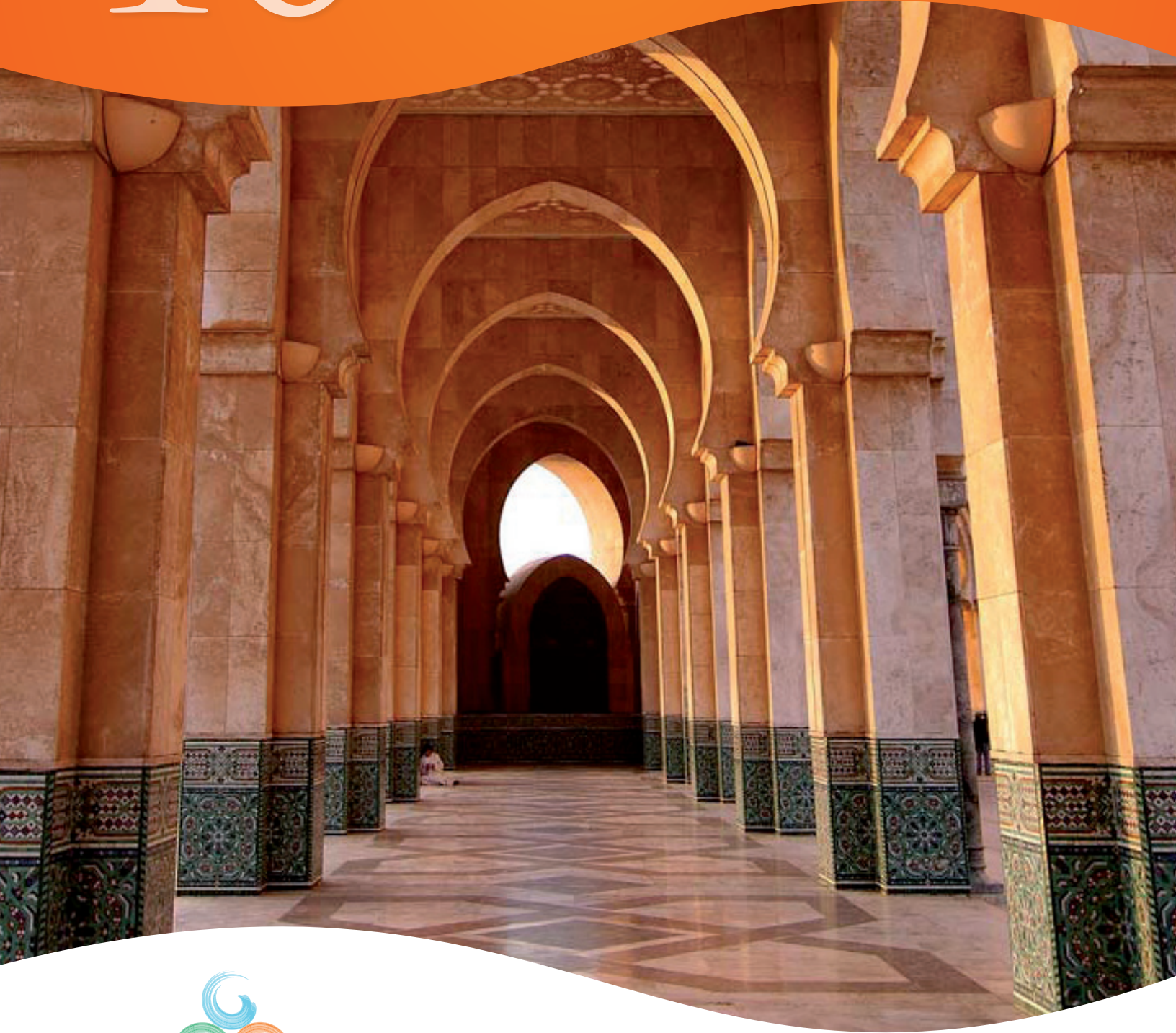


10

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR MUSLIM GIVING



WORLD CONGRESS
of Muslim Philanthropists
الملتقى العالمي
للعطاء الإسلامي

Advancing Efficient and Accountable Giving

Ten Guiding Principles for Muslim Giving

Harnessing the “wisdom of the gathering” is vital for purposes that actually contribute to community learning and ultimately to the greater good. The inaugural assembly brought together visionary leaders, grant-makers, academicians and practitioners of unique backgrounds and experiences. As a result, the 1st World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists adopted 10 Guiding Principles for Muslim Giving. (Istanbul-2008)

- 1** The worldwide community of Muslim philanthropists should be proactive in reaching out to the destitute and oppressed, irrespective of race or religious beliefs.
- 2** The work of Muslim grant-makers should be furthered strategically through enduring and sustained international engagement amongst key partners in critical areas of philanthropy.
- 3** Muslim Philanthropists should take a closer look at the potential new challenges ranging from environment to political conflict, and from Islamophobia to extremism, and set their giving priorities according to the newly emerging sociopolitical frontiers.
- 4** While compassion is the most powerful driving force behind helping victims of natural and man-made disasters, there is a need for capacity building, mutual cooperation and communication among Muslim humanitarian organizations for ensuring well-coordinated, low-cost and high-efficiency operations.
- 5** Developing benchmarks, such as establishing a clearing-house, creating best practices, and helping CSOs leverage the available capital and human resources through effective consulting and training, are vital for the growth of Muslim philanthropy.
- 6** Accountability and transparency of the recipient organizations should be a must-criterion in grant-making process. A mechanism that can educate and update grantees on compliance and cross-border giving needs to be explored and implemented.
- 7** Besides donating to the faith-based, educational and health institutions, it is essential to fund the non-conventional initiatives that promote research and innovation, leadership development, and social entrepreneurial advancement, environmental stewardship, sports, arts and literature, religio-cultural co-existence and effective response to the negative aspects of globalization.
- 8** Muslim giving needs to shift its focus from conventional to strategic thus making long-term impact rather short-term, through building endowments and pooled funds and incorporating strategic planning. As important as emergency assistance will always be, Muslim philanthropy must also engage the root causes of poverty and conflict and be ready to invest in longer term solutions.
- 9** Strategic partnerships and alliance building with mainstream philanthropies around the issues of common concern should be encouraged.
- 10** Networking among Muslim philanthropists through international conferences, regional and national donor roundtables, and retreats is essential to fostering collaborations and combating negativity often associated with Muslim giving.