



Building Bridges: Engaging Civil Society from OIC Countries and Other Muslim Communities with the Multilateral Sphere

January 16–18, 2006
Hotel Nikko, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Workshop Report

Table of Contents

<i>Acronyms and websites</i>	3
<i>Project background</i>	4
<i>Objectives of the Kuala Lumpur workshop</i>	4
<i>Summary of the daily proceedings</i>	5
I- Monday, 16 January 2006 – Day 1	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Introductory remarks.....	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Expectations and concerns cited by participants	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation of case studies	7
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments on the case studies: issues raised, points of view.....	7
II- Tuesday, 17 January 2006 – Day 2	8
<input type="checkbox"/> Key lessons learned from case studies and other comments.....	8
<input type="checkbox"/> Priorities for action	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments on the priorities for action: issues raised, points of view	10
III- Wednesday, 18 January 2006 – Day 3	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation on the Malaysian NGO experience.....	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Suggested priorities for moving forward (Plenary session)	13
<input type="checkbox"/> Result, Conclusion (Plenary session).....	13

Appendices

- I- The workshop organizers
- II- Workshop agenda
- III- List of participants

Acronyms and websites

- AHDR: Arab Human Development Report <http://www.rbas.undp.org/ahdr.cfm>
- The Arab League <http://www.arableagueonline.org>
- ASEAN: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations <http://www.aseansec.org>
- AU: The African Union <http://www.africa-union.org>
- BMENA: Broader Middle East and North Africa
- BMENA Foundation: The Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA) Foundation for the Future <http://www.bmenafoundation.org>
- CEDAW: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>
- The Cardoso Report <http://www.un.org/reform/panel.htm> (available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish)
- CS: Civil Society; CSO: Civil Society Organization; NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
- EU: The European Union <http://europa.eu.int>
- FIM: Forum International de Montréal – French acronym of the Montréal International Forum <http://www.fimcivilsociety.org>
- The Forum for the Future – November 2005, Bahrain: <http://www.mofa.gov.bh/FutureForum/e/forum-documents.htm>
- G8: Group of 8 - for this year <http://en.g8russia.ru>
- ICNRD: International Conference on New and Restored Democracy
- IMF: International Monetary Fund <http://www.imf.org>
- ISIS: Institute of Strategic and International Studies <http://www.isis.org.my>
- MDF: Mediterranean Development Forum <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/WBI/0,,contentMDK:20588569~pagePK:209023~piPK:207535~theSitePK:213799,00.html>
- OIC: The Organization of the Islamic Conference <http://www.oic-oci.org>
- SAARC: The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation <http://www.saarc-sec.org/main.php>
- UN: Organization Chart of the United Nations System <http://www.un.org/aboutun/chartlg.html>
- UNHRC: The proposed new UN Human Rights Council which would replace the largely discredited UN Human Rights Commission www.un.org
- The World Conference of Religions for Peace <http://www.wcrp.org>

Project background

The general objective of the project “Building Bridges: Engaging Civil Society from OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference) Countries and Other Muslim Communities with the Multilateral Sphere” has been to **seek the empowerment of civil society from within the Muslim countries and communities in order to increase their impact upon multilateral bodies.**

The assessment that led to this project within the Montréal International Forum (FIM) was that civil society from Muslim countries and communities is all too **often absent from or poorly represented in civil society dialogues with multilateral bodies.** The FIM Board felt that this was a priority area of action for FIM if the organization was to be consistent with its mandate of improving the influence of international civil society on the United Nations and the multilateral system as a whole.

FIM was well positioned to **initiate a discussion on multilateralism and civil society from Muslim countries.** Within the FIM network there exists an important body of experiential knowledge in dealing with a wide diversity of multilateral organizations. At the same time, FIM has developed relations with Civil Society Organizations within OIC countries and other Muslim countries and communities that are seeking ways to increase their influence on multilateralism.

As a first step, FIM organized a workshop in partnership with the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS-Malaysia). ISIS-Malaysia, created in 1983, is an independent, nongovernmental body engaged in a wide range of activities, including research and fostering dialogue.

The workshop took place in Kuala Lumpur from January 16th to January 18th, 2006. Thirty-five selected individuals from different sectors and various regions of the world, mainly from OIC Southern countries (*See appendices I and III for a brief presentation of the workshop organizers and the list of participants*).

The following is a report on the discussions that arose and decisions taken during the Kuala Lumpur workshop.

Objectives of the Kuala Lumpur workshop

Focus: Identify a joint action-plan

The emphasis of the meeting was to **identify proposals and a joint action-plan** that would demonstrably strengthen the influence of civil society from within Muslim countries and communities upon multilateral policies.

Participants were encouraged to **identify one major multilateral event and/or organization/structure** whose policies are important to Muslim countries and communities. Emphasis was placed on identifying actions that were realistic and achievable in the near future.

Presentation and discussion of case studies

Two case studies demonstrating **concrete efforts and actions at the multilateral level** by civil society from Muslim countries or communities were prepared, presented, and discussed during the meeting. There was a specific session during the workshop for the presentation of case studies and their analysis by participants.

Summary of the daily proceedings

Please refer to the agenda of the meeting in Appendix II.

I- Monday, 16 January 2006 – Day 1

□ Introductory remarks

Dato Mohammed Jawhar Hassan (Director-General, ISIS-Malaysia) welcomed the participants and said that this event was important and a learning experience for ISIS-Malaysia whose focus does not generally lean in this direction.

Nigel Martin (President and CEO, FIM) thanked Mr. Dato Jawhar comments and for ISIS collaboration in preparing this event. Also he thanked the workshop donors as well as the participants present.

□ Overview

Nigel Martin

The challenges we face:

- Developing knowledge: weak knowledge equals vulnerability.
- Building credibility: we must have the ability to deliver instruments of change in a credible fashion.
- Drawing on and developing the diplomatic skills essential for any work at the global level.
- Developing networking skills, because global alliances are necessary for any and all work in the multilateral sphere.
- Be prepared to deal with conflicts that may arise within the current NGO community.

The guiding expectations of this workshop:

- To be able to leave with some form of concrete result.
- To be able to identify a multilateral organization or event that is crucial to the Muslim countries and communities.
- To reach an agreement as to the priorities of Civil Society in the Muslim countries and communities.
- To come up with a suitable process by which to address these priorities.

□ Expectations and concerns cited by participants

Following the introductory remarks, the participants were asked to list the expectations they had from this workshop as well as their concerns. These are summarized in the following tables.

Table 1: Expectations (as cited by participants)

- To learn more about the concept of Civil Society.
- To ensure that this workshop is more than just another discussion.
- To ensure great post-workshop follow-up.
- To ensure better communication and networking with other Muslim countries.
- To ensure better organization amongst civil societies in Muslim countries.
- To ensure more participation from the South.
- To devise a strategy on building solidarity.

- To devise methods in overcoming issues of trust in diverse communities.
- To gather ideas for future Commonwealth Foundation programs.
- To create a reflective opportunity.
- To generate a common will.
- To generate ideas on how to move forward.
- To learn of other countries' efforts on issues concerning drug abuse, gender, education, human rights.
- To explore the very complex nature of Civil Society.
- To understand the interactions between the various trends of Civil Society.
- To be able to answer the question: What is Civil Society in the Muslim world?
- To ensure expanding global cooperation.
- To ensure sustainability.
- To learn to create a space for Indian Muslims in the multilateral sphere.
- To build trust and confidence amongst the participants.
- To ensure unity in both actions and values.
- To share experiences with one another.
- To have tangible objectives.
- To create a set of guidelines for topics which are being worked on in the region.
- To see a UN system that is more informed and sensitive to the fact that there is a diversity in Islam.

Table 2: Concerns (as cited by participants)

- The lack of post-workshop follow-up.
- The lack of organization amongst civil societies in Muslim countries.
- Unclear on how to operate solidarity amongst civil society and Muslim countries.
- Is a two and a half day workshop sufficient for gathering concrete ideas that can be operational and built on? Come-up with practical steps.
- Unclear on the concept of a Civil Society in the Muslim world. What are its defining features?
- Whether or not the participants are able to find a common purpose/interest in working together?
- The role of women in the Muslim world and how do we emphasize the importance of gender.
- Concern that national issues will take a back seat to international issues. Importance of not losing sight of national issues vs. international issues.
- Concern about the low involvement of North Africa.
- How to make the Civil Society initiatives sustainable in the face of diversity?
- To not fall into the trap of demarcating Muslim and Non-Muslim countries.
- Unclear on how to respond to the fears of the common citizen?
- Overcome concerns that Indian Muslims have a Civil Society that only exists in a Christian sphere.
- The lack of capacity building among Civil Societies in the South.
- The inability to come up with practical solutions, realistic and concrete.
- Concern about deviations and digressions from the subject at hand. Deviations should be kept informal.
- How to get women's voices heard in the OIC? How do we deal with OIC to get pressing issues onto their agenda?
- It is not possible to look at Civil Society as one identifiable body, due to the different experiences and challenges in the world. Is it possible to address these differences and challenges at the same time and level?

□ **Presentation of case studies**

Two case studies were selected from a shortlist based on the following criteria:

1. Identifying appropriate case studies;
2. Identifying authors who could write them up;
3. Ensuring that each study provided living tangible examples.

Following a short break, the two participants presented their respective case studies. They were, Mr. Abdel Monim Hag Elgak of Sudan and Ms. Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh of Iran.¹

- Abdel Monim Hag Elgak, "The Darfur Consortium, the UN Security Council and the International Criminal Court (ICC): Taking First Steps Towards Justice in Darfur"
Abstract from text: This case study reflects on the experience of the Darfur Consortium - with particular reference to the Consortium's success in referring to the tragic situation in Darfur to the ICC and the African Union.
- Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh, "CEDAW, Our Unrealized Dream"
Abstract from text: In the Iranian context, civil society has been the most effective apparatus in bringing women together to open up an international front in order to advocate for the observance of women's human rights in Iran and especially the ratification of CEDAW during the recent decade.

□ **Comments on the case studies: issues raised, points of view**

- The importance of discourse that begins at a grassroots level.
- The women's movement has to be transnational. It has to be universal. It has to address a combination of local needs and transnational experiences.
- (Sharing of experience) In Brunei, 60% of the population are women. CEDAW is recognized by the government and seen as a good instrument. The government has a friendlier attitude than in Iran.
- (Sharing of experience). In Iran, there is no national machinery for women's issues or human rights. The Women's Participation Department was replaced by the Family Matters Department. This shift illustrated the notion that women are not seen as individuals but only as 'mothers' and a functional part of the family unit. In addition, while nearly all Iranian women are in good health and are well educated, the biggest social problem remains discrimination.
- The position of women in Iran is a special case and specific to Iran. Similarly, the situation in Darfur is also a special case and specific to Darfur.
- Both case studies are very interesting, as they portray the various dimensions in terms of accessing and influencing change. Iran and Darfur are both interesting cases because of their international implications.
- The diversity of the members in the Darfur Consortium provides an added value.
- Praised the suggestion that Civil Society needs to be represented in the OIC. (Refer to: pg. 4. of the case study on "CEDAW, Our Unrealized Dream")

¹ The papers were distributed electronically to all the participants before the workshop as well as distributed on site. An updated and final version will be available on FIM's website at: www.fimcivilsociety.org in Spring 2006. Please feel free to contact FIM Secretariat for an electronic copy of the case studies. Email: aude@fimcivilsociety.org.

- The authorities often use propaganda against Civil Society.
- There is a great need to understand the relationship between Civil Society and governments, including international institutions.
- It must be clear that there is not just 'one' Islam. The Islam practiced in Iran is very different from that which is practiced in Lahore or even in India.
- There is great diversity among the various Muslim countries and communities.
- Addressing the issue of insiders and outsiders - one must take into consideration the views of insiders combined with the experiences of outsiders. Darfur for example, was an African initiative that quickly became a Sudanese initiative. There was a deliberate strategy to bring the Darfur problem to a multilateral level; specifically the African Union.
- Lesson: The meaning of Civil Society in Muslim communities and countries is nothing unique. But what is unique is that one must be aware of the multilateral dynamics. Progressive Civil Society organizations need to engage and organize themselves.

II- Tuesday, 17 January 2006 – Day 2

□ Key lessons learned from case studies and other comments

These are the main ideas arising from the breakaway discussion groups (4 groups) that took place on Monday afternoon (Day 1).

Group 1:

- In the Arab/Muslim world, there is a deep-rooted grievance against the international system and by extension, multilateralism is thus perceived as a threat. This needs to be a consideration when addressing the system.
- Local/Regional action is the starting point. External actors can only build on this.
- Civil Society in OIC countries includes all civic actors working for peaceful change towards social justice: i.e., secular and Islamic actors. Note: Civil society is inspired by Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism; why not Islam? After all Islam has a tradition of charity.
- Secular and Islamic Civil Society need to find common ground on multilateralism.

Group 2:

- Diversity of actors can affect networking – for instance when there are internal tensions, known internally but not apparent externally. As well, internal tensions between conservative and reformist trends can either help or hinder external engagement and reform. External pressure can sometimes be helpful or a hindrance depending on the particular situation.
- There needs to be a new international solidarity.
- Civil Society's interaction with the multilateral system - The issues will define the choice of multilateral institutions - When state responses are unhelpful, the regional institutions/mechanisms are useful. (i.e. in South East Asia as opposed to the Middle East/OIC) - Historical relations need to be taken into account. (i.e. Iran's attitude towards the Middle East)
- Need to map out credible and local regional initiatives and institutions. Need to

enhance the knowledge of the multilateral system and understand its contradictions, tensions and opportunities.

Group 3:

- Need for outreach beyond capitals - across movements and borders.
- The rejection of everything from the West affects all kinds of global partnership and solidarity.
- Why is there no progression from service delivery to advocacy? NGO's are not transformative. This comes from a welfare perspective and a faith-based approach.
- In order to address the challenges from outside, an internal and coherent strategy are required.
- Dynamics are different. We need to watch and react accordingly. We need to understand how one level moves to another. . We need to analyze the nature of the relations at stake. For instance there are different national contexts: secular political systems (Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco)/ Tribal and more traditional relations (Yemen)/Sharia system (Saudi-Arabia)

Group 4:

- Concept of Civil Society. NGOs are only one part of Civil Society - despite the tendency to relate NGOs as being the sole representative of Civil Society.
- The issue of Muslim communities and countries. We should not construct our work on religious basis and by using the terminology of some State actors (cf. "This is the Islamic world").
- Civil Society to have long-term vision of change: participation in OIC, lessons from ASEAN, SAARC (the only institution in South Asia which has the dream to unite people).
- Beyond the "clash of civilizations", there is a higher level of understanding of cultural differences. Cultural differences have to be understood and respected.
- North-South Civil Society linkages - new ways of forming alliances - the discussion of internal/external, good solidarity is essential.

□ **Priorities for action**

This session on "Priorities" aimed at identifying in small groups concrete and practical actions as well as spheres of influence that can be undertaken.

Results of the Breakaway Discussion Groups.

Table 3-a: Issues to focus on (cited by one or more of the breakaway groups)
Greater involvement of Civil Society in decision making and effectively exerting influence on: the UN, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and other regional institutions (i.e. The Arab League; the African Union).
Issues of special concern: Human rights and citizenship (i.e.: social justice, women's rights, minorities, poverty); Issues of fighting corruption and double standards within the multinational process; Democracy; Knowledge society; Women Rights, CEDAW, Human Rights.

Table 3-b: Actions proposed (cited by one or more of the groups)
<p>Utilize existing frameworks, mechanisms and processes to impact on multilateralism (i.e. Follow-up on the Cardoso Report; UN-CEDAW; use the Arab Human Development Report etc.).</p> <p>Lobby for non-existing mechanisms such as consultative status.</p>
<p>Knowledge building. Map out institutions, international organizations. Compile the information and make it available within Muslim countries. The mapping would consist of presenting the organizations but also what kind of activities, processes and practices are possible for Civil Society.</p>
<p>Capacity building Create a forum for the Muslim countries to support Civil Society in Muslim countries, freedom of association and the right to exist, as well as capacity building and knowledge and advocacy.</p>
<p>Networking Establish/use regional network of CSOs to pressure for inclusion, intervention.</p>
<p>Strengthen partnerships with two main groups: the media and academia.</p>
<p>Lobby Malaysia as OIC chair and Turkey with the Secretary General of OIC being from Turkey to include Civil Society voice.</p>

Table 3-c Suggested events to target for engagement (cited by one or more of the groups)
International Conference of New or Restored Democracies – Sixth Conference to be held in Doha (Qatar) - November 2006
Forum for the Future – Third Forum to be held in Amman (Jordan) - November 2006
World Conference of Religion and Peace - 2006
Mediterranean Development Forum (MDF)
Human Rights Conferences (HRC)

□ **Comments on the priorities for action: issues raised, points of view**

Comment 1:

- One important priority is the role of Civil Society in Islamic countries. We have to begin with the right for these Civil Societies to exist (freedom of association). In most Islamic countries Civil Society associations are not allowed to exist by law.
- Another priority: Need to work on the 3 main issues that the AHDR (The Arab Human Development Report, an important and credible report) is targeting: Gender inequalities; freedom, human rights and democracy; knowledge building. These are the main obstacles in front of our societies to reach development.
- Priority of work with the UN: Civil Society should not only focus on the Cardoso report. There is a whole process of reform at the UN: we should also focus on; the consultative status, on the Security Council. How can CS participate in the decisions?
- Doubt about the capacity of the Arab League to be a useful body. No efforts should be put here as participation of CS is blocked. Work should be done at a national level. The process can only be enhanced at the national level.
- It doesn't matter what institution is targeted. It will provide a starting step, regardless of its ability (or lack of) to act. We must approach everyone.

Comment 2:

- Strategic options are emerging. There are two interrelated objectives, working hand-in-hand, to keep in mind:
 - 1st objective: Influence the multilateral sphere in a manner that assures that its decisions reflect the aspirations of the population. Many times the voices heard are those of the governments and not of the people. It is important to raise Civil Society voice into the multilateral sphere because the decisions taken at this level have an impact at the national level
 - 2d objective: To be able to have a greater Civil Society recognition at the national and domestic level. In many situations, even in democratic regimes, there are obstacles to civil society voice.
- Peer influence is important (i.e. shaming your government to step up to the level of other peer governments).
- The requirements for every country vary greatly. So much so we may not be able to generalize the method of action. The issues of some countries can be approached at a national level, or a regional level, whilst others require harsher methods.
- Focus on OIC. There are comparable institutions in the global sphere. We must use their experience/influence to initiate some kind of horizontal influence. (i.e. The Commonwealth). It is a form of peer exchange/learning.
- Whichever option we choose, we also need to think of those being excluded. We must consider the consequences of our choice not only on those who are included but also on those who are excluded.

Comment 3:

- Why hasn't BMENAP been mentioned? It involves the G8, the EU, the World Bank, and IMF. It is where a lot of important decisions are made concerning issues such as economic reform and security. There needs to be a more in depth discussion concerning this.
- The new UN Peace building Commission is another option. It is supposed to deal with all conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstructions, as well as political issues and thus merits special attention. It is an important multilateral body.
- In terms of strategies, it is important from the very beginning to be working and building alliances with Parliamentarians and engage the multilateral sphere in that way.

Comment 4:

- Do not waste time trying to reinvent the wheel. Focus on work that is already in place and build on existing bodies and experiences. Learn about where they failed and they succeeded. One must work within existing bodies/mechanisms and try to extract from these tools what is best for them and their country. Cf. Reforming the Arab League and other bodies. Revitalizing these international bodies will require a lot of efforts.
- Importance of access to information. What has not been mentioned in the discussions is: who are seating in these international bodies? How are decisions made? Access to information and knowledge is important. Therefore, fighting corruption, lobbying for having transparent information for civil society is important.

Comment 5:

- The issue is: how to do with the multilateral sphere (we know its impact on the national level)? The engagement of Civil Society at the UN is not a favour that UN is doing for us. It is a must. CS has a place. The UN needs to change their mindset.
- We should work both sides: at the national level, at the international level.
- The issue of conflict prevention is key. CS has much to say at the international level.
- It is not just pushing something at the UN. The role of Parliamentarians must also be seriously considered. We need to construct sustainable institutions at the national level.
- The Cardoso Report. The Secretariat General mentioned that CS has a place at the General Assembly.

Comment 6:

- Concern about the fact that the UNHRC is becoming a Council instead of a Commission. If the HRC seats like the Security Council, Civil Society from South cannot have a place.

Comment 7:

- Impact on international bodies is necessary and useful. Not only should OIC, the African Union, and the Arab League be targeted but also the European Union.

The remainder of Day 2 was spent trying to reach a consensus on which process to follow, key priorities and strategies of action.

III- Wednesday, 18 January 2006 – Day 3

□ Presentation on the Malaysian NGO experience

Day 3 began with a presentation by Ms. Chee Yoke Ling on Civil Society in the Malaysian context.

Ms. Chee Yoke Ling pointed out that in their early days of civil society development, Malaysian NGOs deliberately decided to concentrate on international forums and negotiations. Often the NGOs arrived with greater knowledge than did their governmental delegation. With time Malaysian governmental delegates developed a respect for the complementary role that their NGO compatriots were playing internationally on their behalf, and this then translated into a more open and supportive attitude by the government back home in Malaysia.

The conclusions from this presentation are as follows:

- Civil Society in Malaysia, from very early on, was aware that it is not just about charity but about change.
- There was political will at the national level. The powers that be were open to the idea of Civil Society.
- The powers that be were aware that democracy and openness are key issues in managing a very diverse society.
- Civil Society in Malaysia was ready and willing to be a real partner with the international community.

□ **Suggested priorities for moving forward (Plenary session)**

There were suggested priorities for moving forward:

- **The focus could be on one or more events** – i.e. The Sixth International Conference on New or Restored Democracies (Doha, Qatar, November 2006); The 3rd BMNEAP Summit - Forum for the Future (Amman, November 2006).
- **Impact/Work on the following multilateral organizations and their policies** that are viewed as the most relevant to Muslim countries: Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), African Union (AU), Broader Middle East and North Africa Programme (BMENAP), the United Nations.
- **Map out institutions to work with** (i.e. OIC, AU, BMENAP etc.); Bridge the knowledge gap; Develop and recommend tools and mechanisms of influencing these institutions (i.e.: convince OIC to develop an 'NGO consultative status'). The recommendations should be sustainable, and be applicable by civil society across Muslim countries.
- **Build a committee/working group** comprised of members from various regions of the world and would work on next steps.

Following these key proposals, additional comments were made:

- This looks familiar and feasible.
- Possible considerations for next steps:
 - Event - Find a way to communicate to the organizers in order to discover a process by which Civil Societies can be better involved in a specific event.
 - The Doha meeting may be easier to engage because it concentrates less on politics and more on development.
- As for CEDAW and the suggestion to use it as a port of departure for moving forward, it is best to identify those who are already involved, so that they may offer their experiences to help others take advantage of CEDAW.

□ **Result, Conclusion (Plenary session)**

The workshop participants agreed to set up a **working group** with the purpose of **following up the key proposals identified by the workshop** (See above). It was suggested that the Doha conference might be a place for the working group to advance the process.

1. One of the tasks of the working group would be to work out its name, function, and mandate.
2. The workshop mandated FIM to provide Secretarial support for the working group. ISIS also committed itself to supporting the working group.
3. The following participants volunteered for the working group: Ms. Chee Yoke Ling, Malaysia; Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad, Lebanon; Mr. Abdel Monim Hag Elgak, Sudan; Mr. Mohamed Tashseen, Pakistan.

Appendix I: The Workshop Organizers

The Montréal International Forum (FIM), Montréal, Canada

The Montreal International Forum (FIM) is an International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) established in 1998 as a global alliance of individuals and organizations with the goal of improving the influence of international civil society on the United Nations and the multilateral system.

The FIM's broad mandate is to strengthen international civil society's capacity to impact upon the multilateral system, and to do so from a perspective of strengthening the South. FIM believes that the stated goals of the United Nations are beyond reasonable reproach and that the challenge of the FIM alliance is to assist meaningfully in bringing them to fruition.

Since its inception, FIM has developed a strong governing capacity. In particular FIM specializes in bringing together sectors or groups who have not had the occasion to come together or who are traditionally wary of collaboration. FIM has made a conscious effort, with increasing success, to bring together diverse groups such as NGOs, academics, parliamentarians, and governmental and multilateral officials.

The Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Founded in 1983, ISIS is an independent, nongovernmental body engaged in a wide range of activities, including objective and independent policy research, and fostering dialogue and debate among the public and private sectors and academia.

Objectives of ISIS:

- To undertake research in various and specific fields and conduct long-term analysis of public policies on national and international issues;
- To contribute towards efforts in promoting general and professional discussions on important national and international issues through the organization of seminars, conferences and other activities;
- To provide an avenue and a forum for individuals, experts, and intellectuals of various fields for the exchange of views, opinions, and research in a free and conducive atmosphere;
- To disseminate information on research findings and other pertinent activities undertaken by or on behalf of the institute;
- To provide library facilities on relevant subjects pertaining to national and international issues;
- To collaborate and cooperate with other bodies within or outside Malaysia for the furtherance of its objectives;
- To assist and guide students and researchers to conduct research on national and international issues.

Appendix II: Workshop agenda

Building Bridges - Engaging Civil Society from OIC Countries and other Muslim Communities with the Multilateral Sphere

January 16th-18th, 2006

Location: Hotel Nikko, 165, Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Monday, January 16, 2006

- 08:00 - 9:00 REGISTRATION
09:00 - 10:30 PLENARY SESSION
Welcoming: Mr. Dato Jawhar, ISIS-Malaysia; Mr. Nigel Martin, FIM
Introduction of the event and of each participant
Overview and clarification of expectations and concerns by participants
10:30 - 10:45 HEALTH BREAK
10:45 - 12:30 PLENARY SESSION
Presentation, analysis and discussions of case studies
12:30 - 14:00 LUNCH – Venue : Bunga Raya Room, Level 2
14:00 - 15:30 PARALLEL DISCUSSION SESSIONS
Discussions on lessons learnt from case studies
15:30 - 16:00 HEALTH BREAK
16:00 - 17:30 PLENARY
Presentation of results of breakout sessions
Reflections on how to apply lessons
19:00 INFORMAL DINNER AT RESTAURANT

Tuesday, January 17, 2006

- 9:00 - 9:30 Review of Monday's discussions and presentation of the day's agenda
Participants' questions and comments
9:30 - 10:30 PLENARY
Presentation of results of breakout sessions (continued)
Reflections on how to apply lessons
10:30 - 10:45 HEALTH BREAK
10:45 - 12:30 PARALLEL DISCUSSION SESSIONS
Identification of key priorities to engage Civil Society from OIC countries and other Muslim communities with the multilateral sphere
Discussions (identify between 1 and 4 priorities)
Distribution of matrix and summary document
12:30 - 14:00 LUNCH – Venue : Lotus Room, Level 2
14:00 - 15:00 PLENARY
Report of breakout session recommendations (on priorities)
15:00 - 16:30 PARALLEL DISCUSSION SESSIONS
Identification of possible strategies for regional and/or global activities with the multilateral bodies.
16:30 – 17:00 REVIEW OF THE DAY

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

- 9:00 – 10:30 PLENARY SESSION
Presentation on the Malaysian NGO experience, Ms. Chee Yoke Ling
Identification of key priorities for moving forward
10:30 - 10:45 HEALTH BREAK
10:45 - 12:30 PLENARY SESSION
Identification of key priorities for moving forward and follow-up requirements
12:15 - 12:30 CLOSING
Closing comments: Mr. Nigel Martin, FIM; Mr. Dato Jawhar, ISIS-Malaysia
12:30 - 14:00 LUNCH – Venue : Dahlia Room, Level 2

Appendix III: List of participants

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