

Green Islam : A Call to Live Dialogue of Action

Conference given
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Casa Generalizia dei Missionari d'Africa
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وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّكَ لَنْ تَخْرِقَ
الْأَرْضَ وَلَنْ تَبْلُغَ الْجِبَالَ طُولًا

Do not walk proudly on the earth;
your feet cannot tear apart the earth
nor are you as tall as the mountains.



LAUDATO SI n°233

The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face.

(159)

The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things. Saint Bonaventure teaches us that “contemplation deepens the more we feel the working of God's grace within our hearts, and the better we learn to encounter God in creatures outside ourselves”. (160)



Footnote 159:

The Pope paraphrased a Muslim
Mystique Alî al-Khawâs / Alî al-Hawwâs
(d. 939/1532):

“Prejudice should not have us criticize those who seek ecstasy in music or poetry. There is a subtle mystery in each of the movements and sounds of this world. The initiate will capture what is being said when the wind blows, the trees sway, water flows, flies buzz, doors creak, birds sing, or in the sound of strings or flutes, the sighs of the sick, the groans of the afflicted...”



LAUDATO SI n°7 :

“...other religions as well, have expressed deep concern and offered valuable reflections on issues which all of us find disturbing.”

LAUDATO SI N°13:

“...bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change.”



FRATELLI TUTTI n°277:

“Others drink from other sources.
For us the wellspring ... is in the Gospel
of Jesus Christ.”

For Muslims ... the wellspring is
the Qur'an and the Sunna of
Muhammad.





The Quran – there are **200 verses** concerning the environment.

‘Greater than the creation of man is the creation of the heavens and the earth **...but most mankind know not.**’ (40,57)

‘Do not strut arrogantly on earth.
You will never split the earth apart
Nor will you ever rival the mountains’ stature’.
(17,37)

The great harmony and order in God’s creation.
(55,5-10)



Muhammad and the protection of God's most precious creation

Kindness, care and good principles for the treatment of animals:

- ✓ **Prohibited killing animals for sports, outlawed overloading donkeys and camels;**
- ✓ **Ordered killing animals for food should be done with kindness and consideration for their feelings and in respect of Allah – the giver and source of life.**



Muhammad and the protection of God's most precious creation

- ✓ **His camel guided him to the place where he built the first Mosque in Medina.**
- ✓ **'The World is green and beautiful and God has appointed you his stewards over it.'**



Muhammad and the protection of God's most precious creation

- ✓ “There is none among the believers who plants a tree, or sows a seed, and then a bird, or a person, or an animal eats of it, but it is counted as charity for them.” (Bukhari)
- ✓ “Whoever plants a tree and diligently looks after it until it matures and bears fruit is rewarded.” (Bukhari)



The root cause of the ecological crisis is corruption (**fasād**) or disruption

‘Corruption has appeared on land and sea by what people’s own hands have wrought, that He may let them taste some consequences of their deeds,
So that they may turn back.’ (30,41)



THE ASSISI DECLARATIONS

Messages on Humanity and Nature from Buddhism,
Christianity, Hinduism, Islam & Judaism

Basilica di S. Francesco Assisi, Italy

WWF 25TH ANNIVERSARY, 29 September 1986

THE MUSLIM DECLARATION ON NATURE

By His Excellency Dr Abdullah Omar Nasseef,

Secretary General, Muslim World League

Assisi 1986

- ✓ The world is God's creation
- ✓ Man is the steward of God to maintain the unity of creation
- ✓ The world is green and beautiful from God (Ahmad b. Hanbal, Musnad, t.IV, 61 and 374)

Islam is the solution to the ecological crisis



THE MUSLIM SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2010-2017

- **Elaborated in 2009 in Istanbul**
- **Under the leadership of Yusuf al-Qaradawi, famous Muslim preacher**
- **Under the auspices of Muslim Associations for Climate Change Action (MACCA)**
- **Attended by 50 Muslim intellectuals and political leaders**



THE MUSLIM SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2010-2017

Main objective:

- ✓ **Mobilization of the Umma : to promote healthy environment for their children and future generations where all nations of all religions could live in harmony with nature and enjoy justice and the blessings of God.**
- ✓ **Building green mosques, making green pilgrimages, develop environmental formation/education**



THE MUSLIM SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2010-2017

- ✓ **Green mosques: Singapore (May 2009), Manchester (2008), Abu Dhabi, Djenne (Jenne);**
- ✓ **Making green pilgrimages: especially without plastic bags;**
- ✓ **Develop environmental formation/ education- Khutba (Zanzibar and Indonesia), Madrasas ...etc.**



ISLAMIC DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE:

“ We call upon corporations, finance, and the business sector to... assist in the **divestment from the fossil fuel driven economy** and the scaling up of renewable energy and other ecological alternatives. ”



THE ISTANBUL DECLARATION

17 -18 August 2015

- **At the initiative of Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES); The Islamic Relief Worldwide; Green Faith Inter-congregational Network**
- **Attended by 60 Muslims from 22 countries.**



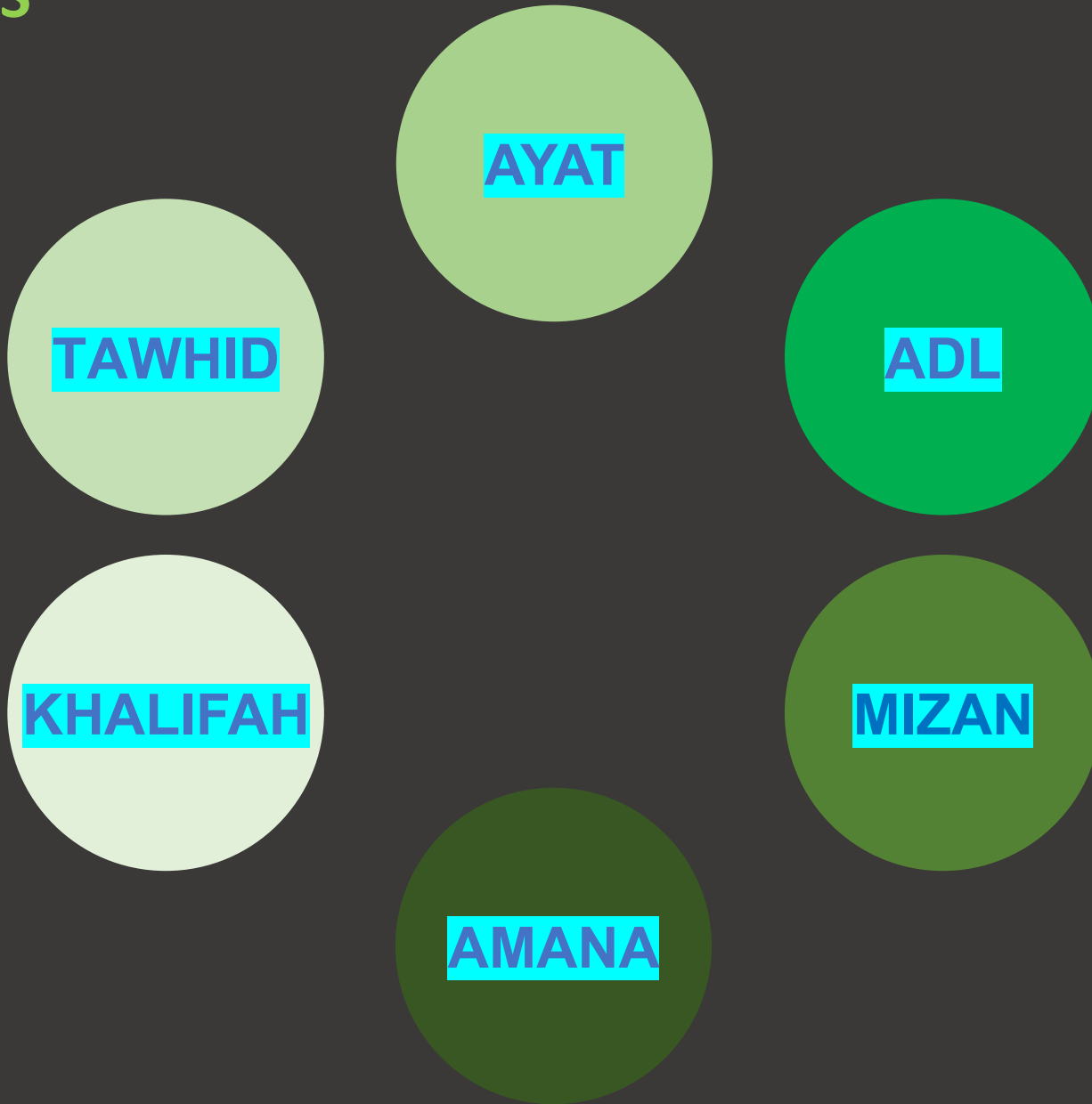
THE ISTANBUL DECLARATION

17 -18 August 2015

Affirmed:

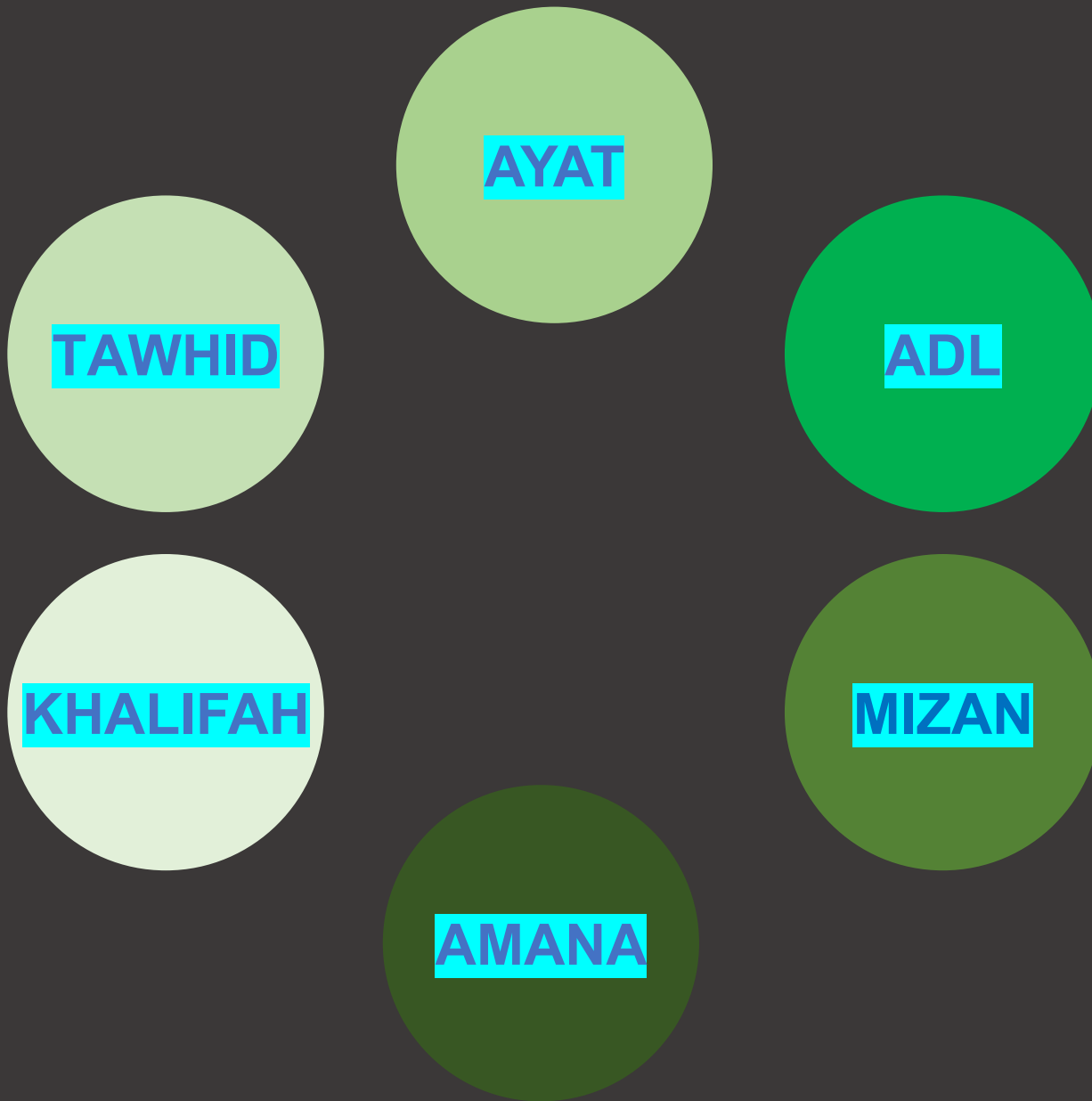
1. Humans created for global services (Their Lord, all species, all individuals, all generations of God's creatures);
2. Humans to maintain the equilibrium God has created;
3. Creation belongs to God;
4. Corruption (**fasād**) – man made due to his unlimited appetite for acquisition, overproduction, exploitation of land and natural resources, overconsumption...;
5. Need for alternative system: the world financial system replaced by the Islamic financial system;
6. All Muslims called to act – change of mentality (conversion).

THE SIX PRINCIPLES OF GREEN ISLAM



**The Principle of
Steward of God on
Earth**
(vice-regent; lieutenant)
Stand in for safekeeping

Khilafah: = stewardship
Humans are not owners of
creation



The Principle of the
Oneness of God:
The Creator
The Unity of creation

TAWHID

AYAT

ADL

KHALIFAH

MIZAN

AMANA

The Principle of Signs

Everything in creation as Signs of Allah (ayatullah); to damage nature, creation = sin





The Principle of Justice:
Acting in fairness and in respect towards life, water, land, fauna, nature, flora, air... etc.





**The Principle of Balance
equilibrium, harmony...**
Responsibility to syn-
chronize, maintain the
balance – not to destabilize
Moderation



The Principle of trusteeship

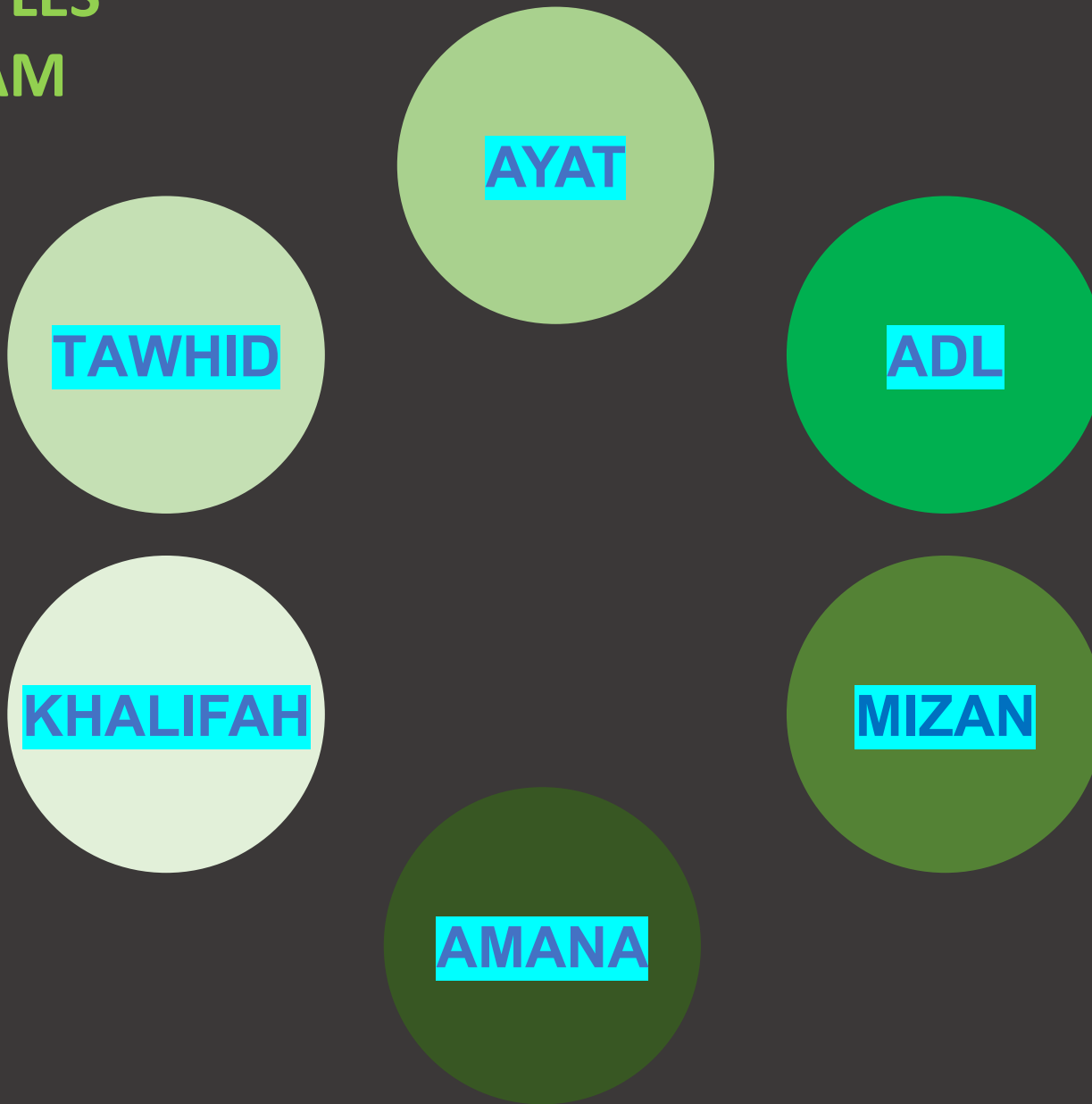
Sacred trust;

Protect and draw benefit from (usufruct)

Accountability (akhirah)

THE SIX PRINCIPLES OF GREEN ISLAM

Bonus



The Principle of Humility

Against **TAKABUR**:
The concept of
arrogance or
superiority that
mankind has over
nature that must be
rejected; everything
comes from God and
to Him it must return.

The climate crisis is a global challenge which needs a collaborative systematic approach.

The ecological crisis constitute a theological, a moral or ethical, an existential, a political, an economic, an anthropological challenge; thus a multifaced challenge.



**Future generations will never forgive
us if we miss the opportunity to
protect our common home.**

**We have inherited a garden: we must
not leave a desert to our children.'**

**World Religious Leaders and Scientists
pre-COP 26 Appeal, 5th October 2021**





Rome May 5, 2022