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Preface

With a population of about two billion people, Muslims are predominating in nearly 40 countries around the world from Morocco and Algeria through Iran and Tajikistan to Malaysia and Indonesia and still form a considerable part of other mixed societies. One of the most outstanding features of Islamic social teachings revolves around social welfare concepts, principles, as well as strategies and solutions. However, it is not possible to portray a single picture of social policy in Muslim societies given the vast diversity of historical, political, and economic circumstances they have experienced as well as various cultural characteristics they possess. Despite these diversities they have to respond to more or less similar issues and problems with regard to family and gender, inequality and poverty, education, employment and health, housing and social care, as well as juvenile delinquency and criminal justice, etc. Hence, there is an important question of how they deal with these issues and what is the status and role of Islamic teachings in such social policies. On the other hand, lack of a comprehensive social policy agenda is seriously felt amid profound political upheavals in Muslim countries. Therefore, the first International Conference on 'Social Policy in the Islamic World' which was organized by Allameh Tabataba'i University, the largest public university specialized in humanities and social sciences in Iran, in May 2019, represented a timely response by the academic community.

The Conference aimed to address the above mentioned questions by inviting researchers and scholars from across the world who work on a wide range of issues related to social policy in Muslim societies to share their ideas and research findings. It is a great pleasure that the conference attracted widespread international attention. More than 150 abstracts were submitted to the conference, from which 112 abstracts were accepted for oral or poster presentations. Researches and scholars from a diverse range of disciplines as well as from a diverse list of Muslim countries alongside researchers from non-Muslim countries who work on Muslim societies supported this conference by submitting their valuable academic works.

This important academic event could not come to reality without the support from a long list of national and international entities as well as the intellectual contribution of an outstanding international academic board. AUA is honored to extend its gratitude to all entities and scholars who supported this conference in different ways.

Allameh Tabataba'i University intends to hold this conference on a regular basis and therefore invites all academic institutions and individual researchers who are interested in social policy issues to establish links with the university in various forms to provide grounds for richer academic events in future.

Dr. Ali Akbar Tajmazinani

Dean of Social Sciences Faculty, and the Conference Chair

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