



THE  
WORLD  
FEDERATION  
OF KHOJA SHIA ITHNA-ASHERI MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

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The World Federation is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

# Work Plan

## For Progressing the NGO Agenda

Vision Statement:

'The World Federation exists to achieve the pleasure of Allah SWT by developing spiritual and vibrant communities serving humanity.'

Mission Statement:

'The World Federation enables its member institutions to promote the values and practices of the Islamic Shia Ithna Asheri Faith for the spiritual and material well being of humanity at large.'

**'We Exist to Serve'**

**"People are of two kinds, either your brother in faith or your counterpart in humanity."**

**(Imam Ali AS)**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The World Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities has been serving our global 125,000-strong community by delivering on charitable activities and projects across the world for over 30 years. Spanning from Africa, Europe, Middle East, North America to South Asia, we are commitment to elevating poverty, promoting education and propagating our Shia Ithna-Asheri faith for the benefit of the community and humanity.

### **1.1. What is the NGO status?**

In August 2007, The World Federation was accredited Special Consultative Status as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. This was a great milestone in the history of our community, but alongside this achievement, the NGO status brings with it a great number of opportunities.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the five administrative bodies of the United Nations. ECOSOC is body which aims to promote international economic and social cooperation and development within the world, sustainable development, social development, population and development and human rights. One main area given to ECOSOC is to assess progress made towards the Millennium Development Goals for implementation by 2015. These include: reducing extreme poverty and hunger, universal education, improving child and maternal health, fighting disease, promoting gender equality, environmental sustainability and developing global partnership. All of these concerns in strong alignment with those of The World Federation.

Given that NGOs play an essential role in interactions between civil society and government, the United Nations maintains close relationship with thousands of NGOs across the world. An NGO is an officially recognized organization that represents a group interest and partners with national and international associations to achieve the UN's goals. With the advent of globalization, NGOs are playing an increasingly important role in developing policies that are changing the world today. All organizations that act in the same spirit of cooperation and unity as the United Nations, regardless of size or influence, have a right to participate in international developments through the UN.

## **1.2. What does this status mean for The World Federation and its members?**

The United Nations and The World Federation share several interests in the area of economic and social development. This new accreditation means that The World Federation:

- has achieved recognition and affiliation with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations;
- has entered into a mutually beneficial working relationship with the UN in a consultative role. The World Federation is providing our expertise in specific areas of concern and work to lobby decision makers;
- is recognized by the UN as an organization that can promote the goals of the United Nations Charter;

## **2. THE WORK PLAN**

### **2.1. Where do we need to go?**

In order to maximize the benefits of the NGO status, The World Federation has developed four stage strategic processes for the NGO status:

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#### **Stage 1: Enhancing the Structure**

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The World Federation will need enhance the Secretariat structure to optimize its functionality in order to further communication, transparency and monitoring. It will need to building internal and external capacity by learning and applying critical reporting, monitoring and evaluation techniques such as impact assessment and outcome mapping so that the World Federation can work in par with other organisations. The World Federation is now obliged to strengthen its policies with respect to each of the departments and the organization as a whole, as outlined in Article 71 of the United Nations Charter and in the ECOSOC resolution 1996/31.

The World Federation will have:

- established all the necessary policies and procedures that it needs;
- developed a culture of effective monitoring and evaluation;
- built capacity within our membership to derive benefit of the status; and
- improved our communication and reporting mechanisms.

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### Stage 2: Creating Sustainable Networks

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The World Federation determined to develop optimal working relationships and sustainable effective partnership with UN agencies, global bodies, and other NGOs organisation by creating strong networks and links.

The World Federation will be:

- actively engaging with UN bodies, international institutes, NGOs organisations, civil societies and corporate groups; and
- actively participating with other development organisations such as World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO) and British Overseas NGOs for Development (BOND).

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### Stage 3: Extending Influence

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The World Federation will develop work with the relevant bodies to help in developing of mutually agreed projects. The World Federation will be influencing other NGOs, UN bodies and government departments on strategic policy thinking and funding.

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### Stage 4: Seeking external resources

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The World Federation is working which will allow us to make the best use of our NGO status. This stage is the heartbeat of our strategy.

The World Federation will :

- be working in partnership with several other NGOs sharing valuable resources; and
- have successfully received external fund and resources in support its humanitarian services.

## **2.2. Where are we now (May 2009)?**

The World Federation will need to take the time to develop through all of the four phases.

### *Stage 1: Developing the Secretariat to optimize its functionality*

Initiatives are underway to build capacity, so that the Secretariat can enhance the way that it works. The World Federation has developed polices and procedures to enhance its governance. It has a corporate governance framework with assurance and performance management frameworks.

It has developed important several polices on water & sanitation, economic upliftment and disaster relief to articulate its vision on these areas. It has developed governance and membership structures, internal staff polices and partner relationships.

*Stage 2: Creating networks with other NGOs, global bodies and UN agencies*

In its effort to create networks, The World Federation:

- in February 2008, joined BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development) to learn and engage with over 300 NGO members in the area of international development;
- in February 2008, it became members of the Fundraising Standards Board ensuring that its fundraising is performed in confidence;
- in March 2009, The World Federation became a member of the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO);
- in March 2009, The World Federation joined the End Water Poverty campaign which is an international campaign that aims to bring an end to global water and sanitation crisis.

*Stage 3: Influence other NGOs, UN bodies and Government departments*

The World Federation has

- since January 2009, written to Government departments and UN bodies to show its concern during international crisis or communicate its contribution to health and water;
- since December 2008, attended several BOND group meetings to network and communicate the organisations contribution to the global goals for poverty reduction and healthcare initiatives.

*Stage 4: Seeking external resources*

The World Federation is conducting a thorough survey and scrutinising the process of application for external funds.

The World Federation's Special Consultative Status with the United Nations will undoubtedly have an affect on its five departments. In addition to their core responsibilities, these departments must make every effort to develop and maintain a sustainable effective partnership with other organisations.

### **2.3. How will we get there?**

The World Federation will need to take the time to develop through all of the four phases, through the following work plan

***By December 2009, The World Federation will have:***

- finalised and signed off all its internal policies;
- developed a comprehensive strategy for health;
- produced a development handbook containing various important tools which are required by donor organisations and are used by NGOs in international development;
- assisted members organisations to ensure they have NGO coordinators who will promote this agenda in the local area;
- joined like-minded organisations inline with its objectives;
- developed good relationship with UK government departments such as the foreign office and department of international development;
- applied for funding for its projects;
- produced monthly articles informing the community on NGO-related issues; and
- applied for funds from any relevant sources towards a specific project.

***By June 2010, The World Federation will have:***

- developed an advocacy policy for the organisation, its members and partnering agencies;
- developed a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for its projects;
- completed an evaluation (using log frames) and impact assessment of a school within the ZCSS framework;
- worked with regional coordinators to implement M&E framework within the regions;
- successfully received funds worth £30,000 for a specific humanitarian project;
- processes in place to advocate the tenant of Shia faith through the NGO platform; and
- continued its participation of BOND & WANGO meetings, and communicated its benefits to the wider community.

***By December 2010, The World Federation will have:***

- conducted seminars to build capacity, create awareness and give advice on the needs of a good NGO working in international development;
- developed a guidance manual that articulate the requirement of donors agencies on project funding;
- provided a review on the use of the development handbook within its membership and partner organisations;
- completed an evaluation (using log frames) of one of its water projects in Kenya;
- evaluated its capacity building initiatives (such as leadership development courses) through outcome mapping;
- successfully received funds for other humanitarian projects; and
- assisted members to promote advocacy and networking with local governments.

***By January 2011, The World Federation will have:***

- conducted seminars to give advice to its members and partners on NGO development work and funding;
- produced an updated development handbook making it a knowledge bank of information;
- completed an evaluation and impact assessment for one eye clinic and one ZCSS school;
- created a best practise network sharing resources and tools for the benefit of its membership; and
- successfully partnered with another international organisation;

***By December 2011, The World Federation will have:***

- conducted an evaluation and impact assessment for another eye clinic, one healthcare centre and one ZCSS school;
- provided a review of the benefits for participation in BOND and WANGO meetings;
- re-evaluated its current policies and provided a thorough assessment of its NGO work;
- worked in close partnership with one of the several UN bodies such as WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF etc.;
- created a new work plan for the 5 year-period on the NGO work;
- attended the ministerial meetings of NGOs at the ECOSOC and provided the quadrennial report on its NGO agenda.

In the above plan, SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely) indicators will be used to assess the results.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

The NGO status in conclusion is a huge milestone forward, but in our goal of preparing for the return of the 12th Imam (A.S.) a great deal of work will need to be done to maximise this opportunity.