

**The Final Statement of the Scientific Symposium**  
**"National Archives in Islamic Countries: Distinguished Experiences and Future Directions"**  
**the National Center for Archives & Records**

Dhu al-Qa'dah 10, 1443 - June 9, 2022

Riyadh-the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

With the kind approval of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the scientific symposium held by the Saudi National Center for Archives & Records under the title "National Archives in Islamic Countries: Distinguished Experiences and Future Directions" was inaugurated on Thursday, Dhu al-Qa'dah 10, 1443, corresponding to June 9, 2022 in the city of Riyadh.

The scientific symposium was opened with a speech by H.E. the General Supervisor of the National Center for Archives & Records, Dr. Fahd bin Abdullah Al-Semari, in which he expressed his aspiration that the symposium would result in supporting the idea of establishing an Islamic archival block that includes in its membership the national archives in Islamic countries and have the required scientific competence and leadership that enable it to help these archives face the future and its challenges efficiently and effectively.

Al-Semari also stressed the necessity of reconsidering the legislations and policies that regulate dealing with records in line with the developments of the era in which we live, and to consider the contents of the archives, especially the Islamic ones, as a valuable human heritage and an essential source for information that must be preserved to chronicle and document our glorious Islamic civilization.

In his speech delivered by the Director-General of Cultural and Family Affairs in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Dr. Amina Al-Hajri, the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha emphasized the need to look into the current situation of the national archives in the Islamic countries, identify the obstacles they face, and studying the global experiences to benefit from them to anticipate the future and identify ways to advance these archives. He also stressed the need for joint and permanent cooperation and coordination between the national archives in a way that benefits them and enhances the benefit from the experiences of distinguished archives in Islamic countries to strengthen the archival work in the least developed countries.

In his speech, the President of the International Council on Archives, David Fricker, underscored the importance of the archives and their role in preserving the heritage of nations and peoples, praising the efforts of the national archives in the Islamic countries and reiterating his emphasis on the need to strengthen cooperation between archives internationally and regionally through the formation of unions or blocks that would contribute to the promotion of archives services in the Islamic countries.

The heads of national archives of several member states of the OIC participated in the work of this symposium, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Qatar, the State of Kuwait, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Tunisia, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Kingdom of Jordan, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Iraq, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of Türkiye, the Republic of Maldives, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Chad, the Republic of Senegal, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Burkina Faso, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of Guinea, the Kingdom of Malaysia, and the Republic of Togo.

In the proceedings of this symposium, a number of working papers were presented from a number of participating countries that dealt with the symposium's themes. At the conclusion of the symposium, the participants expressed their highest thanks and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and to His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister, for the kind approval to hold this scientific symposium, which will contribute God willing, in the launch of joint Islamic action in the field of archives.

The participants also thanked H.E. the OIC Secretary-General for honoring this symposium and participating in its work. They also expressed their appreciation to the President of the International Council on Archives, Mr. David Fricker, for his valuable participation, which gave an international dimension to this symposium, as the Council constitutes an international umbrella for all archivists around the world. The participants also extended their thanks and gratitude to the National Center for Archives & Records in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for holding and inviting to this symposium, which reflects the steady development that the Kingdom is witnessing recently in the archival sector.

The symposium came up with a number of recommendations as follows:

1. Calling on Islamic archives to update their future strategies, which opens the way to enable them to carry out their tasks in serving all segments of beneficiaries.
2. Calling for the establishment of a union of national archives in the Islamic countries based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as an umbrella for these archives to unify efforts to strengthen joint action, the exchange of experiences, technical cooperation, and to hold symposiums, workshops and training programs in the field of archiving, as well as enhancing and developing the capabilities of these archives.
3. Exhorting the Islamic archives to take care of their staff and workers and to enhance their professional capabilities.
4. Urging the national archives in Islamic countries to build bridges of cooperation with international professional councils and associations in the field of documents and archives, in order to exchange experiences and transfer knowledge.
5. Working on launching digital transformation initiatives and benefiting from digital technologies and applications, with a commitment to implementing cyber security standards.
6. Strengthening and developing partnerships in the field of academic programs, continuing education programs, and on-the-job training provided to employees of national archives in Islamic countries.

Praise be to God first and last, and prayers and peace be upon His trusted Messenger, Muhammad bin Abdullah, upon him be the best prayers and peace.

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