



# Coexistence in Action

A Roadmap for Implementing the  
Marrakesh Declaration



The Network  
for Religious  
& Traditional  
Peacemakers





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## FORWARD

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate

All praise is due to God, Lord of the Worlds, and may peace and blessings be upon our master Muhammad, the Seal of the Prophets, and upon his brothers among the prophets and messengers, and upon his family and all his companions.

It gives me great pleasure to present this report, which comes as part of a continuous and practical effort to translate the general principles of the major declarations and documents issued by the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace—foremost among them the historic Marrakesh Declaration—into programs that meet the needs of societies and engage diverse stakeholders, including religious leaders, legislative institutions, and civil actors.

This report presents a roadmap for the implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration and documents practical efforts undertaken in several countries across Africa and Asia. It demonstrates that realizing the Declaration's principles requires national strategies tailored to each country's specific context—whether through legislative policies to safeguard minority rights, the integration of inclusive citizenship values into educational curricula, the promotion of interreligious dialogue, or the empowerment of religious leaders and civil society.

The historic Marrakesh Declaration (2016) drew inspiration from the Charter of Medina, established by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ more than fourteen centuries ago to regulate relations between Muslims and their fellow inhabitants. This document is regarded, in contemporary terms, as the first social contract that established peaceful coexistence among the residents of a single community encompassing diverse ethnic and religious groups.

Building on this foundation, the Declaration sought to ground a renewed concept of citizenship, rooted in the Charter of Medina as a sound basis for contractual citizenship in Muslim societies—a choice endorsed by universal values and affirmed by historical experience. Its objective was to activate our shared human foundations and to neutralize the forces of exclusion and marginalization.

The convening of the Marrakesh Conference, with the participation of more than 250 scholars from various schools of thought and countries, and their consensus on a unified declaration regarding citizenship, constituted a pivotal milestone. It garnered widespread international endorsement, culminating in its inclusion in the final communiqué of the 13th Session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, held in Istanbul that same year.

In recent decades, several landmark declarations and charters have been issued, contributing to the shaping of a new global discourse on the values of mercy and coexistence. Among the most prominent are: *the Amman Message* (2004), *A Common Word Between Us and You* (2007), the *Document on Human Fraternity* (2019), and the *Makkah Charter* (2019), in addition to the major initiatives launched by the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace, such as the *Marrakesh Declaration* (2016), the *New Alliance of Virtue Charter* (2019), and the *Abu Dhabi Declaration on Inclusive Citizenship* (2021).

Collectively, these documents have constituted defining milestones in the journey of building trust, promoting a culture of peace, and establishing a balanced model of refined tolerance, responsible freedom, and inclusive citizenship.

These declarations are not detached from their foundational sources: they are rooted in the Qur'an, the Prophetic Tradition, and the legacy of the Rightly Guided Caliphs and early generations, while also engaging with the broader human heritage that affirms religion's essence as a call to peace. Their message stands as a thoughtful intellectual response to theories that link religion with violence and to claims that misuse faith as a pretext for hatred and extremism.

The value of these documents lies not merely in their eloquent texts but in their capacity for implementation—to be realized in educational institutions, public policies, and arenas of dialogue, so that they become a living culture and daily reality. Much progress has been achieved through the endorsement of decision-makers and international bodies; yet the task remains to continue embedding these principles across national and global contexts.

This report therefore seeks to highlight those ongoing efforts, serving as another link in a cumulative process dedicated to building peaceful and stable societies where human dignity is preserved, sacred virtues are respected, and mutual trust among communities is renewed.

Our aspiration is that these declarations—and the goodwill animating them—remain living instruments shaping the future: beacons of hope for humanity and moral guideposts for leaders and thinkers around the world.

May God Almighty grant us all success in serving the welfare and happiness of humankind.



H.E. Shaykh Abdallah bin Bayyah  
*Chairman of the UAE Fatwa Council*  
*President of the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace*



## EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

The Marrakesh Declaration, launched in 2016 by leading Muslim religious scholars, marked a pivotal moment in reaffirming the rights of religious minorities in Muslim-majority contexts. Rooted in the enduring principles of justice, dignity, and coexistence as enshrined in the Charter of Medina, the Marrakesh Declaration calls upon governments, faith leaders, civil society, and communities to uphold and protect the freedom of religion or belief for all.

This document, a roadmap to guide the implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration, emerges at a time when the world stands at a crossroads, confronting a resurgence of sectarian violence, shrinking civic space, and the manipulation of religion to divide rather than unite. It is both a moral compass and a strategic framework, designed to guide the implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration through collective action, inclusive dialogue, and principled leadership.

Developed through consultations with faith-based actors involved in addressing Freedom of Religions and Belief (FoRB) in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, this roadmap is anchored in local realities while aiming for global impact. It outlines catalytic actions, transformative strategies, and context-specific priorities to advance FoRB in fragile and pluralistic societies. Importantly, it centres the voices of those at the frontlines of persecution and peace-making faith actors, women, youth, and marginalised communities, recognising their role as indispensable change agents.

This roadmap is not merely a policy document. It is a bold invitation to reclaim the prophetic traditions of compassion, to renew the ethical commitments of governance, and to reimagine a world where religious diversity is not a threat, but a shared strength. It affirms that peace, protection, and pluralism are possible and necessary for human flourishing.

May this roadmap inspire sustained partnerships, principled courage, and tangible progress. Let it serve as a living instrument to uphold sacred coexistence and build societies where every person, regardless of faith or belief, can live in freedom, dignity, and peace.



Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi

*Executive Director of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers*

## ACRONYMS

|        |                                                       |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| FoRB   | Freedom of Religions or Belief                        |
| AU     | African Union                                         |
| OIC    | Organisation of Islamic Countries                     |
| NRTP   | The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers |
| ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States             |
| UN     | United Nations                                        |
| JISRA  | Joint Initiative for Strategic Religious Action       |
| FBO    | Faith Based Organisations                             |
| SUPKEM | Supreme Council of Kenyan Muslims                     |

|       |                                                |
|-------|------------------------------------------------|
| KHNRC | Kenya National Human Rights Commission         |
| IRCU  | Inter-Religious Council of Uganda              |
| MEL   | Monitoring Evaluation and Learning             |
| NSCVE | National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism |
| CPSC  | Community Peace and Security Committees        |
| KICD  | Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development      |
| HRC   | Human Rights Council                           |
| NAP   | National Action Plans                          |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  |



## BACKGROUND

The global landscape is witnessing an alarming rise in threats to religious and ethnic minorities, fueled by the convergence of extremist ideologies, restrictive state policies, and intensifying social hostilities. Nowhere is this crisis more acute than in several Muslim-majority societies, where the sanctity of religious diversity and minority rights has been gravely undermined. Armed groups and opportunistic actors, devoid of legitimate religious or political authority, have hijacked Islamic symbols and distorted sacred texts to justify violence, exclusion, and terror crimes that betray the very faith they claim to represent. In doing so, they defame over a billion Muslims whose faith tradition is rooted in peace, mercy, and justice.

*Yet, this moment of crisis is not without a guiding light. Over fourteen centuries ago, when the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) migrated from Makkah to Medina to escape religious persecution, he established a pluralistic society founded on tolerance, justice, and mutual respect.*

The Charter of Medina, a pioneering constitutional document authored under his leadership, brought together diverse tribes and faith communities under a shared covenant of rights and responsibilities. It enshrined values such as freedom of religion and movement, protection of property, mutual solidarity, and equality before the law, offering a prophetic model of contractual citizenship and pluralistic governance.

This historical precedent laid the foundation for centuries of interfaith coexistence within Islamic civilisation, affirming that justice and mercy are core to the ethos of the Muslim ummah. Today, this legacy is under siege. The convergence of violent extremism, geopolitical conflict, and weakening state structures has precipitated a global rise in religious intolerance. In many Muslim-majority contexts, religious minorities now face systemic discrimination, displacement, violence, and the suppression of their basic freedoms.

Recognising the moral and theological imperative to respond, over 250 Muslim scholars, heads of state, jurists, and political leaders from more than 120 nations convened in Marrakesh in January 2016. Under the patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum (formerly the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies), participants issued the Marrakesh Declaration to mark the 1,400-year anniversary of the Charter of Medina.

This declaration is not merely a statement but a principled, faith-anchored call to action. It reaffirms that the protection of religious minorities is not a foreign construct, but a divine mandate deeply embedded in Islamic jurisprudence. Drawing from the Qur'anic call to honour human dignity, uphold justice, and prohibit compulsion in religion, the Marrakesh Declaration summons Muslim scholars to revive *ijtihad* (independent legal reasoning) while considering these foundational values. It challenges educators to reform curricula perpetuating division and urges political leaders to institutionalise inclusive, constitutional frameworks that reflect the values of mercy, solidarity, and the common good.



Furthermore, the Marrakesh Declaration calls on civil society and interfaith actors to foster environments of mutual trust, dismantle hate, and rebuild social contracts rooted in shared humanity. By invoking the prophetic model of the Charter of Medina, the Marrakesh Declaration offers a theological and moral framework for aligning national constitutions, legal systems, and public discourse with both Islamic principles and universal human rights norms.

This roadmap aims to translate that vision into concrete theological, policy, and community-based strategies, restoring faith as a force for cohesion, compassion, and coexistence. It is a call to remember who we are, reclaim the prophetic legacy, and reimagine Muslim societies as beacons of justice and sanctuaries for all.

### The JISRA Project

The Joint Initiative for Strategic Religious Action (JISRA) is a partnership of 50 civil society organizations focused on promoting Freedom of Religion and Belief across seven countries namely Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda. This international, inter religious partnership is implementing a five-year program (2021-2025) in partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to further peaceful and just societies where all enjoy FoRB. The project is coordinated by five international consortium partners: Mensen met een Missie Tearfund UK, Tearfund the Netherlands, Faith to Action Network, Search for Common Ground, and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.

JISRA echoes the Arabic word Jisr, meaning 'bridge' and symbolizes the connection the program will make between divided communities. The goals of the JISRA program are to (1) work within religious communities to challenge discrimination, extremist tendencies, and hate towards others; (2) facilitate and strengthen bridges between religious communities by encouraging interreligious action and addressing common grievances and (3) engage with local, national and international authorities to make state action towards religious freedom more effective and to challenge divisive policies and practices.

The NRTP's contribution to the consortium is two-fold: 1) Provide technical expertise and capacity support to the consortium and project partners on Islamic theology, FoRB, and pluralism; and 2) Elevate Muslim voices and FoRB in international arenas, including at the United Nations, African Union, and Organization of Islamic Cooperation. To achieve these objectives, the Peacemakers Network has organized trainings, consultations, and regularly convenes Communities of Practice (CoP) on Islam and FoRB. As part of these efforts, the NRTP has developed this roadmap on the implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration.



Group photo of participants and facilitators at the JISRA FoRB training in Nairobi, Kenya. May 2025.



# ROADMAP FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARRAKESH DECLARATION



## VISION & GUIDING VALUES

Justice (Adl)

Mercy

Rahma

Solidarity

Tafaawun

Pluralism (Taaddudiyyah)

Trust (Amana)



## TRANSFORMATIVE STRATEGIES

### Global Level

- Theological **Reframing** of FoRB within Islamic Tradition
- Revive the Charter of Medina for Pluralistic Governance
- Global Faith Diplomacy & FoRB Advocacy

### National Level

- Local Movement Building (Youth, Artists, Educators)
- Legal & Policy Reform to protect minority rights



## CATALYTIC ACTIONS

### Global Catalytic Initiatives

- FoRB Friday Sermon Campaign
- Annual Marrakesh Peace forums
- FoRB Youth Champions Program

### National Catalytic Actions

- Translate Marrakesh Declaration through a **Gender Lens**
- Engage Women's Rights Stakeholders
- Capacity Building for Religious & Community Leaders
- Media Engagement & Storytelling for Co-existence



## ENABLERS

- Theological Legitimacy & Islamic Scholarship
- Political Will & Government Buy in
- Partnerships with Civil Society & Women's Organizations
- International Mechanisms; UN, AU, O.C



## COMMUNICATION & ADVOCACY STRATEGY

- Narrative Framing: FoRB as Islamic Ethical Principle
- Messaging: "Minority Rights are Majority Responsibility"  
"The Marrakesh Declaration is a Promise to History and a Commitment to the Future"
- Channels: Islamic Media, Social Media Campaigns, Creative Arts
- Use of Hashtags: #FaithForFreedom; #MedinaModel, #SacredCoexistence



# THE MARRAKESH DECLARATION: PROMISES, CHALLENGES, AND PATHWAYS

The Marrakesh Declaration, issued in January 2016 by over 300 Muslim scholars, political leaders, human rights activists, and interfaith observers, marks a historic shift in affirming the rights of religious and ethnic minorities in Muslim-majority contexts. Based on the 7th-century Charter of Medina, an early Islamic constitutional document authored by the Prophet Muhammad that emphasised equal citizenship and peaceful coexistence, the Marrakesh Declaration states that Islamic legal traditions and universal human rights principles are not mutually exclusive but mutually reinforcing. It offers an Islamic theological and legal basis for promoting minority protection, challenging prevailing narratives that foster religious intolerance and exclusion.

Despite its theological depth and symbolic significance, the Marrakesh Declaration faces several notable challenges in its implementation. Firstly, its global dissemination remains limited; many policymakers and religious institutions in Muslim-majority states are either unaware of the Marrakesh Declaration or have not prioritised its integration into legal or institutional frameworks. Secondly, the ongoing marginalisation of religious leaders and faith-based actors from policy processes undermines the Marrakesh Declaration's potential, particularly regarding advancing FoRB. Thirdly, the Marrakesh Declaration lacks a clear implementation framework. It does not provide actionable steps, institutional mechanisms, or follow-up processes for monitoring progress or assessing compliance. Lastly, there is limited local ownership, especially at the grassroots level, due to top-down dissemination and insufficient contextualisation to local religious, cultural, and legal systems.

Although the Marrakesh Declaration explicitly focuses on religious minorities in Muslim-majority contexts, its principles, rooted in dignity, equality, and coexistence, can serve as a foundation for promoting interreligious solidarity worldwide. In Christian-majority countries, where Muslim minorities also experience discrimination and rights violations, the spirit of the Marrakesh Declaration provides a model for mutual respect and shared values, even if its formal influence might be limited.

To address these challenges and strengthen the influence of the Marrakesh Declaration, the following recommendations are proposed:

## **1. Enhance Dissemination and Localisation:**

Translate the Marrakesh Declaration into multiple languages and contextualise it within culturally relevant frameworks to promote greater awareness and resonance at national and community levels.

## **2. Institutionalise Implementation Mechanisms:**

Develop practical tools, action plans, and indicators to assist states and institutions in applying the Marrakesh Declaration's principles, including establishing monitoring and reporting systems.

## **3. Promote Inclusive Engagement:**

Actively involve religious leaders, scholars, and civil society actors, especially those at the grassroots level, in dialogue, advocacy, and capacity-building efforts related to the Marrakesh Declaration.

## **4. Promote Interfaith and Intra-Muslim Dialogue:**

Support collaborative learning platforms that bring together scholars and practitioners from different sectarian, ethnic, and religious backgrounds to jointly develop solutions that advance FoRB and minority rights.

## **5. Foster Alliances Across Faith Traditions:**

Promote mutual engagement with religious leaders in non-Muslim settings to enhance understanding and uphold the universality of human rights, including those of minority groups.

The Marrakesh Declaration is a bold and theologically grounded commitment to religious pluralism within Islamic tradition. Its long-term relevance will depend on the political will, institutional support, and collaborative action required to turn principles into practice.



# FROM PRINCIPLE TO PRACTICE: BUILDING ON JISRA TO OPERATIONALISE THE MARRAKESH DECLARATION IN MUSLIM MAJORITY CONTEXTS

## FoRB as a Strategic Imperative for Inclusive Governance

The Marrakesh Declaration acts as a pivotal framework for promoting FoRB in Muslim-majority societies. Rooted in Islamic legal tradition and referencing the Charter of Medina, it reaffirms the fundamental rights of religious minorities. It emphasises the strong link between Islamic values and international human rights standards. By outlining principles of equal citizenship and the importance of religious diversity, the Marrakesh Declaration presents FoRB not only as a moral and legal obligation but also as a key element for fostering peaceful, resilient, and diverse communities.

In contexts characterised by entrenched religious intolerance, systemic discrimination, and the politicisation of faith, FoRB acts as a crucial entry point for strengthening democratic governance and social cohesion. Societies that protect FoRB and maintain pluralism are demonstrably more stable, inclusive, and better equipped to sustain long-term peace. Therefore, promoting FoRB should be seen as a fundamental investment in inclusive nation-building and conflict prevention.

## This JISRA Legacy: Establishing a Transformative Foundation

Although the Joint Initiative for Strategic Religious Action (JISRA) has officially concluded, its legacy continues to serve as a vital foundation for implementing the Marrakesh Declaration. Throughout its execution, JISRA sparked transformative progress across seven diverse national contexts—Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda. By utilising faith-based diplomacy, grassroots mobilisation, and multi-stakeholder engagement, JISRA fostered dynamic ecosystems of interfaith cooperation and enhanced local capacities to tackle FoRB-related challenges.

JISRA's achievements include strengthening interfaith platforms, equipping religious leaders to promote inclusive narratives, adapting FoRB tools and curricula to local contexts, and strategically involving women and youth as key agents of change. These efforts not only raised awareness but also brought about tangible changes in social norms, legislative discussions, and community dispute resolution mechanisms. By embedding inclusive principles within faith-based institutions and empowering local actors, JISRA built a solid foundation for the realisation and expansion of the Marrakesh Declaration.

## Contextual Dynamics and Persistent Barriers

Despite these significant advances made by JISRA programmes, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Iraq still face considerable challenges. Systemic discrimination, weak legal protections, and the use of religious identity as a tool remain major barriers to realising the full potential of FoRB. Furthermore, the global situation is increasingly characterised by rising extremism, authoritarian state policies, and growing societal polarisation. In many Muslim-majority countries, religious texts and teachings are often misused to justify exclusion and violence, which further undermines the safety and rights of minority communities.

These realities necessitate strategic efforts for promoting FoRB, shifting from declarations to practical, contextual actions that address both structural and normative barriers. The experiences and results from the JISRA project highlight the importance of customised, locally-led approaches tailored to the distinct socio-political and religious dynamics of each context.

# STRENGTHENING NATIONAL FOUNDATIONS, CATALYSING REGIONAL MOMENTUM: ADVANCING THE MARRAKESH DECLARATION

The country case studies, and priority actions outlined clearly demonstrate that the effective realisation of the Marrakesh Declaration's vision requires context-specific, multi-layered approaches that address each nation's unique socio-political and religious dynamics. Grounded in rigorous assessments and informed by local realities, these strategies translate normative commitments into operational frameworks that safeguard religious minorities, advance inclusive citizenship, and embed FoRB as a cornerstone of social cohesion and national stability.

By combining robust legal and policy reforms with grassroots empowerment, interfaith dialogue, and strategic communication initiatives, these country-led efforts underscore the transformative potential of locally owned and faith-rooted solutions. Each intervention is intentionally designed to foster sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience, serving as a powerful testament to the Marrakesh Declaration's capacity to move beyond rhetoric into actionable, measurable impact.

As strategic stakeholders look to scale and deepen these gains, the imperative to build transnational solidarity and leverage regional leadership becomes even more critical. The experiences and lessons distilled from these diverse contexts provide a strong foundation for the next phase of global engagement.

To operationalise the Marrakesh Declaration effectively, N RTP, along with key stakeholders at national, regional, and global levels, will adopt a three-pronged strategic framework designed to ensure comprehensive, inclusive, and context-sensitive implementation.

- **Intrareligious engagement** to challenge exclusionary interpretations of faith traditions and cultivate inclusive, rights-affirming theological discourse that empowers internal reform and resilience.
- **Interreligious collaboration** to foster mutual understanding, solidarity, and joint action across religious communities, building cohesive social fabrics and preventing identity-based tensions.
- **Extra-religious advocacy** to influence policy and legal frameworks, advance institutional reforms, and integrate FoRB and minority rights protections into national and regional governance agendas.

Through this integrated and holistic approach, N RTP, working collaboratively with key stakeholders at every level, seeks to transform the Marrakesh Declaration from an aspirational text into a dynamic, operational reality. This strategy advances FoRB, strengthens civic trust, and contributes to building peaceful, inclusive, and resilient multi-faith societies.

Within this evolving landscape, the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum emerges as a key actor. By providing a unifying platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaborative action across Muslim-majority regions, the Forum is uniquely placed to amplify and accelerate the implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration. The following section examines the Forum's strategic role in fostering cohesive, context-sensitive solutions, strengthening regional networks, and advocating for religious freedom and inclusive peace on a global level.



# THE ABU DHABI PEACE FORUM AND ITS STRATEGIC ROLE IN ADVANCING THE MARRAKESH DECLARATION IN MUSLIM MAJORITY CONTEXTS

The Abu Dhabi Peace Forum (Forum), originally launched in 2014 as the *Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies*, is a global platform based in the United Arab Emirates that unites leading Muslim scholars, policymakers, religious leaders, and academics to promote a vision of Islam centered on peace, coexistence, and human dignity. The initiative was created in response to rising violence and extremism across the Muslim world, the misuse of Islamic teachings for political purposes, and the increasing global spread of Islamophobia, especially in the West.

The Forum is chaired by Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah, a distinguished Mauritanian Islamic scholar and jurist, widely respected across religious and political boundaries for his commitment to moderate, inclusive interpretations of Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*). Under his guidance, the Forum has become a vital platform for theological renewal (*tajdid*), intellectual discussion, and transnational dialogue aimed at combating sectarianism, violent extremism, and religious intolerance.

Since its inception, the Forum has held high-level annual gatherings featuring senior Muslim clerics, heads of state, faith leaders, interfaith organisations, and representatives from multilateral institutions. These events have resulted in key declarations and initiatives that promote global peace and religious coexistence, including the Marrakesh Declaration, which is one of the Forum's most significant contributions to the global human rights discourse.

In 2021, the Forum was renamed the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace, reflecting its expanded mandate to promote peace beyond the Muslim world, while still upholding its core commitment to intra-Muslim dialogue and doctrinal reform. Today, the Forum continues to lead in fostering religious literacy, interfaith collaboration, and policy dialogue to achieve sustainable peace in Muslim-majority and multi-faith societies.

Although the Marrakesh Declaration is a strong statement of intent reaffirming that Islam offers both a moral and legal foundation for protecting minorities and encouraging peaceful coexistence, its effective implementation in complex religious and political environments remains a major challenge. In countries such as Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda, the full realisation of FoRB is still limited by politicised religious dynamics, insufficient legal safeguards, deep-rooted societal intolerance, and limited engagement with religious authorities.

The N RTP emphasises context-specific strategies to localise and implement the Marrakesh Declaration's principles, a focus that is both timely and essential. However, ensuring the sustainability and scalability of these efforts requires enhanced theological legitimacy, transnational religious solidarity, and strong institutional partnerships, exactly where the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum can serve as a vital strategic catalyst. By linking global Islamic scholarship with localised action and fostering coordinated, multi-level engagement, the Forum can aid in transforming the Marrakesh Declaration's vision into lasting, meaningful change on the ground.

## Strategic Contributions of the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum to the Implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration

### 1. Theological Legitimacy and Religious Authority

The Forum gathers some of the most respected Muslim scholars worldwide who hold the moral authority to articulate and spread inclusive interpretations of Islamic teachings. By endorsing and building upon the Marrakesh Declaration, the Forum enhances its doctrinal legitimacy, making it more acceptable to local religious leaders in JISRA countries.

The Forum can act as a resource hub for ijtehad-based scholarship, offering tools and fatwas that promote religious pluralism, oppose extremism, and strengthen FoRB. This aids in overcoming theological resistance and conservative pushback in local settings.

### 2. Interreligious and Intrareligious Dialogue Infrastructure

One of the Forum's key strengths is its firm commitment to interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding, including collaborations with Christian, Jewish, and other faith leaders. Although the formal JISRA structure has ended, the faith institutions and networks formerly involved through JISRA remain active and are well-placed to support the implementation of this roadmap. In countries where Islam and Christianity are the predominant religions, ongoing cooperation with these institutions is essential for fostering mutual respect and promoting shared peacebuilding goals.

The Forum's framework can build upon and complement the foundations laid by JISRA's three-sphere model (intra-religious, interreligious, and extra-religious engagement) by providing a transnational platform that promotes local initiatives and links them to wider interfaith coalitions, thereby maintaining and expanding the transformative impact beyond JISRA's formal lifespan.

### 3. Capacity Building and Scholarly Exchange

Through its annual convenings, academic forums, and strategic lecture series, the Forum acts as a vital link connecting global Islamic scholarship with local religious actors across diverse contexts. By offering an inclusive, high-level platform, the Forum supports capacity building for imams, women scholars, and youth leaders, equipping them with strong theological and rights-based frameworks that foster coexistence, pluralism, and FoRB.

This approach directly supports the strategic goal of integrating the perspectives of women and youth constituencies, which have been traditionally marginalised in religious and political arenas, into the implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration. In doing so, the Forum not only amplifies diverse voices but also fosters a new generation of faith leaders committed to promoting inclusive, resilient, and rights-affirming religious communities.

### 4. Countering Islamophobia and Promoting Global Solidarity

Amid increasing global Islamophobia, the Forum acts as an essential platform to reshape Islam as a faith rooted in peace, justice, and pluralism. By harnessing its influential international voice, the Forum can challenge damaging narratives that link Islam with extremism and present compelling, values-driven counter-narratives that enable Muslim communities to reaffirm their dedication to FoRB and peaceful coexistence.

This strategic positioning enhances the credibility and local ownership of FoRB initiatives within Muslim-majority contexts, emphasising the universality of the rights outlined in the Marrakesh Declaration. By fostering a unified, rights-based narrative, the Forum drives global solidarity and enhances cross-regional efforts to promote inclusive, tolerant, and resilient societies.

## 5. Policy Advocacy and High-Level Engagement

Through sustained engagement with national governments, intergovernmental organisations, and multilateral bodies, the Forum provides a high-impact platform for promoting policy and legal reforms that align with the vision of the Marrakesh Declaration. The Forum functions as a strategic conduit for translating community insights and grassroots initiatives into clear national, regional, and international policy recommendations.

By promoting dialogue and building consensus with regional organisations like the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Forum helps to embed FoRB principles within broader governance, peacebuilding, and human rights frameworks. In doing so, it enhances policy coherence, encourages regional cooperation, and strengthens collective accountability for safeguarding religious freedom and promoting inclusive, peaceful societies.

### Catalysing the Marrakesh Declaration: Strategic Domains for Partnership and Action

Effective implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration demands a nuanced, multi-level strategy that combines global theological leadership with locally grounded action. Utilising the Forum's theological authority, international credibility, and commitment to pluralism provides a transformative opportunity to spark meaningful, lasting impact.

By fostering strategic partnerships with national policymakers, religious scholars, civil society actors, and grassroots peacebuilders, the Forum can act as an essential link for connecting normative commitments with practical, context-aware implementation. This collaboration allows for the localisation of the Marrakesh Declaration's principles, bolsters religious legitimacy, and improves policy coherence, thereby promoting FoRB as a key pillar of inclusive governance and resilient societies.

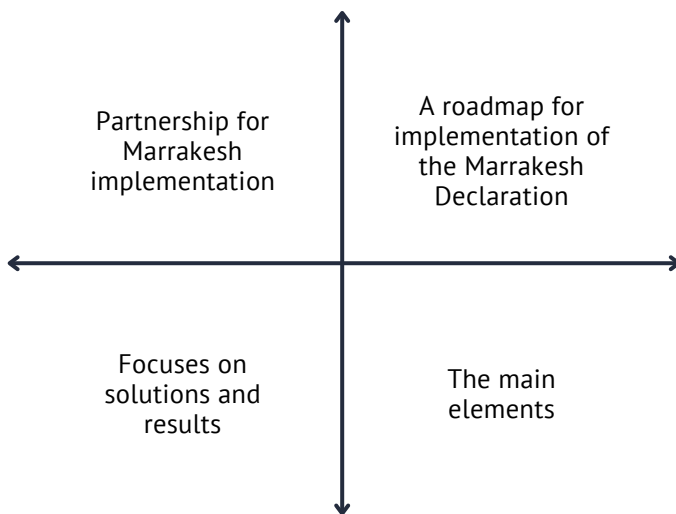
The following priority areas of collaboration outline a comprehensive roadmap for implementing this vision, from co-convening national and regional forums, producing tailored religious resources, and launching joint training programmes, to facilitating South-South learning exchanges and co-developing robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Together, these interventions reinforce the Marrakesh Declaration's core commitments and help cultivate cohesive societies where religious freedom, justice, and peace are mutually reinforcing pillars.

To enhance the execution of the Marrakesh Declaration, the following areas of collaboration should be prioritised:

- **Co-convene national or regional forums on FoRB**, bringing together JISRA partners, national policymakers, and scholars affiliated with the Forum to strengthen theological legitimacy and policy influence.
- **Support the localisation of the Marrakesh Declaration's principles** by publishing and disseminating accessible religious texts, toolkits, and training materials adapted to each country's specific socio-religious context.
- **Develop joint training programmes** for religious leaders, educators, and youth on FoRB, peaceful coexistence, and inclusive theology, drawing from the Forum's scholarly resources and JISRA partners' grassroots reach.
- **Facilitate South-South learning exchanges** among scholars and peacebuilders from JISRA countries and the Forum's global network to promote knowledge sharing and unity.
- **Collaborate on developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks** that assess the impact of theological interventions and interfaith initiatives on FoRB, peacebuilding, and social cohesion.

The Forum serves as a strong supporter in implementing the Marrakesh Declaration, especially in countries facing complex interreligious tensions and systemic violations of FoRB. Its theological depth, international credibility, and commitment to pluralism closely match the context-specific priorities. By fostering a partnership between NRTP and the Forum, there is a unique chance to connect global Islamic scholarship with local action, improve religious legitimacy, and strengthen inclusive peacebuilding structures. Such collaboration will promote the aims of the Marrakesh Declaration and help build resilient societies where religious freedom, justice, and peace mutually support each other.

# IMPLEMENTING THE MARRAKESH DECLARATION



The global landscape has experienced a significant rise in threats against religious and ethnic minorities, fueled by the convergence of extremist ideologies, restrictive government measures, and social hostilities. These issues have reached a critical point in several Muslim-majority nations, where the integrity of religious diversity and minority rights has been severely undermined by actors who exploit sacred teachings for political violence and exclusion.

The Marrakesh Declaration offers a principled, faith-based foundation for advancing FoRB, reaffirming that protecting minority rights is deeply rooted in Islamic heritage. Building on the foundational work that JISRA has progressed on FoRB, this roadmap will transform these commitments into practical, impactful action. Implementation will involve mobilising and equipping faith leaders and institutions to actively promote interfaith dialogue, mediate local conflicts, and safeguard religious minorities at the community level.

It will also include developing and strengthening community-based structures to support inclusive decision-making, advocating for legal and policy reforms that ensure equal citizenship, and integrating FoRB principles into educational curricula and civic training. Additionally, partnerships will be fostered among religious, civil society, and government actors to create coordinated and sustainable peacebuilding efforts. Through these specific, context-sensitive initiatives, the roadmap aims to operationalise the protection of religious minorities in Muslim-majority contexts, ensure full civic participation for all, and build cohesive, resilient societies grounded in mutual respect and shared values.

FoRB will be realised through concrete, context-specific initiatives that strengthen peaceful, inclusive, and resilient societies. Implementing this roadmap will build on the foundational work that JISRA has advanced on FoRB, particularly by mobilising and empowering faith leaders and institutions to champion interfaith dialogue, mediate tensions, and actively protect religious minorities. It will also involve enhancing community capacity, promoting legal and policy reforms that uphold equal citizenship, and integrating FoRB principles into education and governance frameworks. By investing in grassroots peacebuilding efforts and fostering cross-sector partnerships, these commitments will move beyond rhetoric to meaningful action. In this spirit, the roadmap will operationalise the protection of religious minorities in Muslim-majority contexts and ensure full civic participation for all, thereby reinforcing social cohesion and long-term stability.



In citing this historical precedent, the Marrakesh Declaration urges Muslim scholars, policymakers, and educators to reaffirm these values in the face of modern distortions. It encourages educational institutions to thoroughly review their curricula to eliminate ideological extremism and revitalise the Islamic ethic of coexistence. Consequently, the Marrakesh Declaration provides a robust framework for aligning national constitutions and public discourse with Islamic jurisprudence and international human rights standards, thereby restoring faith as a bridge to peace and universal protection.

In response to this pressing reality, the Marrakesh Declaration emphasises the protection of minority rights as a vital part of Islamic heritage and legal tradition. Drawing from the 7th-century Charter of Medina, a foundational model of constitutional and contractual citizenship that guaranteed freedom of movement, property rights, mutual solidarity, and equality before the law, the Marrakesh Declaration provides a spiritually grounded and jurisprudentially solid framework for affirming equal citizenship in modern Muslim states.

It calls on Muslim scholars, political leaders, and educators to reaffirm these core principles and undertake a bold, critical review of curricula that could promote exclusion or extremism. By referencing the Charter of Medina as both an inspiration and a guide, the Marrakesh Declaration provides a credible and transformative foundation for aligning national constitutions with the principles of justice, dignity, and peaceful coexistence.

## Advancing the Marrakesh Declaration with Faith Actors, Religious Scholars and Civil Society

### Organization: Strategic Progress and Path Forward

FoRB is fundamental to cultivating societies that are peaceful, inclusive, and resilient. Its promotion represents a normative and legal necessity, as well as a strategic cornerstone for maintaining democratic governance, encouraging pluralism, and averting identity-based violence. JISRA, founded on commitments articulated in the 2016 Marrakesh Declaration, has made considerable progress in translating religious principles into concrete policies and actions, particularly in endorsing equal citizenship and safeguarding the rights of religious minorities in nations where Muslims constitute the majority.

JISRA has demonstrated a significant, measurable impact across seven diverse national contexts – Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda – by strategically leveraging faith-based diplomacy, grassroots mobilisation, and multi-stakeholder engagement. Programmatically, its interventions have established resilient interfaith platforms, strengthened the capacity of local religious leaders to promote inclusive and rights-affirming narratives, and adapted FoRB tools and curricula to align with local cultural and theological realities.

Significantly, JISRA has also successfully elevated the roles of women and youth as key agents of change in promoting religious tolerance and social cohesion. These integrated efforts have not only deepened community awareness but also catalysed transformative shifts in social norms, informed legislative and policy debates, and strengthened local mechanisms for conflict prevention and dispute resolution.



*JISRA FoRB training in Muscat, Oman. November 2024.*

The assets and institutional foundations established during this initial phase of implementing the Marrakesh Declaration now serve as strategic entry points for the next phase. In collaboration with FBOs and interfaith platforms, these achievements provide a strong, locally rooted framework for expanding FoRB, strengthening inclusive governance, and cultivating resilient, pluralistic societies based on justice, dignity, and peaceful coexistence.

This evidence-informed situational analysis highlights both the achievements and ongoing challenges. It pinpoints strategic entry points for increasing impact, such as reforming discriminatory policies, countering hate speech, and enhancing the connection between traditional authority structures and formal governance. The analysis also outlines country-specific priorities that reflect the complex intersections of religion, politics, and identity, ensuring that interventions stay locally relevant and sensitive to context.

To expedite the implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration, national FoRB roadmaps tailored to each country's unique sociopolitical and religious contexts must be developed and implemented. These national frameworks will serve as tools for prioritising catalytic reforms, coordinating cross-sectoral efforts, and establishing accountability mechanisms for progress monitoring.

NRTP's integrated, three-pronged strategy acts as a core framework to advance its interventions and steer the effective implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration. The roadmap pillars: 1) Theological Renewal 2) Interfaith Engagement, and 3) Policy Integration, provide a comprehensive, context-aware approach that nurtures religious communities from within, strengthens interfaith solidarity, and promotes systemic policy and governance change.

### 1. Intra-Religious Engagement

This pillar focuses on challenging internal exclusionary narratives and reinterpreting religious doctrines from the perspectives of justice, human dignity, and peaceful coexistence. Promoting inclusive theological dialogue enables religious actors to become active advocates of FoRB within their communities.

### 2. Interfaith Collaboration

This aspect emphasises the importance of fostering trust, promoting mutual understanding, and facilitating collective action among diverse faith communities. Through organised dialogue and joint initiatives, it seeks to strengthen social cohesion, reduce identity-based conflicts, and foster a shared commitment to pluralism.

### 3. Extra-Religious Influence

This pillar focuses on promoting policy and legal reforms, securing political commitment, and embedding FoRB principles into national and regional governance frameworks. Through strategic engagement with governments, regional organisations, and international partners, it aims to institutionalise inclusive governance and protect religious freedoms at systemic levels.

Together, these pillars create an integrated roadmap that turns the Marrakesh Declaration's aspirational vision into practical, scalable, and sustainable pathways for transforming societies towards greater justice, inclusivity, and peace.



*Regional Consultation on Advancing the Implementation of the Marrakech Declaration in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco. October 2025.*

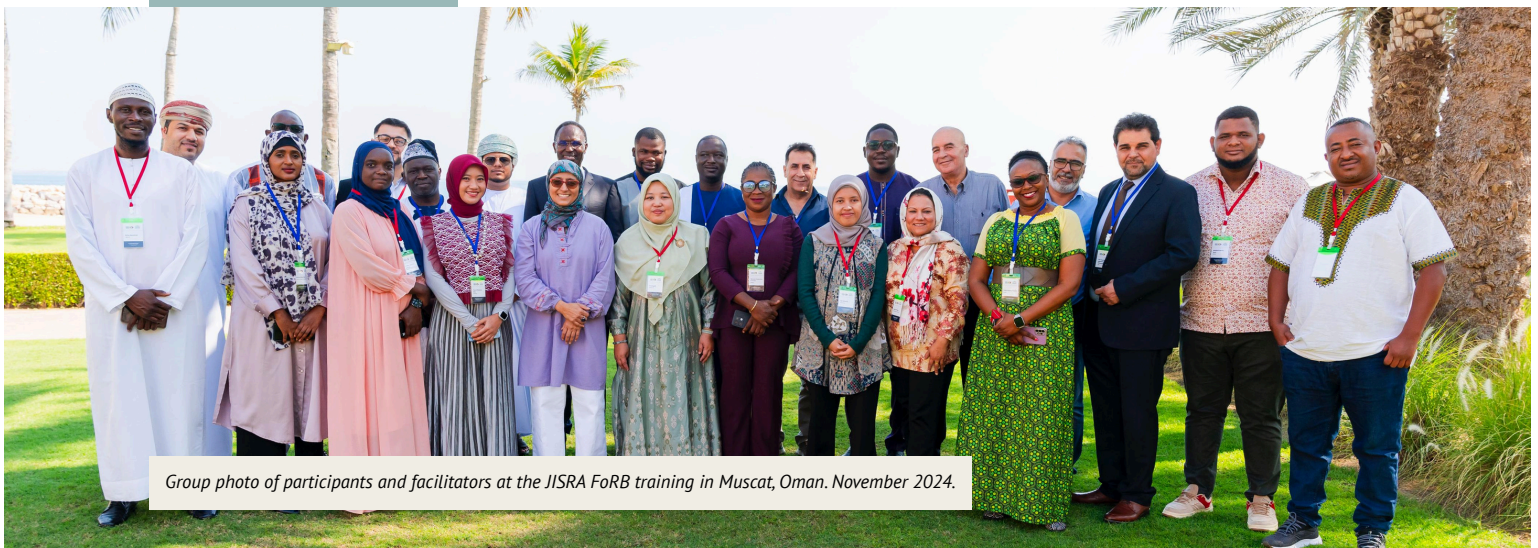


## PARTNERSHIPS FOR MARRAKESH IMPLEMENTATION IN MUSLIM MAJORITY COUNTRIES

FoRB activities under NRTP foster durable partnerships with Islamic institutions, government stakeholders, civil society organisations, and local faith actors to ensure strategies are well-adapted and responsive to each country's socio-political and religious contexts. These collaborative efforts enhance religious literacy, empower grassroots actors, and strengthen interfaith solidarity, significantly advancing the realisation of the Marrakesh Declaration's principles at both policy and community levels.

To advance the implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration, the NRTP will engage faith actors and religious scholars across Muslim-majority countries, providing a strategic platform for dialogue and collaboration at global, national, and community levels. Through a combination of Islam and FoRB training sessions, regional consultation workshops, and ongoing awareness-raising initiatives, NRTP will support the development and operationalisation of context-specific action plans tailored to diverse local realities. These efforts will be based on the *Islam and FoRB Toolkit*, which offers both theological legitimacy and practical guidance for promoting inclusive citizenship and safeguarding religious freedoms.

These strong FBO networks and connections now serve as a valuable asset for NRTP in furthering the implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration. By harnessing these established partnerships, NRTP is well-placed to strengthen local ownership, build on existing trust, and promote targeted, meaningful actions across various Muslim-majority contexts.



Group photo of participants and facilitators at the JISRA FoRB training in Muscat, Oman. November 2024.



# VISION AND GUIDING VALUES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARRAKESH DECLARATION

This section summarises the core vision and guiding principles that underpin *Coexistence in Action: A Roadmap for Implementing the Marrakesh Declaration*. Rooted in Islamic values of justice, mercy, and equal citizenship, the vision emphasises FoRB as essential to building peaceful, inclusive, and resilient societies. The guiding principles – human dignity, pluralism, local ownership, and interfaith solidarity – provide the ethical and strategic foundation for adapting and applying the Marrakesh Declaration. These principles guide the practical approach of the roadmap in transforming commitments into locally led actions that foster religious freedom, protect minority rights, and strengthen social cohesion in Kenya, Uganda, Mali, Nigeria, Iraq, Ethiopia, and Indonesia.

The roadmap envisions a world where Muslim societies reclaim their prophetic legacy as sanctuaries of justice, mercy, and pluralism. Inspired by the spirit of the Charter of Medina and animated by the principles of the Marrakesh Declaration, it aims to foster inclusive, rights-respecting communities in which religious minorities are not merely tolerated but protected, empowered, and honoured as equal citizens within the social fabric.

At its core, this vision is both restorative and forward-looking: restorative in reviving Islamic traditions of covenantal citizenship and ethical governance; and forward-looking in its commitment to co-creating societies that uphold human dignity in a diverse and interconnected world.

## Vision and Guiding Values of the Roadmap

### Justice ('Adi)

Upholding fairness, equity, and legal accountability for all members of society, regardless of creed or identity. Justice is a moral obligation, and the foundation for social cohesion and peace.



### Mercy (Rahma)

Emulates the Divine Attribute that defines God's relationship with creation. Mercy must shape public policy and interpersonal relations, especially toward the vulnerable and marginalized.

### Renewal (Tajdid)

Embracing the social contract through trustworthy leadership, inclusive governance, and ethical stewardship of power and public discourse.



### Solidarity (Ta'awun)

Fostering mutual aid and unity among diverse communities. This is both a religious and pragmatic necessity in confronting shared challenges.

### Trust (Amana)

Rebuilding the social contract through trustworthy leadership, inclusive governance, and ethical stewardship of power and public discourse.



### Dignity (Karama)

Affirming the intrinsic worth of every human being, as declared in our Islamic proclamation. "We have honored the children of Adam" (Qur'an 17,70). This dignity transcends sect, race, and religion.

This roadmap envisions a world where Muslim societies reclaim their prophetic legacy as sanctuaries of justice, mercy, and pluralism. Rooted in the spirit of the Charter of Medina and energised by the principles of the Marrakesh Declaration, it aims to foster inclusive, rights-respecting communities where religious minorities are not merely tolerated but are protected, empowered, and honoured as equal citizens within the social fabric.

At its core, this vision is both restorative and forward-looking: restorative in its call to revive Islamic traditions of covenantal citizenship and ethical governance; and forward-looking in its dedication to co-creating societies that uphold human dignity in a diverse and interconnected world.

## The Marrakesh Declaration Guiding Values

The roadmap bases this vision on core values that act as a moral guide and an operational structure for transformation.

### 1. Justice (Adl)

Upholding fairness, equity, and legal accountability for all members of society, regardless of faith or identity. Justice remains a moral duty and the foundation of lasting peace.

### 2. Mercy (Rahma)

Embodying the Divine Attribute of mercy through compassionate shaping of public policies and community relations, especially towards the vulnerable and marginalised.

### 3. Dignity (Karāma)

Affirming the inherent worth of every human being, as proclaimed in the Qur'an: "We have honoured the children of Adam" (Qur'an 17:70), transcending sectarian and ethnic divisions.

### 4. Solidarity (Ta'āwun)

Strengthening bonds of mutual support and collective action, recognising that unity in diversity is both a religious and pragmatic necessity.

### 5. Pluralism (Ta'addudiyyah)

Embracing diversity as a divine sign (āyah) and a source of societal strength, where difference is celebrated rather than feared.

### 6. Trust (Amāna)

Restoring the social contract through trustworthy leadership, inclusive governance, and ethical stewardship of authority and public discourse.

### 7. Renewal (Tajdīd)

Addressing contemporary challenges through the prophetic tradition of renewal (ijtihad), institutional reform, and the brave pursuit of justice.

These values are not just abstract ideals, but practical commitments aimed at shaping theological thought, guiding public policy, reforming education, and motivating grassroots movements. Through this values-driven approach, the implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration seeks to foster healing, reconciliation, and the development of societies where peace, dignity, and freedom are upheld for all.



## The Main Elements of the Roadmap

The Marrakesh Declaration offers a strong foundation for expanding FoRB by strategically utilising established programmes, partnerships, and community structures that have already demonstrated impact. It highlights key opportunities to expand and deepen successful initiatives, while identifying areas for long-term investments in theological education, legal and policy reform, community resilience, and interfaith dialogue that will generate lasting benefits in promoting religious freedom and strengthening social cohesion.

To implement this vision effectively, the roadmap is organised around three interconnected strategic pillars.

- 1. Transformative strategies** offer a cohesive basis for coordinated efforts, multi-stakeholder collaborations, and cross-sector alignment;
- 2. Catalytic actions** explicitly designed to accelerate measurable progress towards peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, enabling rapid scaling and replication of proven models; and
- 3. Critical enablers** strengthen the institutional, legal, and social bases essential for ambitious, sustained, and context-aware implementation.

Together, these elements form a comprehensive, cohesive framework that transforms the aspirational commitments of the Marrakesh Declaration into tangible, actionable pathways for societal change. Rooted in Islamic tradition and grounded in universal principles of human dignity and justice, this approach positions the Marrakesh Declaration as a dynamic tool for promoting religious freedom, fostering inclusive citizenship, and building resilient, pluralistic communities.

## Transformative Strategies

Developing the theological, legal, and social reform frameworks necessary to create conditions for coordinated and cooperative action across sectors. All countries working on FoRB must focus on reducing discrimination and any form of violence targeting religious minorities while actively promoting inclusion and decreasing polarisation and distrust between minority and majority religious groups. These strategies aim to reshape societal narratives, strengthen protections for vulnerable communities, and foster a culture of coexistence rooted in shared values of dignity, justice, and respect for religious diversity.

### GLOBAL STRATEGIES

**Normative Reframing:** Normative reframing is central to promoting FoRB within the framework of the Marrakesh Declaration. It involves the reinterpretation of religious texts, principles, and traditions to emphasise the ethical obligation of safeguarding freedom of conscience, belief, and worship. Through theological scholarship and faith leadership, NRTP will collaborate with partners to shift dominant narratives by drawing on Islamic teachings that uphold human dignity, justice, and peaceful coexistence. By integrating FoRB into the moral fabric of religious discourse, normative reframing seeks to transform public attitudes, reduce stigma against religious minorities, and promote broader societal acceptance of pluralism as a religious and social benefit. This process aligns with the overarching roadmap goal of cultivating inclusive societies where religious diversity is tolerated and embraced as an expression of faithfulness to Islamic values.

**Theological Foundation:** Theological grounding connects FoRB to recognised Islamic sources and traditions, offering religious legitimacy for equal citizenship and religious freedom. Central to this approach is the revival of the Charter of Medina, an early Islamic constitution established by the Prophet Muhammad, which serves as a historical example of inclusive governance, mutual protection, and interfaith solidarity. Advocates of the Marrakesh Declaration also promote the use of *ijtihad* (independent reasoning) to reinterpret classical jurisprudence (*fiqh*) in ways that reflect modern realities, emphasising the Qur’anic principles of justice, mercy, and human dignity. This theological foundation ensures that promoting FoRB is seen not as an external imposition, but as a reaffirmation of deeply rooted Islamic principles. Strengthening theological legitimacy will enhance credibility among religious leaders, scholars, policymakers, and communities, creating a solid foundation for the transformative strategies outlined in the roadmap.

**Diplomatic Engagement:** Diplomatic engagement utilises faith-based diplomacy to encourage political and institutional change in support of FoRB. NRTF will collaborate with religious leaders, interfaith networks, and international organisations to motivate political authorities to adopt policies that safeguard religious minorities and uphold freedom of conscience. By presenting FoRB as both a moral duty and vital for peaceful, thriving societies, diplomatic efforts aim to garner political commitment, foster shared responsibility among states, and promote regional solidarity. These engagements will seek to align national policies with the principles outlined in the Marrakesh Declaration and, where appropriate, connect them to broader commitments under international human rights frameworks. This approach reinforces the roadmap’s focus on creating systemic change through strategic alliances, government backing, and global advocacy.

## NATIONAL STRATEGIES

Advancing FoRB requires global frameworks and strong national engagement that translate the principles of the Marrakesh Declaration into concrete actions. The national strategies outlined in this roadmap focus on building resilient movements, reforming legal frameworks, and empowering local actors to foster sustainable, inclusive societies. Together, these strategies aim to create an environment where religious diversity is protected, celebrated, and actively integrated into the social and political fabric.

**Movement Building:** National strategies will prioritise shifting the promotion of FoRB from elite, top-down initiatives to dynamic, grassroots-led movements. These movements will amplify messages of coexistence, mutual respect, and social harmony by focusing on youth as agents of change and involving artists, educators, faith leaders, and civil society organisations. Creative arts, storytelling, educational programmes, and community-driven campaigns will be vital in reshaping public narratives, challenging stereotypes, and fostering a culture of inclusion at the societal level.

**Legal and Policy Reform:** Robust legal and policy frameworks are essential to formalise protections for religious minorities and ensure equal citizenship conditions. NRTF will support FBOs and interfaith platforms in reviewing, reforming, and implementing national laws aligned with the Marrakesh Declaration’s principles, particularly concerning the rights of non-Muslim minorities in Muslim-majority countries, and vice versa. Legal reform efforts will eliminate discriminatory statutes, strengthen constitutional protections for freedom of religion and belief, and offer accessible legal remedies for religious discrimination and violence.



**Grassroots Empowerment:** Transformative change is only sustainable when communities are empowered to lead it. National strategies will equip local faith actors, youth leaders, and women with the necessary tools for advocacy, early warning, mediation, and community dialogue. Training will emphasise religious literacy, human rights principles, and conflict transformation skills, enabling grassroots actors to serve as guardians and promoters of FoRB within their communities. By building local capacities for resilience and non-violent action, this strategy strengthens social cohesion from the bottom up and ensures that FoRB protections are embedded in everyday practices.

### Catalytic Actions for Advancing the Implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration

Catalytic actions are essential drivers that energise the Marrakesh Declaration, transforming its principles into tangible, locally grounded, and globally meaningful practices. While transformative strategies establish the structural foundation for FoRB, catalytic actions connect the vision to real-world implementation. They generate visible change, promote inclusive participation, and build public trust by demonstrating how FoRB can be realised in ways that are theologically sound, community-led, and politically pertinent.

Designed at both global and national levels, these actions aim to reshape public narratives, influence legal and policy reforms, and mobilise diverse actors towards a shared goal of inclusive and peaceful coexistence. The following catalytic actions reflect a multi-sphere, context-sensitive approach to implementing the Marrakesh Declaration in Muslim-majority countries and beyond.

## GLOBAL STRATEGIES

**Global FoRB Pulpit Campaign:** Engage influential Muslim scholars, imams, and preachers to deliver Friday sermons highlighting the Qur'anic and ethical foundations for FoRB. This initiative aims to mainstream and elevate discussions on religious freedom within religious communities, promoting grassroots awareness and support.

**Annual Marrakesh Peace Forums:** Host yearly interfaith events that unite religious leaders, scholars, policymakers, and civil society actors to evaluate progress, exchange best practices, and reaffirm collective commitments to advancing FoRB. These forums serve as vital platforms for reflection, networking, and prioritising efforts for the year ahead.

**FoRB Champions Programme:** Identify, train, and support a cohort of young religious leaders, both male and female, as ambassadors for interreligious freedom and minority protection. Through capacity-building workshops, mentorship, and global exchanges, these champions will promote FoRB messaging and action within their local communities.

**Policy and Legal Reforms:** Strengthen existing local, community-led FBO structures to intervene early in religiously motivated tensions or violence. These centres will include early warning systems, mediation, and rapid de-escalation techniques based on religious and community legitimacy.



*Regional Consultation on Advancing the Implementation of the Marrakech Declaration in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, October 2025.*

## NATIONAL STRATEGIES

**Interpret and Promote the Marrakesh Declaration through a Gender Perspective:** Translate and adapt the Marrakesh Declaration's key principles into narratives that resonate with gender equality and women's rights. Develop tailored communication materials, including policy briefs, academic papers, journal articles, social media content, and case studies, in local languages and culturally sensitive formats to connect FoRB with broader struggles for gender justice and inclusion.

**Engage Strategically with Women's Rights Stakeholders:** Build alliances with women's rights organisations, gender equality advocates, policymakers, and community leaders to enhance the Marrakesh Declaration's gender-responsive elements. These collaborations will guarantee that women's voices and perspectives are central to FoRB advocacy and that the Marrakesh Declaration's principles are entirely accessible and actionable for gender justice movements.

**Document Gendered Implementation Efforts:** Document thoroughly the successes, challenges, and innovations in implementing the Marrakesh Declaration with a gender-sensitive approach. Use interviews, field observations, and case studies to record how women's groups interpret, adapt, and operationalise the Marrakesh Declaration's vision across different social, cultural, and political settings, creating an evidence base for future programmes and advocacy.

**Faith-Based Rapid Response Hubs:** Create localised, community-led systems to intervene early in religiously motivated tensions or violence. These hubs will include early warning, mediation, and rapid de-escalation strategies rooted in religious and community legitimacy.

## The Enablers for Implementing the Roadmap

The enablers for implementing the roadmap consist of a diverse, interconnected ecosystem of actors who collectively drive its transformative agenda:

- **Faith leaders and religious institutions** act as moral anchors, shaping inclusive narratives and fostering interfaith solidarity at the community and national levels.
- **Government and policy actors** establish the critical legal and institutional frameworks needed to safeguard FoRB and embed these commitments into national development priorities.
- **Civil society organizations** amplify grassroots voices, facilitate community mobilisation, and provide technical expertise to support advocacy and capacity-building efforts.
- **Youth and women's networks** serve as dynamic change agents, promoting dialogue and advocating for inclusive civic engagement, especially of religious minority groups in FoRB spaces.
- **Media and communication actors** play a vital role in shaping public discourse, encouraging pluralism, and countering harmful narratives.
- **Academic and research institutions** offer evidence-based insights that inform policy, improve accountability, and support adaptive learning.
- **Regional and international partners** contribute political support, technical assistance, and sustainable financing to reinforce and expand interventions.
- **Security and justice actors** establish protective environments through rights-based, community-sensitive approaches.

Together, these enablers lay a resilient foundation for promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, fully aligned with the spirit and commitments of the Marrakesh Declaration.

The enablers support progress towards achieving the targets for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and are essential for strengthening FoRB. They create the conditions for sustainable change by reinforcing the foundations upon which transformative strategies and catalytic actions can thrive.

A strategic, evidence-based approach is crucial for providing decision-makers with the data, analysis, and insights necessary to facilitate effective implementation and adaptive management. Long-term investment will be vital for monitoring progress, expanding proven and promising interventions, and deepening understanding of the challenges faced by the most vulnerable in religious minorities. By reinforcing these enabling conditions, the roadmap ensures that efforts to promote FoRB are resilient, scalable, and adaptable to evolving needs and contexts. A set of interconnected enablers must be systematically developed to realise this vision. These enablers ensure lasting impact by anchoring reforms in theological legitimacy, political commitment, institutional partnerships, societal engagement, and inclusive innovation. They include:

- **Theological Legitimacy:** Religious legitimacy is recognised by respected Islamic scholars and credible institutions with societal influence. Initiatives will be grounded in Islamic principles of justice ('adl), coexistence (ta'āyush), and the protection of covenant communities (ahl al-dhimma), emphasising that FoRB protections align with core Islamic teachings.
- **Political Will:** Securing the commitment of national and local governments through strategic alliances with influential religious institutions. Political buy-in will aid in embedding FoRB principles into laws, policies, and governance frameworks, ensuring sustainable change on a broad scale.
- **Civil Society Partnerships:** Collaborating with NGOs, religious councils, women's networks, youth organisations, and peacebuilding groups to develop robust, broad-based advocacy for FoRB. Civil society will be essential in localising initiatives, engaging communities, and ensuring crucial accountability mechanisms.
- **International Mechanisms:** Coordinating national strategies with international and regional frameworks, including collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on FoRB, the Human Rights Council (HRC), the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the African Union (AU), will enhance visibility, legitimacy, and external support for FoRB initiatives.
- **Digital Platforms:** Using technology to support e-learning, promote, monitor FoRB violations, and enhance access to educational resources. Digital platforms will be essential tools for raising awareness, empowering youth, and expanding networks of action.
- **Youth Engagement:** Emphasising young people as vital change agents through digital mobilisation, leadership development, and creative advocacy campaigns. Youth-led initiatives will encourage intergenerational sustainability and promote cultural transformation around FoRB values.
- **Inclusive Representation:** Ensuring meaningful participation of Muslims and individuals of other faiths in the design, implementation, and evaluation of FoRB initiatives. Inclusive processes will enhance legitimacy, promote shared ownership, and reflect the pluralistic vision outlined in the Marrakesh Declaration.
- **Faith Diplomacy:** Building interfaith coalitions and harnessing the collective voice of religious leaders from diverse traditions to advocate for FoRB. Faith diplomacy will link communities and governments, promoting opportunities for dialogue, reconciliation, and collaborative action.
- **Communication and Advocacy Strategy:** Developing customised, strategic messaging to promote the principles of the Marrakesh Declaration among diverse audiences. Strong communication and advocacy efforts will raise public awareness, shape policy debates, showcase successes, and mobilise societal support for religious freedom and peaceful coexistence.
  - **Narrative Framing:** Present FoRB as an Islamic principle rooted in the Medina model. Use terms such as 'adl (justice), Rahma (mercy), and ta'aruf (mutual recognition) to emphasise shared values.
  - **Key Messages:** Share essential messages including: "Minority rights are majority responsibilities," and "The Marrakesh Declaration is a promise to history and a commitment to the future."
  - **Channels:** Collaborate with Islamic media and educational channels. Use hashtags such as #MedinaModel, #FaithForFreedom, and #SacredCoexistence. Share personal stories of coexistence and faith-based solidarity, and commission art, music, and poetry to celebrate religious pluralism.



# ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARRAKESH DECLARATION

To realise the aspirations of the Marrakesh Declaration, Muslim-majority countries must lead a bold, ten-year action plan. This plan should drive measurable change by embedding the Marrakesh Declaration's principles into governance, education, civil society movements, and religious discourse. It must be locally owned, religiously grounded, and globally supported, maintaining the Indigenous, Muslim-led character that strengthens and legitimises the Marrakesh Declaration. Implementation must unfold across two mutually reinforcing levels.

**1. Global Efforts:** Led by key strategic platforms such as the NRTP, the FBOs, Interreligious platforms, and the Forum, alongside diplomatic engagement at the OIC and UN levels, global actors will champion FoRB within international diplomatic spaces, support theological renewal, and provide technical and financial aid to national movements while safeguarding the integrity of the Muslim-led initiative.

**2. National Efforts:** Led by Muslim-majority governments in collaboration with local scholars, civil society organisations, educational institutions, youth and women's networks, and religious councils, national action plans must be developed to localise the Marrakesh Declaration's commitments, emphasising legal reforms, public education, community empowerment, and tackling social polarisation.

## From Principle to Practice: Strategic Recommendations for Advancing the Marrakesh Declaration

The following global and national recommendations aim to turn the vision and commitments of the Marrakesh Declaration into action, moving it from a significant theological statement to a real, lived experience within Muslim-majority societies. Based on Islamic jurisprudence and aligned with international human rights standards, these recommendations draw on lessons learnt from previous efforts and offer a future-focused framework for greater influence. They highlight the need for bold, coordinated, and context-aware measures, rooted in local ownership, guided by religious legitimacy, and reinforced by global solidarity, to promote FoRB, safeguard minority rights, and encourage inclusive, pluralistic governance.

### Global Recommendations

#### 1. Strengthen Muslim-Led Multilateral Platforms

Support and broaden strategic alliances like the NRTP and the Forum to advocate for the Marrakesh Declaration in multilateral arenas, ensuring its principles are prioritised on the agendas of the OIC, the UN Human Rights Council, and regional organisations.

#### 2. Institutionalise Theological Renewal Initiatives

Provide ongoing funding and support for scholarly initiatives that promote *ijtihad* (independent reasoning), emphasising the reinterpretation of Islamic texts to uphold justice, pluralism, and equal citizenship. These efforts should be coordinated with internationally recognised Islamic institutions to maintain theological legitimacy.

### 3. Embed FoRB in Global Diplomacy and Development Frameworks

Encourage donor governments and international organisations to incorporate FoRB principles, based on the Marrakesh Declaration, into their foreign policies, development initiatives, and peacebuilding efforts, while honouring the guidance of Muslim-majority countries and institutions to maintain the initiative's authenticity.

### 4. Catalyse Technical and Financial Support for National Implementation

Establish a dedicated global FoRB implementation fund to support country-level action plans. This fund should prioritise locally led projects, capacity-building, curriculum reform, and community-based programming aligned with the Marrakesh Declaration.

### 5. Facilitate Global Monitoring, Learning, and Accountability

Establish a global monitoring framework, supported by academic and policy institutions, to track progress in implementing the Marrakesh Declaration's principles. Regular international gatherings should be held to share lessons, showcase innovations, and hold stakeholders accountable to shared commitments.

## National Recommendations

### 1. Develop and Implement National Action Plans (NAPs)

Muslim-majority governments should oversee the alignment of the Marrakesh Declaration with National Action Plans in consultation with religious scholars, civil society actors, women's and youth networks, and minority groups. These plans should be tailored to the specific context, have clear deadlines, and include measurable benchmarks for implementation.

### 2. Advance Legal and Constitutional Reforms

Review and reform laws and constitutional provisions to safeguard the rights of religious minorities, promote non-discrimination, and ensure equal citizenship. Emphasis should be on repealing laws that uphold religious exclusion or criminalise belief.

### 3. Integrate FoRB into National Education Systems

Collaborate with education ministries and religious organisations to embed values of religious freedom, coexistence, and pluralism into curricula across all educational levels, including madrasas, secular schools, and higher education institutions. Such initiatives should involve creating new teaching materials based on Islamic tradition and human rights principles.

### 4. Empower Religious and Traditional Leaders

Strengthen the abilities of local imams, scholars, and traditional leaders to promote the Marrakesh Declaration's theological principles. Provide them with tools, platforms, and support to contest extremist narratives and foster inclusive messaging at the grassroots level.

### 5. Invest in Community-Led Social Cohesion Programs

Support civil society, youth movements, and women's organisations in leading FoRB initiatives that address local conflict dynamics. These efforts should include interfaith dialogue, arts and cultural programmes, digital campaigns, and early warning mechanisms.

### 6. Strengthen Inclusive Governance Mechanisms

Promote participatory governance by ensuring religious minorities and under-represented groups are involved in policymaking, peace dialogues, and national advisory bodies related to religious affairs and cohesion.



Regional Consultation on Advancing the Implementation of the Marrakech Declaration in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco. October 2025.





## STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR ACTION

### 1. Reviving Theological Legitimacy for Equal Citizenship

Reframe public religious discourse by grounding protections for minority rights on Islamic teachings, including the Charter of Medina. Promote scholarly engagement (ijtihad) to reinterpret jurisprudence in favour of pluralism and equal rights.

### 2. Institutionalising Legal and Policy Reform

Develop national legislation that protects religious minorities and ensures freedom of conscience. Encourage governments to incorporate the Marrakesh Declaration's principles into constitutional frameworks, supported by National Action Plans.

### 3. Movement Building and Grassroots Mobilisation

Shift FoRB advocacy from elite initiatives to broad grassroots movements involving youth, women, educators, artists, religious leaders, and institutions. Encourage bottom-up demand for inclusive and pluralistic societies.

### 4. Faith-Based Rapid Response and Early Warning Systems

Support community-led initiatives to address religious tensions early, prevent violence, and build resilient societies where disputes are resolved through dialogue rather than conflict.

### 5. Strategic Engagement of Women's and Youth Networks

Integrate the Marrakesh Declaration into gender justice agendas, emphasising women's rights and inclusion. Mobilise youth leadership to lead cultural and digital campaigns promoting religious freedom and pluralism.

### 6. Global Faith Diplomacy and Interreligious Coalitions

Engage influential religious leaders from various faiths to work together in promoting FoRB, combating religious intolerance, and presenting a united moral stand for peaceful coexistence.

### 7. Harnessing Digital Platforms for Education and Advocacy

Expand the reach of FoRB education through online channels, challenge extremist narratives, and foster virtual spaces for intercultural dialogue.

### 8. Monitoring, Accountability, and Learning

Establish monitoring frameworks that track reforms, document successes and challenges, and utilise evidence-based learning to refine strategies over ten years.

## THE ROLE OF KEY STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The success of the implementation plan will depend on strong partnerships:

**1. NRTP** will oversee international coordination efforts, link national movements, and encourage multi-stakeholder engagement across religious and secular sectors.

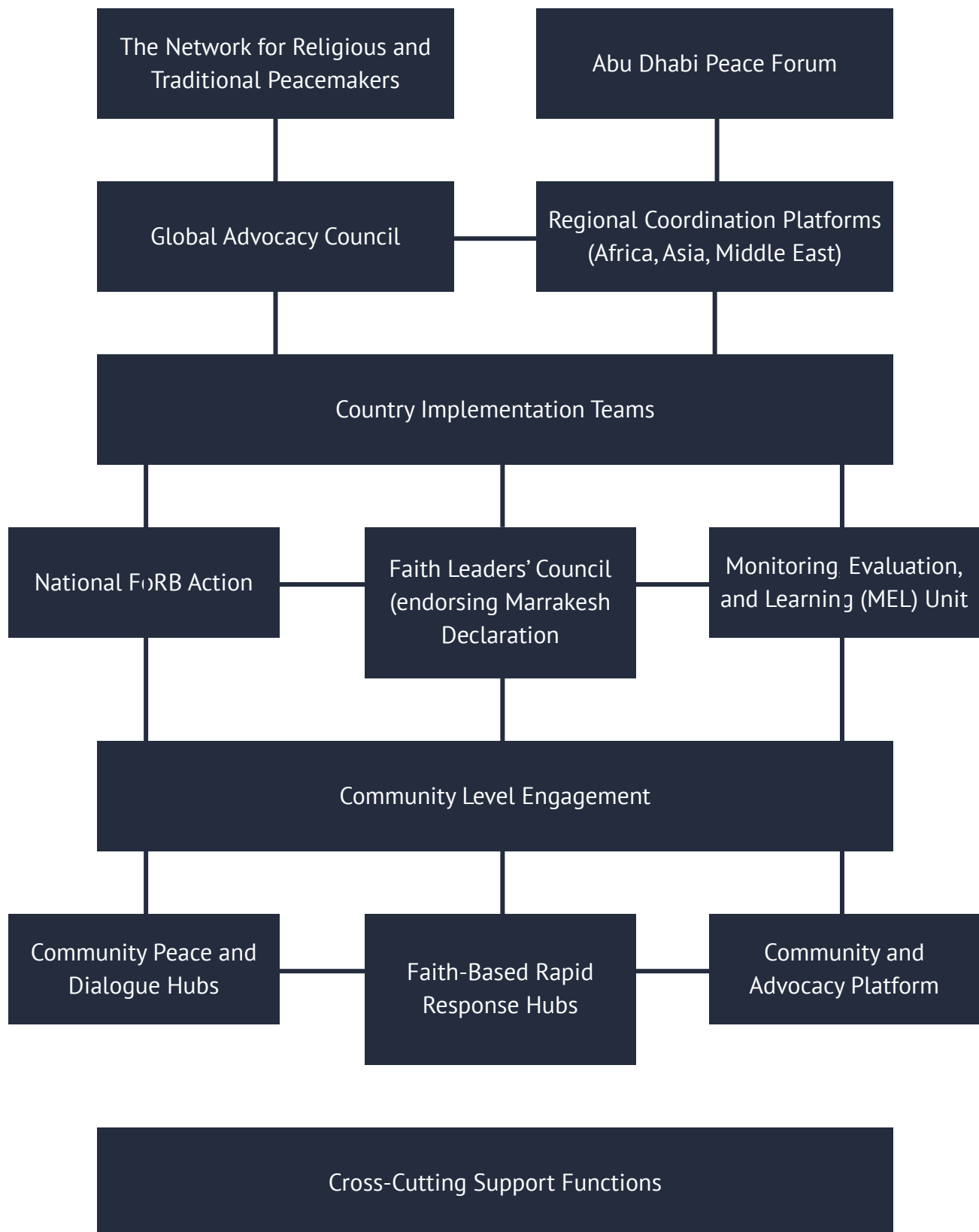
**2. FBO Platform** will mobilise its extensive network of civil society organisations across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East to advocate for legal reforms, encourage interfaith collaborations, and document successes and lessons learned from implementation.

**3. Muslim-majority governments** will serve as the primary custodians of the Marrakesh Declaration's principles, responsible for fostering national ownership, integrating FoRB into governance and public life, and demonstrating leadership on the global stage.

**4. Muslim scholarly councils and religious leaders** will act as moral anchors, leading theological renewal, guiding public education, and ensuring the principles of the Marrakesh Declaration are genuinely embraced as Islamic.



## Proposed Implementation Structure



The illustrated framework (*previous page*) operationalises the roadmap for advancing the Marrakesh Declaration by establishing an integrated, multi-tiered architecture designed to ensure coherence, accountability, and impact at all levels of implementation.

At the top, NRTP and the Forum provide overall strategic guidance, theological legitimacy, and international advocacy support. These key institutions work alongside Regional Coordination Platforms in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East to adapt global principles to specific regional contexts, ensuring that actions are culturally appropriate and locally supported.

- **The Global Advisory Council** serves as a high-level governance and strategic oversight body, aligning the global vision with regional and national priorities, and promoting knowledge exchange and policy harmonisation across different contexts.
- **The Country Implementation Teams** serve as the operational backbone by translating strategic directives into country-specific plans and coordinating efforts across various sectors. These teams are supported by three essential elements:
  - National FoRB Action Committees, which lead policy and legal reforms to institutionalise Freedom of Religion or Belief at the national level;
  - Faith Leaders' Councils, which endorse and localise the Marrakesh Declaration, providing theological leadership and enhancing community legitimacy; and
  - MEL Units promote adaptive management, evidence-based decision-making, and ongoing improvement.

- **At the community level**, three complementary structures support local involvement and strengthen societal resilience:

- **Community Peace and Dialogue Hubs**, which promote interfaith understanding and grassroots peacebuilding;
- **Faith-Based Rapid Response Hubs**, which facilitate timely, coordinated reactions to emerging tensions or crises; and
- **Communication and advocacy platforms** strengthen inclusive narratives, combat misinformation, and mobilise wider societal support.

Finally, **Cross-Cutting Support Functions** strengthen each layer of the architecture by providing technical assistance, capacity development, and logistical support to ensure effective delivery and sustainability.

Together, this integrated framework demonstrates the roadmap's commitment to transformative strategies, catalytic actions, and vital enablers. It turns the aspirations of the Marrakesh Declaration into an actionable, scalable, and resilient system that promotes religious freedom, strengthens inclusive citizenship, and supports peaceful, pluralistic societies worldwide.



Regional Consultation on Advancing the Implementation of the Marrakech Declaration in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco. October 2025.

# PROPOSED STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR 10 YEARS: IMPLEMENTING THE MARRAKESH DECLARATION

Implementing the Marrakesh Declaration is guided by a comprehensive set of ten strategic action areas that create a holistic, transformative approach. These actions recognise that lasting change requires theological, legal, community, and global intervention. Theological renewal forms the foundation by reframing Islamic narratives to affirm FoRB and equal citizenship through scholarly reinterpretation and religious education. National legal and policy reform will institutionalise these principles, embedding FoRB into constitutions and legislative frameworks through country-specific action plans. Grassroots movement building mobilises youth, women, artists, educators, and community leaders to champion pluralism and coexistence at the community level. Faith-based rapid response systems will offer early warning, mediation, and conflict prevention mechanisms to address religious tensions before they escalate.

Gender-responsive advocacy ensures the integration of Declaration values into gender justice initiatives, emphasising women's leadership and inclusion. Youth empowerment initiatives will nurture a new generation of FoRB champions through digital engagement, education, and leadership development. Global faith diplomacy will unite religious leaders across traditions to advocate collectively for religious freedom and counteract discrimination. Digital platforms for education and advocacy will expand access to learning, storytelling, and community-building online. Monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems will track progress, inform adaptive management, and amplify success stories. Finally, strategic partnerships with the NRTP, the Forum, and Muslim-majority governments will ensure sustained, coordinated, and impactful action over the next decade.



Group photo of participants and facilitators at the regional consultation workshop on advancing the Implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration in Jakarta, Indonesia. November 2024.



| #  | Strategic Action                             | Focus Area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Theological Renewal                          | Reframe Islamic narratives to affirm FoRB and equal citizenship through scholarly reinterpretation and religious education. Engage Muslim scholars, Islamic academic institutions, and think tanks to promote rigorous scholarly inquiry on FoRB through conferences, ijihad forums, and doctrinal research aligned with the Marrakesh Declaration. Facilitate the translation of academic outputs into accessible resources for policymakers, educators, and community leaders. |
| 2  | National Legal and Policy Reform             | Develop and implement national action plans that enshrine FoRB principles into constitutions and legal frameworks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3  | Grassroots Movement Building                 | Mobilize youth, women, artists, educators, and community leaders to champion coexistence and pluralism from the ground up.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 4  | Faith-Based Rapid Response Systems           | Establish local mechanisms for early warning, mediation, and prevention of religious tensions and violence.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 5  | Gender-Responsive Advocacy                   | Integrate the Marrakesh Declaration into gender justice initiatives, ensuring women's leadership and inclusion in FoRB efforts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 6  | Youth Empowerment                            | Build a new generation of FoRB champions through digital mobilization, education, and leadership development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 7  | Global Faith Diplomacy                       | Engage religious leaders across traditions to collectively advocate for religious freedom and counter discrimination.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 8  | Digital Platforms for Education and Advocacy | Expand FoRB education and advocacy through online learning, storytelling, and virtual community-building.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 9  | Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning         | Develop robust monitoring systems to track progress, adapt strategies, and showcase success stories over the decade.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 10 | Strategic Partnerships for Implementation    | Leverage the leadership of the Faith Institutions, and Muslim-majority governments to drive sustained, coordinated action.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## PHASED TIMELINE AND ACTIONS

| Strategic Actions                              | Key Activities                                                                                                                                    | Lead Actors                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Phase One: Foundational Building (2025-27)     |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                |
| Theological Renewal                            | Convene leading Islamic scholars to produce authoritative statements and interpretations affirming FoRB; integrate FoRB into religious curricula. | Religious councils, Islamic universities, JISRA, N RTP         |
| National Legal and Policy Reform               | Develop national action plans aligned with the Marrakesh Declaration; initiate legislative reforms; conduct legal gap analyses.                   | National governments, legal reform committees, civil society   |
| Grassroots Movement Building                   | Launch public education campaigns; mobilize youth, women, artists, and educators; create local platforms for dialogue.                            | Civil society organizations, youth networks, media outlets     |
| Gender-Responsive Advocacy                     | Translate the Marrakesh Declaration into gender-sensitive frameworks; partner with women's organizations.                                         | Women's rights groups, ministries of gender, religious leaders |
| Digital Platforms for Educational and Advocacy | Establish e-learning platforms; launch social media campaigns; develop online FoRB curricula.                                                     | Tech partners, educational NGOs, youth activists               |





| Strategic Actions                                 | Key Activities                                                                                                                   | Lead Actors                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Phase Two: Expansion and Scaling (2028-31)</b> |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                             |
| Faith-Based Rapid Response Systems                | Establish early warning and mediation hubs at national and local levels; train mediators and faith leaders.                      | Peace organisations, religious councils, and local authorities                              |
| Youth Empowerment                                 | Develop leadership academies for FoRB focused youth; fund youth-led FoRB initiatives and campaigns.                              | Youth alliances, universities, NGOs                                                         |
| Global Faith Diplomacy                            | Organise interfaith forums at OIC, UN, AU levels, strengthen alliance between Muslim-Majority and other states supporting FoRB.  | Ministries of Religious Affairs, Religious Diplomacy Unites, NRTP, Faith-based institutions |
| Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning              | Establish monitoring frameworks; publish annual progress reports; organise independent evaluations.                              | Faith institutions, Inter-faith networks, NRTP                                              |
| Strategic Partnerships for Implementation         | Deepen collaboration among Faith Institutions, Muslim-majority governments, and global actors. Formalise alliances through MOUs. | NRTP, international donors, faith network                                                   |

| Strategic Actions                                                     | Key Activities                                                                                                       | Lead Actors                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Phase Three: Institutionalization and Sustainability (2032-35)</b> |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                  |
| Institutionalize Theological and Educational Reform                   | Institutionalise new FoRB friendly religious curricula in national education systems and Islamic seminaries.         | Ministries of Education, Islamic universities                                    |
| Consolidate Legal Reforms, National Parliaments, legal commissions    | Ensure FoRB protections are fully integrated into constitutional law and judicial practice.                          | Muslim Religious Leaders                                                         |
| Strengthen National and Regional Networks                             | Formalize national interfaith and FoRB councils; integrate into national peace architectures.                        | Muslim Religious Leaders, Ministries of Religious Affairs Interfaith networks    |
| Sustain Youth and Women's Leadership Pipelines                        | Ensure youth and women's representation in religious, political, and civil society leadership structures.            | Interfaith networks and organisations, faith-based youth and women organisations |
| Global Recognition of Marrakesh Declaration Outcomes                  | Showcase Marrakesh-based reforms at international forums; advocate for replication beyond Muslim-majority countries. | Muslim-majority governments, NRTP, OIC, UNHRC                                    |



## KEY MILESTONES

The roadmap for advancing FoRB under the JISRA initiative is based on key milestones that delineate a progressive journey towards long-term impact. By 2027, core theological documents affirming FoRB will be created and disseminated, providing a faith-based foundation for advocacy. Additionally, national action plans will be developed in at least one Muslim-majority country to guide local implementation. By 2031, faith-based rapid response systems will be operational in over ten countries to address emerging threats to religious freedom, while vibrant youth and women's leadership networks focused on FoRB will be well-established and active. By 2035, FoRB's constitutional protections will be fully enacted in at least three JISRA countries. Furthermore, the Marrakesh Declaration will be recognised globally across Muslim-majority nations as a model for pluralistic governance, marking a transformative shift towards inclusive, rights-based societies.

| Year | Key Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2027 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.Core theological documents affirming FoRB produced and pro-disseminated.</li><li>2.National action plans developed in Muslim-majority countries.</li></ol>                                                     |
| 2031 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.Faith-based rapid response systems are operational in 10+ countries.</li><li>2.Youth and women's FoRB leadership networks established and active.</li></ol>                                                    |
| 2035 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.FoRB constitutional protections fully enacted in at least 3 JISRA countries.</li><li>2.Marrakesh Declaration recognized in Muslim majority countries globally as a model for pluralistic governance.</li></ol> |

# COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

Achieving the key milestones for advancing FoRB requires a strong, multi-level coordination and partnership framework. NRTP and partners can lead in strategic coordination at the global level, promoting international collaboration and ensuring coherence across different contexts. Nationally, Ministries of Religious Affairs, Gender, and Youth in Muslim-majority countries will provide essential leadership, anchoring FoRB efforts within government structures and policies. Civil society and academic partners, including faith-based NGOs, community-based organisations (CBOs), universities, religious councils, and women's and youth networks, will serve as crucial drivers of grassroots mobilisation, capacity-building, and local advocacy. Monitoring and evaluation will be overseen by academic institutions, independent FoRB monitors, and interfaith bodies, ensuring accountability, learning, and adaptive management throughout implementation.

Together, these interconnected layers of partnerships embody a whole-of-society approach vital for realising a sustainable, inclusive vision for FoRB globally.

**Global Coordination:** NRTP and the Forum

**National Leadership:** Ministries of Religious Affairs, Gender, and Youth in Muslim-majority countries

**Civil Society and Academic Support:** Faith-based NGOs and CBOs, universities, religious councils, women's and youth networks

**Monitoring and Evaluation Partners:** Academic institutions, independent FoRB monitors, interfaith bodies

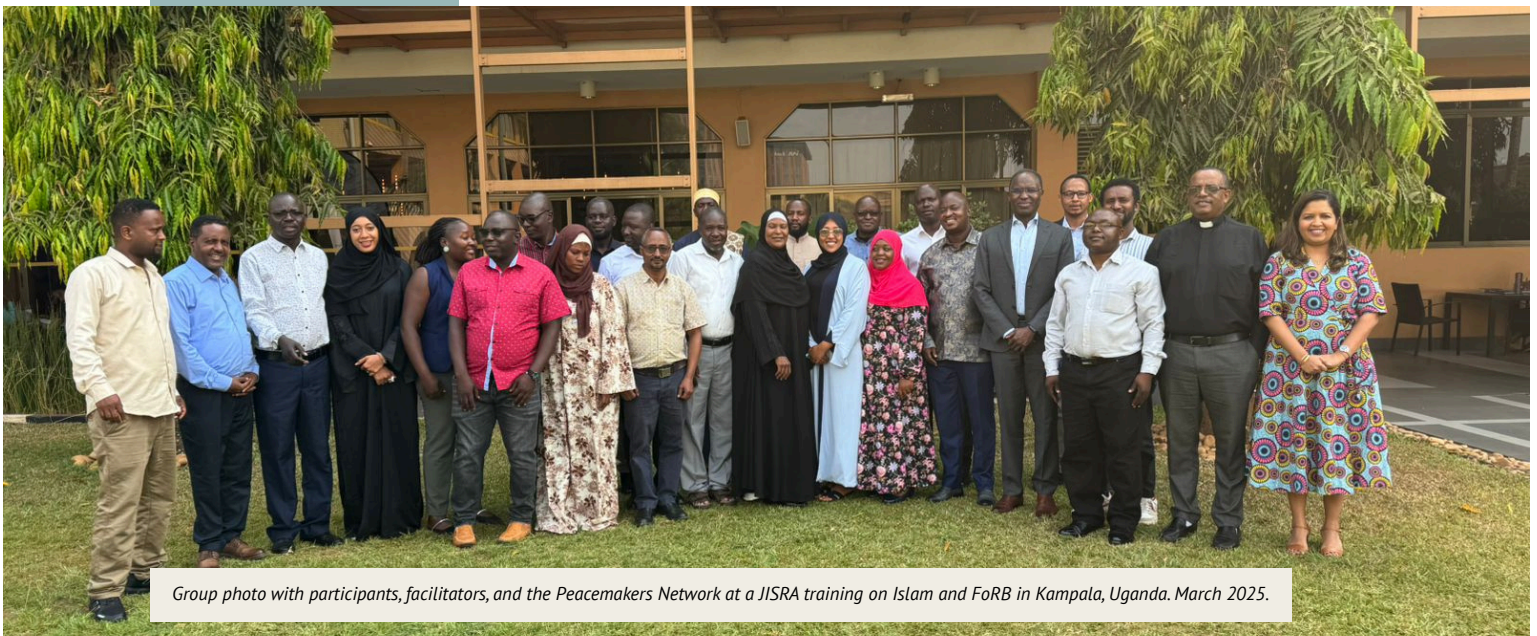


## CONCLUSION: A DECADE FOR TRANSFORMATION

This roadmap provides a practical, time-specific plan to realise the vision of the Marrakesh Declaration. By committing to theological renewal, legal reform, grassroots empowerment, and international diplomacy, Muslim-majority societies can lead a profound and enduring transformation, rooted in Islamic tradition, driven by justice, and maintained through collective action.

The next ten years are not just a window of opportunity but a call for boldness, visionary leadership, and historic renewal. The Marrakesh Declaration planted a vital seed for peace, justice, and inclusion. The coming decade is a decisive moment to nurture that seed into a thriving reality across the Muslim world and beyond.

Achieving this vision requires the courage to confront historical legacies of exclusion, the imagination to envisage genuinely pluralistic futures, and the Marrakesh Declaration can realise its transformative potential by turning crises into opportunities. It also involves building peaceful, inclusive societies for future generations through bold, sustained, and coordinated efforts, with a firm commitment to action rooted in faith and the universal principles of human dignity. With such dedicated efforts, the Marrakesh Declaration can fulfil its transformative potential by transforming crises into opportunities and fostering peaceful, inclusive societies for future generations.



Group photo with participants, facilitators, and the Peacemakers Network at a JISRA training on Islam and FoRB in Kampala, Uganda. March 2025.







The Network  
for Religious  
& Traditional  
Peacemakers

