in 2019. KAICIID also convened its first Outcome Group — an independent advisory body that provides monitoring and evaluation of the IDFP's strategic programming. Over the next year, the Outcome Group will provide assessment of the IDFP's achievement of its objectives as well as offer valuable institutional, policy and programmatic knowledge.

Across Africa, KAICIID is also committed to the support of youth — many of whom face unemployment, a lack of welfare services and exclusion from decision-making processes. In 2019, the Centre's Youth Programme hosted five regional Dialogue for Peace capacity building training sessions, welcoming 160 participants. The pool of youth dialogue trainers in Africa is continuously growing — seven have been accredited through KAICIID (including the first French-speaking trainer), with another six currently working on accreditation.

MAXIMISING THE IMPACT OF DIALOGUE

In order to speed up impact across Africa, the Centre supports the implementation of grassroots initiatives through its small-grants programme.

In Nigeria, the 2019 grant programme supported local non-governmental organizations and KAICIID Fellows with projects that target policy advocacy, prevention of hate speech and/or electoral violence, media engagement, freedom of religion, and interfaith exchange and education. The 14 projects engaged over 3,000 people across 10 states.

In CAR, KAICIID supported 11 grassroots projects which included awareness-raising, vocational training for women, and early warning and advocacy initiatives.

In addition, the Centre supported members of the KAICIID Africa cohort in countries such as Nigeria and Ghana with projects targeted at youth through the prevention of violence, crime, and drug use, and by fostering collaboration across religious and ethnic divides in educational institutions.

LOOKING AHEAD: 2020

In 2020, KAICIID plans to strengthen the independence of dialogue platforms across the African continent and expand project-focused work that builds sustainable capacity and serves as a driver of change in the region. The Centre will explore additional strategic considerations for future programming on a regional level in the context of an Africa strategy as well as support platforms with the improvement of consultation, monitoring and evaluation.



The Asia Region

South Asia is home to some of the most religiously diverse countries in the world. Yet tragically, as demonstrated by the Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka in 2019, intercommunal tensions can quickly escalate into acts of violence. Due to the current security situation, KAICIID has prioritised work in South and South-East Asia, with a specific focus on Myanmar. The Centre works with religious leaders and faith-based organizations to help communities find solutions to urgent global problems, such as violent extremism, marginalisation and displacement.

CREATING A SPACE FOR DIALOGUE

Guided by the recommendations of the international community, the Centre works to promote the inclusion, as well as the rights and dignity of all people living in Myanmar, with a special focus on marginalised communities.

KAICIID also supports engagement efforts between local policymakers and diverse religious leaders, in order to promote peace and social cohesion. To that end, the Centre is coordinating and exploring cooperation opportunities with the government of Myanmar.

During 2019, KAICIID's programming sought to better understand narratives of intolerance, including religious misconceptions, across the whole of South-East Asia. Key challenges included countering hate speech, educating youth on



diversity and promoting a genuine culture of respect. To properly address these issues, the Centre is working to ensure appropriate response at the international and regional levels.

For example, in December, KAICIID and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) invited 65 Buddhist and Muslim religious leaders from five South and South-East Asian countries to Jakarta to address issues of violence and discrimination. The two-day workshop titled 'Together for Diversity' welcomed participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Attendees drafted and adopted an action plan in support of hate speech prevention, inclusive education and the protection of holy sites.

STRENGTHENING THE DIALOGUE APPROACH

KAICIID has continued to build the capacity of the Paungsie Metta Initiative (PMI), which is the largest interreligious dialogue network in Myanmar. Through interfaith forums, inclusive dialogue events, and peace celebrations, the PMI and its partners have worked with hundreds of people to promote interreligious harmony and build bridges among religious, ethnic, political and regional communities.

In 2019, the PMI was granted official permanent registration by the authorities, followed by the inauguration in May of the first Interreligious Dialogue Training Centre in Myanmar. Located in the Asia Light Monastery in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay Region, the Training Centre hosted four intensive dialogue training sessions targeted at religious leaders, youth organizations, activists, journalists and policymakers.

The Training Centre's modules focus on religious literacy, dialogue facilitation, hate speech prevention, advocacy, and social media as a tool for preventing violence, ensuring that 50 per cent of training participants are women. To date, 801 religious and

community leaders have been trained in interreligious dialogue.

After two weeks of intensive courses, participants are tasked with applying their newly acquired knowledge through the development, design and implementation of a series of activities in their local communities. These initiatives are supported annually through PMI/KAICIID small grants.

MAXIMISING DIALOGUE'S IMPACT

Media and information play an important role in the interactions of communities — particularly in regard to hate speech and incitement to sectarian violence.

Over the past year, the PMI significantly increased its visibility on social media (with over 32,000 followers on Facebook) in order to target misinformation and incitement to violence. The circulation of fake news and hate speech on Facebook has stoked tensions between Buddhists and Muslims in western Rakhine State, leaving thousands displaced and hundreds dead. KAICIID has therefore

“KAICIID and the Paungsie Metta Initiative are working to provide better education on interfaith issues”

worked to train religious leaders and organizations in the strategic use of social media, as well as on how to respond to threats of violence.

In 2019, KAICIID also began a collaboration with Loka Ahlin, a local civil society organization, to facilitate constructive dialogue between journalists, religious leaders and peace activists.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2020, the Centre plans to strengthen the regional dimension of its programming in South and South-East Asia, engaging with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations institutions to support the inclusion of religious leaders in decision-making processes at the regional level.

In Myanmar, KAICIID and the PMI are working to provide better education on interfaith issues, including the development of a college-level curriculum on interreligious dialogue. Ahead of the November 2020 elections, the Centre also plans to support local civil society organizations with the mobilisation of religious leaders, activists, bloggers and influencers to counter hate speech and incitement to violence.

The Centre is committed to its engagement with the Myanmar authorities, and will continue to support the creation of synergies between the PMI and other partners and donors in order to promote sustainability for the programme.



“Over the past year, the Paungsie Metta Initiative significantly increased its visibility on social media (with over 32,000 followers on Facebook) in order to target misinformation and incitement to violence”

Myanmar — a message of peace

Ashin Mandalarlankara's journey from a secluded monastery on the banks of the Irrawaddy River to promoting interreligious dialogue across Myanmar and around the world has been motivated by an urgent need for peace in his country.

In recent years, religious and ethnic tensions have erupted into violence. The rapid spread of misinformation and hate speech online has only made the clashes worse.

"The problem in Myanmar is that people are afraid to lose their identity," says Mandalarlankara. "That leads to tension, conflict, anger, misunderstanding and discrimination among people

who do not even understand the teachings of their own religions."

Since his training with KAICIID, Mandalarlankara has led more than a dozen interreligious dialogue training sessions and activities for novice monks at his monastery, in partnership with the Center for Diversity and National Harmony, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, and the KAICIID-supported Paungsie Metta Initiative.

Mandalarlankara also leads intra-religious dialogue sessions for Buddhist monks and nuns around the country. "In Myanmar, we have so many ethnic groups with different cultures, values,

languages, and beliefs," he said.

"Living under military rule, we didn't have a chance to study and understand these differences. There was always tension and misunderstanding. By learning about ourselves and each other through intra- and interreligious dialogue, by sharing our differences and similarities, we can find ways to live peacefully and harmoniously."

Mandalarlankara largely credits his dialogue training at KAICIID with giving him the knowledge, skills, and confidence to collaborate with other faith leaders and promote intercultural and interreligious understanding.

"We have to make peace in our home, but we also have to be peace messengers. In order to understand and accept each other, in order to achieve peace and harmony, we have to communicate with people of different religious backgrounds. KAICIID has made that happen"

Ashin Mandalarlankara

Promoting interreligious dialogue globally

At the global level, KAICIID fosters social cohesion and peaceful societies, and promotes interreligious and intercultural dialogue through capacity building, partnering with international organizations and providing access to online resources and e-learning opportunities.

While capacity development is a theme across each of its programmes, this is a particular focus of both the KAICIID International Fellows Programme (KIFP) and the Programme for the Social Inclusion of

People Seeking Refuge in Europe (PSR).

The KIFP expanded significantly during 2019, launching its European cohort in addition to four previously existing regional cohorts. In December, 93 new Fellows graduated from the programme with skills in interreligious dialogue, peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Since its start, the KIFP has trained over 276 Fellows from 59 countries, and the programme graduates have implemented over 72 joint or individual initiatives within their

communities, directly targeting over 5,000 individuals.

In 2019, the Fellows were tasked with aligning their initiatives with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme closed the year by hosting its first alumni conference 'Dialogue4SDGs', which explored the role of dialogue in supporting inclusive education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), peaceful and just communities (SDG 16) and global partnerships for development (SDG 17). At the end of the conference, Fellows committed to using their skills in dialogue to help advance those goals.

The KIFP also continued to foster opportunities for programme alumni, by providing networking opportunities, grant funding, and offering further professional development.

“The KIFP expanded significantly during 2019, launching its European cohort in addition to four previously existing regional cohorts”



In early 2019, the PSR programme launched the Network for Dialogue in Bologna, Italy, creating a network of experts tasked with providing best practices and policy advice in the field of integration. Within a few months, network membership expanded to include 23 institutions from 10 European countries. The Network also produced an annual policy magazine titled 'Inclusion through Dialogue', which showcases the work of 11 members on the use of dialogical approaches for the successful integration of refugees and migrants in Europe.

In May 2019, the PSR's Vienna-based 'Integration through Dialogue Project' published the results of its year-long pilot-project in an educational toolkit which includes 13 interactive classroom modules on integration topics such as language learning, job opportunities, and culture. The Centre is currently training facilitators in the use of the toolkit and encouraging its dissemination and use in Austria and other parts of Europe.

In October 2019, the PSR Programme hosted the 1st annual European Policy Dialogue Forum in Athens, gathering 60 policymakers, religious leaders, academics and civil society representatives to discuss best practices and policy recommendations for using dialogue to improve integration services for refugees and migrants in Europe.

In 2019, KAICIID also celebrated five years of collaboration with the World Organization of the Scout Movement on the Dialogue for Peace Programme (DfP), which is the Centre's core programme for youth. The DfP has reached over 2,600 young people in more than 40



“In 2019, KAICIID celebrated five years of collaboration with the World Organization of the Scout Movement on the Dialogue for Peace Programme”

training sessions and implemented over 300 workshops. The programme is also piloting a micro-grants scheme for Scouts and exploring potential expansion to other youth organizations.

KAICIID's partnerships and global coordination are synthesised within the International Collaboration and Networking Programme, which works across the Centre's many programmes to promote and catalyse interreligious dialogue among international organizations and networks.

KAICIID serves on the Board and advisory committees of at least four international networks and initiatives such as the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, the Strategic Learning Exchange, the Joint Learning Initiative and the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development.

Additionally, KAICIID continues to support and foster the development of the African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum and its steering committee, as well as the Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council in Europe. The Centre also supported the implementation of the first Cordoba Forum, organized by the Paradigma Cordoba Foundation.

KAICIID also partners with UNESCO's Arab regional office and is currently working to produce an online course that will capture the results of four years' consultations on Global Citizenship Education in the context of the Middle East.



The KAICIID Fellows' first alumni conference 'Dialogue4SDGs' explored the role of dialogue in supporting United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 16 and 17

Strengthening connections through the International Fellows Programme

The quote below (opposite page) is just one of many examples of how KAICIID's Fellows programme is helping to equip, inspire and empower emerging leaders and educators from faith communities to become leaders and experts on interreligious dialogue (IRD) in their societies. Fellows are selected from important institutions throughout the world and on the basis

of their willingness and ability to be a force for change in their societies.

In 2019, 93 new Fellows were trained in IRD, peacebuilding and conflict resolution. This included the fifth International Cohort, third Arab Region cohort (which was implemented under the umbrella of the interreligious dialogue platform in the Arab Region), the second

South and South-East Asia cohort and the first European cohort, a new milestone for the programme.

According to the overall feedback received by several stakeholders, the Fellows programme continues to be transformative. Results from two external evaluations indicate that the KIFP remains relevant to the Fellows' work, and confirms that changes in Fellows' lives are "extraordinarily inspiring and convincing."

In 2019 the Fellows implemented a total of 72 initiatives within their institutions. This includes seven joint initiatives which are being implemented and are expected to impact over 5,000 individuals.

Rehmah Kasule, a 2017 graduate of the programme, says: "The KIFP has connected me to other peacebuilders

"Fellows are selected from important institutions throughout the world and on the basis of their willingness and ability to be a force for change with their societies"



around the world, which has given me an opportunity to share, learn, network and form collaborations."

KAICIID continued to provide opportunities for Fellows to strengthen their connections and stay engaged in the field of IRD. To date KAICIID has initiated seven national alumni chapters in Egypt, India, Indonesia, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, Nigeria and Sri Lanka, which support joint collaboration among graduates. In 2019, the alumni micro-grant programme also expanded, allowing more opportunities for Fellows to implement individual and joint projects aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In December 2019, KAICIID held its first alumni conference 'Dialogue4SDGs' which explored the role of dialogue in supporting inclusive education, gender equality, peaceful and just societies, and partnerships. The Fellows left with a commitment and concrete plans for dialogue interventions to help advance the SDGs.

"My involvement with KAICIID has affected my vision of my role in society and I feel very responsible for what is happening around me and my duty towards it... My work in Jordan has doubled due to the increasing demand of centres, institutions and schools for lectures on my KAICIID initiative and dialogue..."

Rania Alayoubi, Fellows Arab Region, 2017

Authentic learning experiences

“Interfaith is a way of life and dialogue is a process, so this is a lifelong learning”

Heidi Rautionmaa

PANEL SESSION:
SDG 4 - DIALO

1 Syed Araf
2 Ruth Odeyara
3 Nelson A. Kakkethi
4 Anwar Bang
5 Habibul Ola-Jou-Ullah
6 KET NAINA TO
7 Juan C Urbano
8 Stephen Djapah
9 LIYATI LIANG
10 LAMIA 3
11 SAMANTA SURYA
12 TERESITA MIRAFUEVES
13 KHONSANAH WONGANNARY
14 CIOLA BOLARON
15 VLADIMIR NARSIA
16 HEIDI RAUTIONMAA
17 MUMU

Interreligious dialogue has been a vital part in the growth and spiritual development of Heidi Rautionmaa, a Lutheran pastor who has been actively involved in dialogue for more than 20 years, and participated in the KAICIID Fellows Programme last year.

It was when Muslim migrants from countries such as Somalia arrived in Finland, that she discovered that she wanted to “build a bridge” between different cultures and give newcomers and other minorities a voice. “Minorities must feel supported

and recognised,” she said. “As an interreligious dialogue practitioner and a woman, I approach my work differently. I focus on making sure my interventions are productive, impacting people through education.”

Heidi works producing study materials for Finnish schools, which help students understand how to coexist and cooperate with people from different backgrounds and religions.

The KAICIID Fellows training and mentoring has helped her pass on important knowledge and

techniques to more teachers, so that they can introduce the living plurality of religious perspectives and diverse worldviews.

“The Fellows Programme naturally creates a network with which we can share our knowledge, concerns, joys and challenges with other colleagues from around the world,” she said.

Heidi also believes in experimental learning and she is applying the knowledge and techniques that she has acquired to provide “authentic” learning experiences for teachers in Finland.

Integration through dialogue for people seeking refuge in Europe



“Actively engaging policymakers is an important step towards multiplying the use of dialogue for the social inclusion of newcomers on the European continent”

Since the so-called “refugee crisis” in 2015, migration has become a topic of considerable debate in Europe. KAICIID’s Programme for the Social Inclusion of People Seeking Refuge in Europe (PSR) views integration as a two-way process where refugees and migrants actively seek to integrate, and the host country provides them with the appropriate mechanisms to do so.

The Centre believes that dialogue is essential to the enhancement of social inclusion for people seeking refuge, and contributes to their successful integration. Providing spaces for dialogical encounters between the local host community and newcomers

encourages a deeper understanding of each other’s needs and fears.

INTEGRATION THROUGH DIALOGUE

In 2017, a team of three KAICIID Vienna-based dialogue facilitators from migrant backgrounds launched a pilot project that supports people seeking refuge to gain a better understanding of Austrian culture, as well as their new legal framework. Dialogue sessions and lessons were then compiled into an interactive toolkit which was published and launched in 2019. The toolkit encompasses 13 interactive modules including language-learning,

opportunities for education, and the understanding of cultural expectations.

KAICIID’s dialogue facilitation team presented the toolkit at its Vienna headquarters in May, welcoming participants from refugee organizations, academics and the local government.

In the autumn of 2019, the Centre hosted its first two multiplier training sessions in English and German, in an attempt to expand the use of the toolkit to countries across Europe. An online version of the toolkit is available for free download on KAICIID’s website, in both German and English, and there is an animated video on KAICIID’s YouTube channel.

In 2020, the PSR programme plans to adapt the toolkit in other European languages and contexts in order to continue to serve integration efforts across the continent.

ENGAGING THE LOCAL HOST COMMUNITY

The Centre actively sought to engage its local host community in Austria through three key events. In June 2019, the Centre hosted an event for World Refugee Day, inviting people seeking refuge and members of the local host community to learn from each other through dialogue.

In October 2019, KAICIID participated in the Caritas Global Solidarity Walk initiative, inviting refugees, migrants and members of the local host community to walk side by side for three kilometres, in order to raise awareness of the difficult journeys that many people seeking refuge have made. Participants also had the opportunity to hear from six people seeking refuge, who shared personal stories about their own journeys to Austria.

Throughout the year, KAICIID also organized dialogue sessions with both Afghan and Syrian female refugees.

NETWORK FOR DIALOGUE

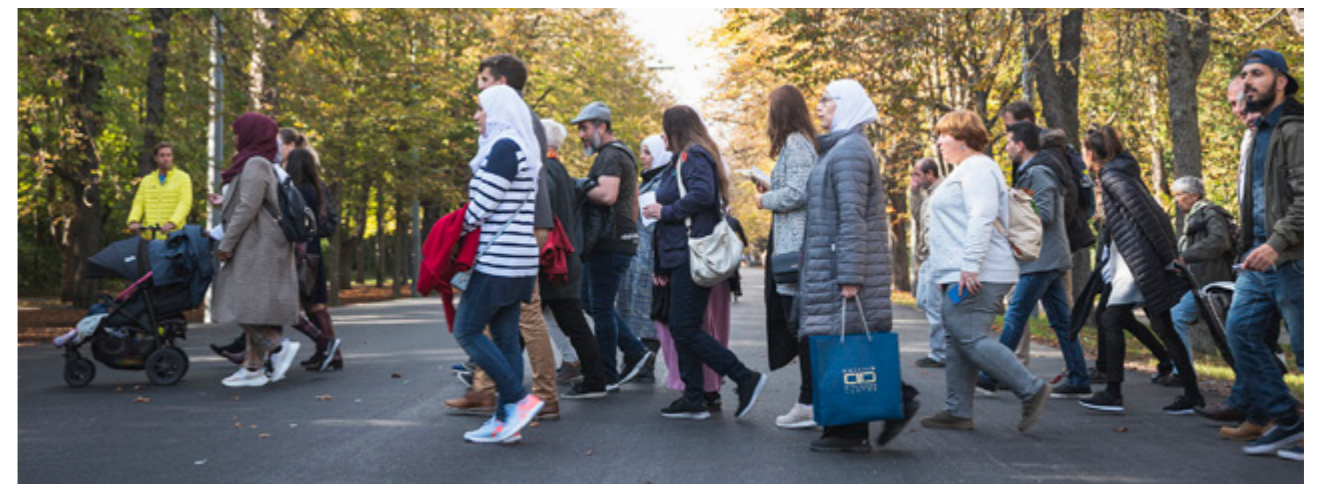
Launched in Bologna, Italy, in March 2019, the Network for Dialogue aims to empower faith-based and secular civil society organizations working in the field of the social inclusion of refugees and migrants. Additionally, the Network hosted its second workshop, which fostered joint learning between members and laid the groundwork for further growth. Over six months, the Network expanded to include 23 members from 10 European countries.

Network members also hosted and spoke at two panels at a leading academic conference on religious issues — the European Academy of Religion — on the use of dialogue in the social inclusion of refugees in Europe.

In October 2019, the Network hosted an annual policy forum, gathering 60 policymakers, religious leaders, academics and civil society representatives to discuss the first steps for the development of policy recommendations that foster the use of dialogue with refugees and migrants in Europe. KAICIID believes that actively engaging policymakers is an important step towards multiplying the use of dialogue for the social inclusion of newcomers on the European continent, and allows the building of trust.

Additionally, the Network produced its first annual policy magazine, using members’ expertise to publish best practices and case studies from 11 organizations in the field of migration.

“The Network for Dialogue aims to empower faith-based and secular civil society organizations working in the field of the social inclusion of refugees and migrants”



Engaging youth as agents of positive change through dialogue

In line with the International Collaborations and Networking Unit's overall aim to promote and institutionalise dialogue within international organizations, the Youth Programme, through its partnerships, seeks to develop the dialogical capacities of youth worldwide.

Since its inception, KAICIID has seen young people as essential partners, both for bringing peace through dialogue and as agents of change. Inspired by the progressive global direction of youth involvement in all spheres and levels of decision-making, the Youth Programme Strategy was approved in mid-June 2019. The strategy touches on several planned implementation directions, including:

- ❖ Mainstreaming dialogue through multi-stakeholder youth-related collaborations with faith-based and international organizations (youth-led and/or working with and for youth) in order to promote a culture of peace and create positive change in society
- ❖ Increasing and systematising the visibility of youth participation in interreligious dialogue (IRD) and intercultural dialogue (ICD) processes
- ❖ Expanding the Centre's Dialogue for Peace Programme to other youth organizations and ensuring its sustainability within Scouting
- ❖ Streamlining and amplifying youth engagement in all of the Centre's programmatic work and partnerships.



DIALOGUE IN SCOUTING

Together with the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), the Centre has developed its flagship programme for youth — Dialogue for Peace (DfP). Currently in its sixth year of implementation, the programme has witnessed exponential growth in the past few years, reaching over 2,600 young people in more than 40 training sessions, 300 workshops and other DfP activities.

In 2019, the DfP Programme was activated in two new Scout geographies, namely the Eurasia and Arab Regions. This important step furthered the aim to incorporate dialogue into the fabric of Scouting

worldwide. Currently, the programme has accredited 21 trainers from all six Scout Regions, with another 14 in the process of accreditation.

The Centre is also working to enhance sustainability by 2020. Beginning in 2019, the DfP Programme started to organise and conduct its own training sessions in Africa Region countries without reliance on coordination or financial support from KAICIID.

In December 2019, a small grants programme was launched, with hundreds of applications received from Scouts around the world. Successful projects were carefully selected by a committee comprising experts from KAICIID, WOSM and the World Scout Foundation (WSF). Based on the success of the pilot project, a systematic grant scheme is being considered for rollout in late 2020.

2019 also marked several key milestones for the KAICIID–WOSM collaboration in relation to spiritual development within the various Scout programmes. During the 24th World

Scout Jamboree held in West Virginia, US (see page 36), the Centre launched the Interreligious Dialogue Badge. Like the Dialogue for Peace Programme as a whole, the badge not only recognises the skills and knowledge of dialogue, but also supports the social and moral values of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. Corresponding educational materials are being enhanced and developed with the involvement of KAICIID's experts.

In 2020, the Spiritual Development Wing of Scouting is expected to further its growth as well as to design a series of programmatic activities to support the badge acquisition process.

EXPANSION OF THE DFP PROGRAMME

The gradual expansion of the Youth Programme, in addition to the DfP programme, outside of the Scouting context has been marked by a number of activities with other youth organizations.

The Centre succeeded in formalising and strengthening its collaboration with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) through involvement in two research projects. The two projects focus on gender

equality and quality education, both of which are a priority for KAICIID as well as constituting an integral part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Additionally, a KAICIID-organized youth seminar convened a diverse group of 30 participants representing a total of 14 different organizations active in the field of social development. Through this event, the Centre had the opportunity to verify the applicability and adaptability of the DfP model beyond the Scouting context, a crucial departure point in the implementation of the Youth Programme's Strategy. In 2020, collaborations with United Nations agencies are expected to result in other international gatherings with a focus on, and increased participation by, youth.

In order to map IRD/ICD youth initiatives worldwide, the Youth Programme has also started a joint project with the Centre's Dialogue Knowledge Hub (DKH). Through an initial two-month research phase, the DKH is identifying relevant youth organizations working at the international and regional level in order to create a Youth Directory as part of the KAICIID Peace Map.

THE DIALOGO! GAME OUTREACH

In 2019, the Centre's interactive board game DialoGo! became increasingly popular among the Scouting community. During the World Scout Jamboree alone, more than 500 Scouts played in the game with their peers, leaders and representatives of other international organizations in order to acquire and strengthen their dialogical and facilitation skills.

The Centre also launched the game in Burmese and Portuguese (all versions are available for download from the KAICIID website). Through these translations, the game is now accessible to a new audience of more than 240 million native speakers worldwide.

Through a strategic market access opportunity assessment finalised in late 2018 and approved alongside the Youth Strategy in June 2019, the game's potential and positioning have been assessed, both as an educational aid and as a social board game. According to the study, DialoGo's first phase of its growth strategy (until Q3 2020) envisions outreach to youth and religious leaders in all of KAICIID's programmes, as well as increased promotion and activation of existing partners for potential collaboration and increased visibility.

Another highlight was the increased interest in the gaming sessions of the KAICIID DialoGo! board game from a variety of participants. Player groups would vary in composition, and include friends in Scouting, contingent members, family members, and representatives of various organizations, all of which would influence the overall gameplay dynamics. While playing, the participants applied their newly acquired knowledge of dialogue to a topic of their choosing and improved their facilitation skills. In total, more than 200 diverse groups, each averaging 5 players, played DialoGo sessions on topics closely related to social matters. Through proven interest in dialogical principles and increased engagement in the activities, a number of participants obtained the dialogue ambassadors' first-level Dialogue for Peace badge.



“KAICIID is conscious of the progressive global direction of youth involvement in all spheres and levels of decision-making”

Promoting dialogue through developing institutional relationships worldwide

KAICIID's partnerships with various entities, ranging from intergovernmental organizations to grassroots non-governmental organizations, have always been important both to its development and its mission to use interreligious dialogue (IRD) as the means of achieving a more just, inclusive and peaceful world.

In close collaboration with KAICIID's other outreach functions, the International Collaboration and Networking Programme (ICN) maintains a strong focus on developing and cultivating institutional relationships to fulfil its objectives of promoting IRD and intercultural dialogue (ICD) and

helping to mainstream those ideals in the practices and structures of organizations working in peacebuilding and reconciliation worldwide.

The ICN follows a twin-tracked approach to partners. On one hand it works with a portfolio of KAICIID's strategic partners to jointly design, develop and implement collaborative projects pursuing mutual objectives such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. On the other, the ICN advocates and encourages IRD/ICD among the Centre's contacts, most concretely by supporting advocacy and networking opportunities that bring together various networks, religions and sectors. In each case, firm and sustainable changes in the policies and approaches of partner organizations, civil society and government agencies are the intended outcome.

In 2019, the programme organized a total of nine activities. Particularly prominent among them were the networking opportunities that the Centre sought to support, whether through contributions to existing networks — for example to the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, as they presented their new five-year strategy in Jakarta in November 2019 — or help with creating new ones such as the Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC), and its ancillary European Muslim Leaders' Majlis.

The MJLC convened twice in 2019 in different groupings, gained members and become more independently active. Since February, the Council has released several joint statements that bring the coordinated views of Muslim and Jewish European citizens to subjects ranging from condemnation of the Yom Kippur attack in Halle, Germany, to the impulse within a centrist Swedish party to work towards a ban on circumcision. At a meeting in Matera,



“The Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council has released several joint statements that bring the coordinated views of Muslim and Jewish European citizens to controversial subjects”



Italy, the MJLC formed expert groups on advocacy and faith-specific practices, to gather and mobilise the expertise of the international group to engage in policy debate.

Additionally, in 2019, KAICIID helped to create more than 30 networking opportunities. At the Cordoba Forum — a gathering of some hundred representatives of European civil society organizations — the Centre hosted a youth seminar, inviting young leaders to improve their dialogue skills and to meet established experts in the field. That contribution met with 95% approval among participants, a solid mandate for further partnership work focusing on intergenerational dialogue in Europe.

Meanwhile in Africa and the Middle East, the ICN supports partners in the maintenance of longer-established structures to enshrine IRD and cross-sector dialogue in policy work.

The African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum gained member

“The committee presented its determination to work with Mozambican Parliamentarians on environmental protection, disarmament and migration”

state support in 2018 when it met for the third time and nominated a new steering committee to implement African Agenda 2063. In August 2019, with KAICIID and the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate, the committee explored options for more action at a regional level; presented its determination to work with Mozambican Parliamentarians on environmental protection, disarmament and migration; and promoted the first proposal to found a regional hub, which is a significant step towards sustainability.

In the Arab Region, the Centre has been working with UNESCO's

regional office in Beirut to produce an online course that will capture the results of four years of consultation on Global Citizenship Education in the Middle Eastern context and open opportunities for the application and replication of best practices.

With all ICN partners keen to continue to work with the Centre, and strong approval from participants on KAICIID's engagements — an average of 96.5% of participants in recent events considered the partnership to be beneficial — 2019 has been a year of warm relations and preparation for a number of key events under a new strategy in 2020.

KAICIID joins the World Scout Jamboree

“ We want people to join the movement, be ambassadors and promote the culture of peace and dialogue, and together we can build a better world ”

Yasser Sarona, Boy Scouts of the Philippines

In July 2019, KAICIID joined more than 40,000 Scouts from 150 countries, meeting up in West Virginia, US, for the 24th World Scout Jamboree, as well as to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Dialogue for Peace Programme.

Ever since its establishment, KAICIID has seen young people as essential partners for peace. In turn, as the world's leading youth organization, the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is, at its core, an institution founded on dialogue. This is a natural alliance, and provides a way for KAICIID to help the Scouts build on the dialogue skills and values within Scouting and promote them externally to a larger population.

In the past 18 months of

operation, the Dialogue for Peace Programme has held numerous training sessions around the world, equipping over 800 young people from 70 countries with the skills and principles of dialogue. During the first days of the Jamboree alone, hundreds of young people from over 50 countries were introduced to the programme's initiatives, which were facilitated by a joint team from KAICIID and the Scouts.

The Jamboree also marked the launch of an exciting new education programme for Scouts: the Interreligious Dialogue Badge, which furthers KAICIID's joint commitment to create a better world. Like the Dialogue for Peace Programme as a whole, the badge

not only recognizes the skills and knowledge required for dialogue, but also supports the social and moral values of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

WOSM and KAICIID's joint programmes are designed to equip youth with the skills to engage in conflict resolution, peace education, peacebuilding, and reconciliation, based on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.

Over the last five years, the programme's established success and clear applicability within and outside of the Scouting context shows its potential for sustainable impact on youth across different religions, cultures and social backgrounds.

Expanding the Dialogue Knowledge Hub

In order to address the evolving needs of KAICIID's stakeholders as well as those of the wider public in the field of interreligious dialogue, the KAICIID Dialogue Knowledge Hub (DKH) has diversified its portfolio of online courses and webinars, and developed and introduced new online databases and knowledge tools. The result is a significant increase in the number of participants who completed e-learning courses as well as the DKH being used more frequently for projects and daily work.

DKH E-LEARNING AND TRAINING SOLUTIONS

In 2019, the DKH's e-learning and training solutions focused on the design and delivery of the following key initiatives:

The KAICIID online Course titled 'Basics of Interreligious Dialogue' is a three-credit bachelor and master's degree level accredited university course that can be offered at any academic institution as an elective course within a wide range of programmes. The online course,

which is offered in both French and English, is administered over 12 weeks with participants receiving a KAICIID certificate upon successful completion. The course is the result of an ongoing collaboration with renowned institutions such as the University of Montreal, the Complutense University of Madrid and the Institute for the Sciences of Religions in Barcelona. As of the end of 2019, 128 participants had completed the online course.

In 2019, the DKH developed a new 8-module interreligious dialogue (IRD) online course, and negotiations commenced with a number of universities to translate and incorporate it into their existing lectures and courses. In June 2019, KAICIID signed a partnership agreement with The University of Münster, Germany to officially integrate this online course into its curriculum for bachelor and master level students.

“15 cohorts' courses were offered, targeting 506 participants from 54 countries globally including 70 KAICIID Fellows from both the international and regional cohorts”

In March, the DKH launched a series of five short online courses on specific key IRD topics, offered as self-paced, non-certificated Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC). These have been specifically developed to address the needs of policy- and decision makers, covering key issues such as addressing religiophobia and discrimination, creating a global ethical framework and using IRD in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

In 2019 alone, 15 courses were offered, targeting 506 participants from 54 countries globally including 70 KAICIID Fellows from both the international and regional cohorts.

WEBINARS

In partnership with the Joint Learning Initiative (JLI) KAICIID also hosts regular webinars. Past topics have included the intersection of feminism and interreligious dialogue, how dialogue can support the social inclusion of migrants and refugees, and tools for using the KAICIID Peace Map. All webinars are recorded and archived on the DKH website.

INCORPORATING BLENDED LEARNING INTO TRAINING DESIGN

In 2019, the DKH provided customised services and tailor-made support not only to external constituencies and stakeholders, but also to KAICIID's other departments and programmes. This contributed to a more effective, results-oriented strategy. This function included incorporating a blended learning approach and methodology (combining face-to face and online training courses) to wider programme cycles such as KIFP (68 Fellows), the Youth Programme (69 Scout leaders); and two tailor-made webinars for the PSR programme. KAICIID's face-to-face training sessions were supplemented with follow up e-learning components such as online courses and webinars.

ONLINE DIRECTORY: WHO IS WHO IN INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

In June 2019, the new online directory 'Who is Who in Interreligious Dialogue' was introduced to the

“Courses have been specifically developed to address the needs of policy- and decision makers, covering key issues such as addressing religiophobia and discrimination, creating a global ethical framework and using IRD in conflict resolution and peacebuilding”



DKH portfolio of tools and resources. Through a careful review and selection process, experts in the field of interreligious dialogue are invited to join the list. To date, 142 persons have been included in the directory.

EVOLVING ONLINE RESOURCES

DKH research efforts also included the first steps in introducing a new and innovative resource to map programmes and projects on religiophobia. Data was gathered, assessed and a comprehensive feasibility study submitted on the resource's niche in this new area of research and information dissemination. The first phase, a simple, searchable directory was added to the DKH's ever-growing array of online resources.

In support of the United Nations commitment to highlight the role of faith-based organizations (FBOs) as vital partners in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Dialogue Voices project began

work on a series of 17 short films that explore the work of religious humanitarian and development projects around the world. In 2019, the Centre completed five initial pilot films with plans to finish the remaining 12 in 2020. The videos take a closer look at FBOs operating on the ground and their impact at the grassroots level. Featured projects include a special focus on religious, ethnic, gender and geographic diversity.

Aiming to better address the evolving needs of key stakeholders with regard to online resources and knowledge tools, the DKH introduced a new strategic approach in 2019. Focusing on the sustainability and engagement of existing members, the Peace Map and the Who's Who will be more closely integrated technically and editorially, with the support of other (existing and future) resources through the same platform. The restructuring and prioritization of DKH online resources will be fully implemented in 2020.

Budget and staff

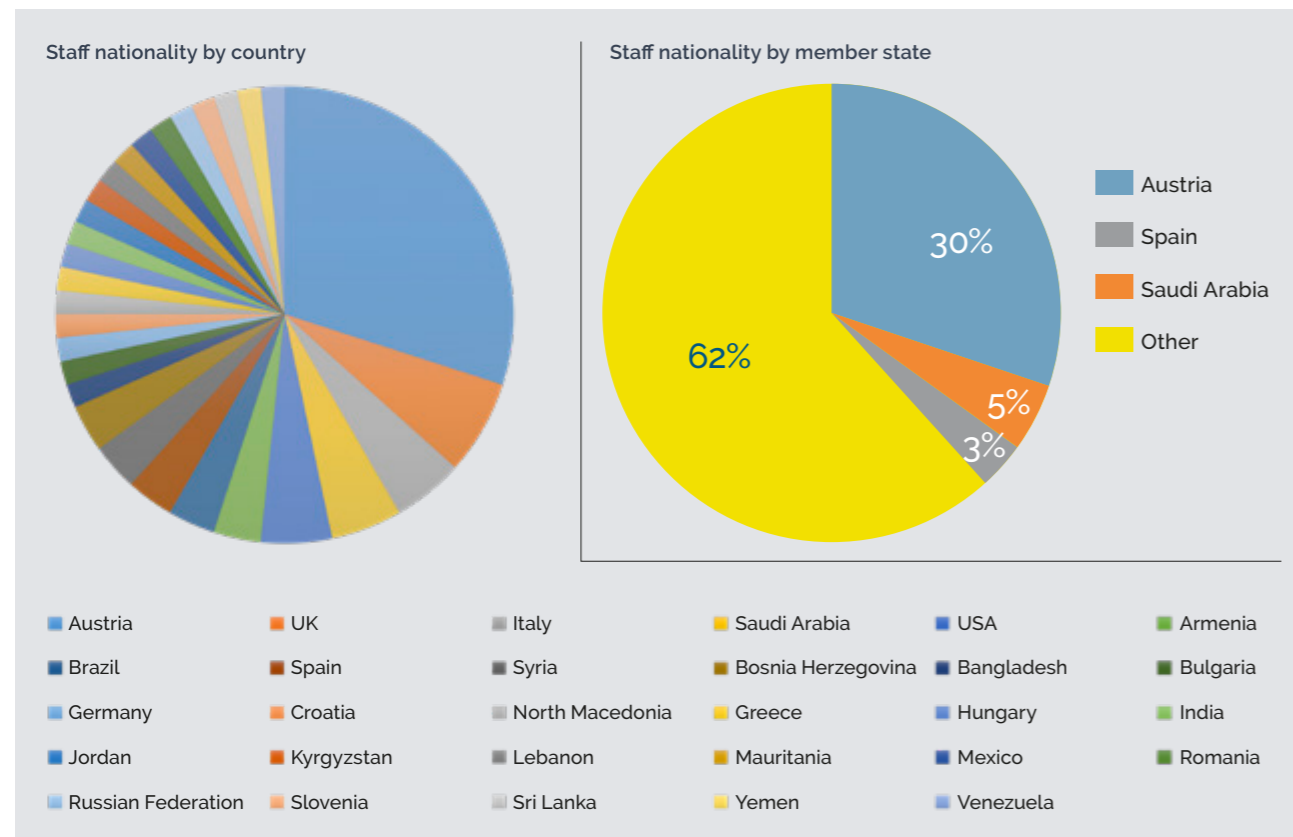
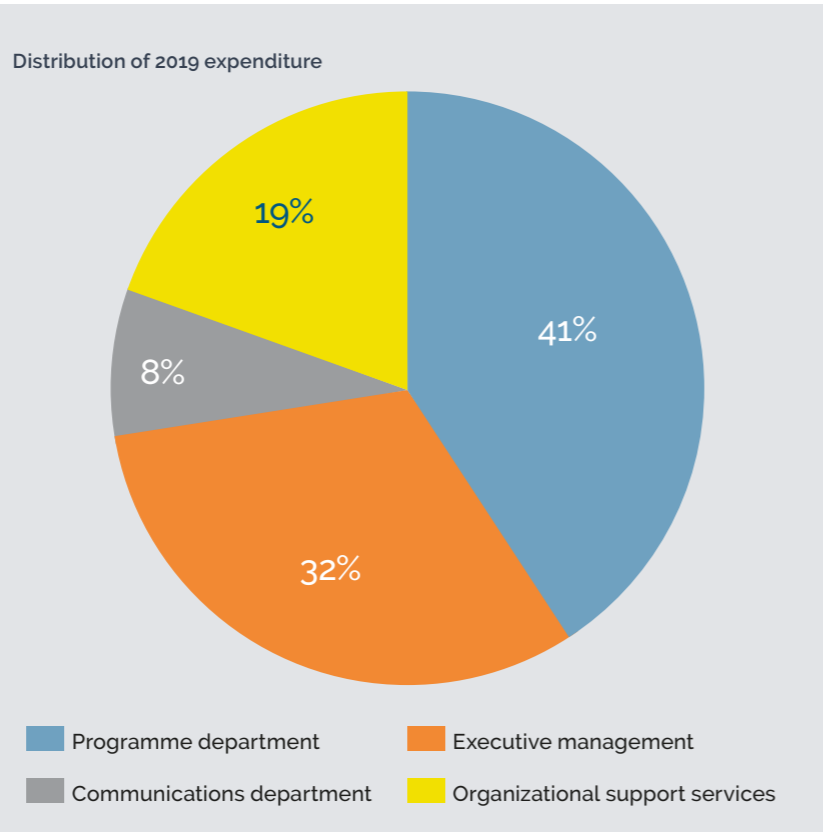
The 2019 programme and budget was approved by the Council of Parties at a total of EUR 15.9 million (EUR 12.3 million funded and EUR 3.6 million initially unfunded), covering the programmes and activities of the Centre in line with KAICIID's Strategic Plan for the period 2016–2019, approved by the Board of Directors on 19 November 2015.

The cash surplus from the 2018 financial year, as well as further voluntary contributions received during 2019 from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, provided the financing of the 2019 programme and budget.

The total 2019 expenditure reached EUR 15.5 million (this figure is subject to the final audit of the 2019 financial statements.)

HUMAN RESOURCES

KAICIID's programmes are administered by a diverse multicultural staff from over 29 countries, including the Centre's Member States.



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