

The Parliamentary role in Promoting Interfaith and Intercultural Cooperation

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Dealing with the concept of dialogue is an important aspect to religions and cultures. The familiarity with the dialogue in terms of understanding and significance is essential, not only confined to specialized and knowledgeable people -especially those widely recognized the consequence of dialogue in resolving many of the complexities at the local and global level in broad- but the message is to realize the implementation of dialogue in a simple way at the individual and community levels to deal with a lot of issues and problems locally, regionally, and globally.

Significant views appeared in meetings, studies and research about the concept of culture which includes many important elements, such as values, religion, language, customs and traditions. It is necessary dealing with these variables at the local community level (which is dominated by homogeneity) and then at the global level.

The culture varies between its elements. Cultures can share one language and/or common values. Here, I would like to talk about concepts of shared values and diverse values. Societies previously considered culture of others as a different or strange culture, which an individual should know that culture as a different body from his/her own culture; however, the recent trend appeared with the emergence of globalization and then the emergence of the movement of Global Education. The later focused on understanding each other's culture and the necessity of respect and tolerance.

The diverse values should be accepted among the peoples of the world, where the concepts of understanding and respect, and dialogue between societies with different languages become the preferred attitude. Values and customs became as an important means to reach common visions. Since the world political, economic, and environmental issues and problems exceeded the cultural dimension in terms of the

complexities and the effect on the world community, an essential dialogue and cooperation turn out to be the effective tools to deal with these dimensions.

I believe that the challenges facing the global community lies on its response to the issues and problems of human rights and dignity, and the removal of injustice. As we know that there is no society to be protected forever from injustice, working to understand the humanitarian roles through official, semi-official and private channels appears to be necessary. As it is commonly known that political issues interfere with cultural dimension, it is clear that the consequence of the economic dimension is enormous, which the later shows the world's dependence on each others. All these indicators give evidence of the meaning of cooperation and dialogue.

Implementing dialogue with immense understanding and cooperation of interfaith and multiculturalism must be profitable to the world community, which can be applied throughout educational plans and programs. The individuals can prospect and feel responsibility towards their society and to the world as well. However, I believe the real learning does not depend on memorization but to build educational system and methodology of knowledge, values, attitudes, skills and to be concluded with participation in community. All these procedure should prepare the individuals to live and interact with high positivity.

The following points can be important to the parliamentary role with regard to aforementioned perceptions:

1. Building regulations and laws that support the role of dialogue concerning the dimension of religion, taking into consideration understanding of other cultures without hegemony of culture over another or values on the others. Upscale values always find their ways through the interaction with the values and customs of other societies.

2. Activating the agreements and international treaties, in particular with the cultural aspect, and open informal communication channels in addition to official meetings and exchanging of visits.

3. Stimulating the parliamentary committees friendships to achieve its aims of opening channels of dialogue with similar committees and civil institutions for the purpose of developing cooperation, and strengthening parliamentary role and interaction.

4. Evaluating the role of civil institutions and assemblies, and other organizations to encourage their functions toward local and global communities.

5. adopting the ideas of the Global Education dimensions when building educational curriculum, because they carry orientations toward other societies, taking into account the understanding of the cultural dimensions of shared values and political, economic systems, and environmental problems. The history of our issues and problems must be covered up to reach insights and solutions that help governments to solve the problems and global issues.

6. Establishing research centers concerned with the study of cultural and social issues that are in favor of human community. It is useful to clarify that The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia established a Center for National Dialogue in 2003, that center is practicing an important role of the concept of dialogue and understanding other community. Also, the foundation of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Global Dialogue Center between the Followers of Religions and Cultures in the city of Vienna, Austria on October 13, 2011.

7. Building relationships with global institutions, and adopting principles and international resolutions that preserve human rights, taking into account the dignity of people. One of the important institution is the United Nations, which adopted at a summit in 2005, the importance of recognizing the principle of respect and understanding of different religions and cultures around the world. An another institution is the UNESCO, which adopted a Declaration of multiculturalism in 2001. The world is in need of many other institutions and their valuable role -such as Human Right Organization. The parliaments must support these institutions.

8. Working to support efforts through international institutions to solve issues and problems, such as the Palestinian issue.

9. The need to arrive at recommendations and implementation mechanisms to achieve what would consolidate the principle of cooperation and activate its results at the level of educational institutions and none-governmental organizations. The parliaments through specialized committees and parliamentary friendship committees should create rooting debates and dialogues about multiculturalism and the similarities and differences of cultures of the global society.

I think parliamentarians have the ability through their parliaments to play an active role in cooperation and understanding about cultures and world issues and problems. They can work effectively to achieve what help humanity in the presence of happiness, abandon violence and injustice and promote the principle of human rights and dignity.