

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



## Working paper

### Second Experts' Meeting to Study the Subject of Establishment of Islamic calendar

Rabat: 15-16 October 2008

#### **Background:**

The first experts' meeting to study the subject of lunar month's calculation among Muslims (Rabat, 9-10 November 2006) brought together a panel of scholars, both of jurisprudence and astronomy, whose proposals, projects and astronomical and scholarly works allowed for ample discussion and conclusive recommendations.

This first meeting, held with the purpose of gathering and coordinating ideas and opinions on this topic, enabled participants to reach consensus towards "further reflection on the issue of establishing a unified lunar-based Muslim calendar". Several other meetings and symposia were convened by other concerned parties which defined a number of concepts and principles relating to the calculation of the start of lunar months among Muslims, and explored new avenues for thinking and consideration of relevant fiqh and astronomical matters.

Also significant, it was stated in the Declaration of the 11<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference in Dakar: "Within the same drive of Islamic renewal, we call on member states and their scholars to seek to unify the Islamic calendar and thus boost Islam's image in the world."

The Dakar Summit also devoted a paragraph in its resolutions to the issue of the Unified Hijri Calendar, with focus on "taking into account the pressing need for the unification and standardization of the Hijri calendar which will reflect the unity of Muslims during feasts and celebrations."

The outcome of these meetings, during which emphasis was placed on the importance of adopting a unified Muslim calendar, shows that there still exists divergence among participants as to reaching a standard definition of the calendar as well as such vital jurisprudential issues as relates to the transfer of Imkaan-e-Ru'yah (visibility) and timekeeping.

Desirous of finding unanimous scientific, jurisprudential solutions to the issue of the calculation of the beginnings of lunar months among Muslims, and in the furtherance of the important measures that have been taken so far, ISESCO, jointly

with the World Islamic Call Society and the Association Marocaine d'Astronomie, will convene the second meeting of experts, at ISESCO headquarters in Rabat on 15-16 October 2008, to examine the establishment of Islamic calendar.

**The meeting will have three main axes:**

**Axis I:** The Sharia and Fiqh aspects pertaining to the calculation of lunar months (the principle of visibility transfer and the concept of time-system).

**Axis II:** The experiences and systems proposed for the calculation of lunar months (calendars in effect and new calendar projects).

**Axis III:** The conditions for the validity of the calendar (the new-born crescent, the visibility, and the determining of its the criteria).

**Participants:**

The meeting will bring together experts and other parties interested in the issue of lunar month calculation among Muslims.

**Participation conditions:**

The participants are required to submit papers on the themes of the meeting.

**Working languages:**

Both Arabic and English languages will be the working languages at the meeting.

**Travel and accommodation:**

The organizing parties shall cover travel and accommodation expenses for the experts and participants invited to attend the meeting.

**Additional information:**

The closing date for confirmation of participation and papers is April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008; and the deadline for submission of papers is August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

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