

THE CONCEPT
of The Second International Conference
"ISLAM IN A MODERN SECULAR STATE"

November 15-16, 2018, Bishkek.

Justification

Islam, by playing an important role in historical development and formation of east civilizations, became a part of culture of many people around the world. Over the centuries, the spread of Islam around the world is closely linked to the process of adapting religious values to local traditions and culture.

The significant role of Islam in the cultural and social development of people and countries is universally recognized. However, in recent years, there has been a tendency to intensify the activities of fundamental and radical movements that use religious rhetoric to mobilize supporters by using the potential of modern technologies. Today, the issue of the possibility of coexistence of Islam and the modern secular state is being raised more often; different models and approaches of interaction between state and religion are being analyzed. The condition for successful and sustainable development of the society is the formation of democratic relations between the state and believers, the strengthening of national states that stand for the protection of human rights and freedoms, respect for national traditions.

In this regard, it is important to analyze different models and mechanisms of interaction between the state and religious communities, discuss issues on regulation of the religious sphere with representatives of state bodies, academic and expert communities, prevent and counter radicalism and extremism.

Analysis and discussion of these issues in the frame of international cooperation and exchange of experience will create conditions for improving state policy in the religious sphere.

The purpose and objects of the conference

The purpose of the conference is to analyze the situation, discuss contemporary issues and search for approaches to harmonize relations in the Muslim communities, develop recommendations for improving the effectiveness of democratic governance in the religious sphere, prevent radicalization and widespread of extremist ideas.

The First International Conference "Islam in a Modern Secular State" was held on September 28-29, 2017 in Bishkek, under the auspices of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, which was concluded by the adoption of Bishkek Declaration. The adoption of this Declaration provided the bases for further development of this project to organize an international high-level expert forum to discuss the issues of the existence and development of Islam in a modern secular state.

As a next stage of this process, the Second International Conference "Islam in a Modern Secular State", will be held on November 15-16, 2018 in Bishkek. During the Conference, the following issues will be discussed:

1. Models and practices of religious and religion studies' education

In order to minimize the influence of non-traditional religious ideologies and prevent the involvement of citizens in radical movements, it is important to set up the local system of religious education and discuss the issues of its development and improvement. The education aimed at training religious leaders and servants can serve as an important source for promoting the traditions and cultural values of the peoples inside a modern secular state. The experience of teaching religious disciplines in the secular education system accumulated by the countries requires analysis and generalization.

2. Covering religious issues in media and internet.

In the process of globalization and the development of information technologies, the media and the internet are becoming important tools for shaping public opinion. Religious issues are often become an object of criticism and cause inter-confessional tensions, and the internet's capabilities are often used by various radical and extremist groups for dissemination of their destructive ideas. There is an importance to discuss the methods and approaches for providing the objective and correct information on religious issues, which is not allowing emergence of discrimination, xenophobia and religious-based disputes, but promoting peace and harmony in society.

3. The role of religious women in modern society

Women are actively involved in all human life activities including social and public spheres and play an important role in the process of education and upbringing in modern and traditional societies. The vision, education and behavior of women become an important example for imitation and a basis for education of children; define the capacity for influence on relatives and surrounding people. In this

connection, the discussion of the role of women in modern society and religious communities is very important.

The international conference is held under the auspices of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic with participation of representatives of the state bodies, expert community from different countries around the world and international organizations (the UN, OSCE, etc.), specializing in the sphere of religion and countering extremism.