

## Cairo Document on Citizenship

With the participation of about three hundred scholars from different countries in the 30<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs convened on Sunday and Monday, 16-17 Muharram 1441 AH, corresponding to 10-11 September 2019 C.E., under the patronage of President Sisi and chaired by Prof. Muhammad Mukhtar Gomaa, Egypt's Minister of Religious Endowments (*awqaf*), entitled "State-Building Jurisprudence: A Modern Jurisprudential Vision", the participants have agreed on issuing the following document: "Cairo Document on Citizenship".

There is almost unanimity among all participants on the fact that equal citizenship is one of the key fundamentals of national security, stability and prosperity. The countries that achieve equal citizenship are the most secure, prosperous and advanced while those plagued by religious, racial or sectarian wars are beset by chaos that leaves destruction everywhere: "But Allah does not like corruption." [3: 200].

The participants have stressed on the following points:

1. Citizenship is an act of giving, belonging and respect for all state symbols including its flag, anthem and all material and moral symbols.
2. It is imperative to respect law, constitution and national policies and institutions.

٣. Muslims must respect the citizenship contract between the state and its subjects whether they live in a Muslim-majority or a Muslim-minority country.
٤. The jurisprudence of citizenship is **not confined** to the relations between people of different faiths, although reinforcing the principles of coexistence between them is one of its fundamental principles.
٥. The concept of citizenship is broad enough to achieve all aspects of justice between all people, without any discrimination based on religion, color, gender, race or school of thought. Women should be given their complete rights. **These concepts are achieved by the genuine understanding of the texts of Qur'an and Sunnah.**
٦. We should take care of the elderly and people with special needs. The value of material and moral solidarity between fellow citizens should be optimized. This is ensured by the enlightened understanding and proper application of the doctrine of collective duty (*kifaya*).
٧. We should enhance the principle of rights and obligations between the state and its subjects on the one hand, and between the fellow citizens themselves on the other. As long as a citizen is keen on enjoying **his rights, he should fulfil his obligations** towards the state and fellow citizens. The state should provide a decent life for its subjects and secure their rights both at home and abroad.

٨. All religious, cultural, educational and media institutions should work hard to elucidate the **concept of equal citizenship** and the need to sustain the state and help it prosper. These institutions should work on a comprehensive and joint strategy to refute the state-related allegations circulated by the extremist formations.
٩. It is recommended that a working group of the participating scholars be formed to represent and circulate this document worldwide.

All participants in the Conference have stressed their approval and adoption of all clauses included in this important historical document.