

1 1202 CSS-2022 CA Day

Muslim Ummah has failed to unite under one roof. The internal wrangling and sectarian divide keeps them away from each other. No wonder the Muslim is in shambles^m at their home countries, at OIC level and at international forums. Taking a big step above, discuss way and means to unite Muslim Ummah.

1) Introduction

These days Muslim Ummah is going through a lot of turmoil and chaos. It seems that the failure to unite under one roof has played a crucial role in this ongoing troublesome situation. Sectarian divide, preference of regional interests over the interests of collective Islamic World have led to rivalries among the Muslim countries. Similarly, there is a race among the major countries for the leadership of all the countries in Islamic world. Inability to achieve

self-sufficiency in science and technology, food security, and national security is also a factor behind the divergence of interests among major Islamic Nations.

Similarly, poverty and poor economic conditions have hindered countries from getting closer to Ummah. One cannot refute the fact that, such an approach is needed to be adopted which enhances the chances of strong relations among Islamic countries.

2) Islamic countries in shambles at individual and global level

The dire circumstances, which many Muslim countries are going through are unprecedented. Major economic

Islamic power like Pakistan is facing most severe economic crunch; inflation is at a record high while foreign exchange reserves are diminishing rapidly.

Similarly, the new Taliban government is struggling to deal with daily affairs of Afghanistan. Middle East is in total

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chaos; in 2023 Israel has killed over 19000 Palestinians as yet; rivalry between Gulf countries and Iran does not seem to be ^{ending} leading to Israel-Hamas conflict. Indeed Muslim Nation is in shambles from local governments to OIC level. Now is the time to adopt such an strategy that ~~decreases~~ ^{change} the divergence into convergence of interests.

Ways and Means to Unite Muslim

Ummah

i) Strengthening OICs by recommitment efforts.

Organization of Islamic Conference is one of the largest inter-governmental organizations. It is a Forum of 57 countries whose Muslims are in majority. It represents 1.9 billion of the world population. It is spread in four continents. The organization has an enormous potential to emerge as the sole spokesperson of Islamic world in international affairs.

but before that few steps are required.

i) Mutual sharing of leadership
sole among big four: Saudi Arabia,
Turkiye, Iran and Pakistan.

One major reason for ineffective-
ness of OIC is that the organization
is dominated by Arab muslim countries
when it comes policy making. One
such example is invitation of Indian
Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj in 46th
Council of Foreign Minister meeting despite
the concerns of only Nuclear Power of Islami-
c World, Pakistan. So, a body like UN
United Nations Security Council to take
important policy decisions. Iran, KSA,

Turkiye should and Pakistan should
be included as permanent members with
veto power. This will ensure that platform
of OIC is not used against ^{their} interests
of any of above mentioned countries.

This will have a positive impact on
overall ~~the~~ improvement of relation in
Islamic world as these countries command
huge Islamic ~~can~~ influence in Islamic

world.

i) Increasing Intra-OIC Trade

The divergence of interests among Islamic countries can also be considered to be derived from meagre trade volume among Islamic countries. For instance, India's huge trade volume with Gulf countries, 154 billion dollars in FY21-22, has disturbed the relations of these countries with Pakistan. By creating Free trade zones and minimizing tariffs the trade volume, which was around 585 billion dollar in 2020, can be increased by many folds, as a result economic interests will strengthen the bond of unity among Islamic world.

ii) Using Culture and Media to strengthen ties of brotherhood.

OIC can play a role to promote the cultural values and norms, that are share across all the Muslim countries. Media can play very crucial role in this regard. One

such an example is the Netflix series _____, this series created a sense of harmony among Muslims across the globe.

iv) Promoting research and development in scientific field.

One major hurdle in Islamic ummah's unity is their lack of technological aptness. Most of the Muslim countries rely on Non-Muslim countries to meet their technological requirement due to neglected research and development. As per ~~of~~ UNESCO the OIC average of scholars or researchers is just a little above 50% while the world average is around 1250/million. Thus, investing more resources in research and development will make their foreign policy free from foreign interference.

s) Making full use of strategic value By Integrating them

A network of roads extending from Gibraltar to Islamic countries in African continent and Turkiye can boost economic development of Islamic world. This could also be very helpful in strengthening of cultural and religious bonds as such connectivity will increase the number of people travelling across Islamic world, and hence people to ^{people} contact.

s) Improving living standard by mutual cooperation.

One factor that is leading to chaos and disharmony in Islamic world is poor living standards in Islamic countries. According to ^{the} Human Development Index (HDI) of OIC countries was around 0.659 in 2019, while the global average was around 0.737 in the same year. This indicates the poor living standards. OIC can become a forum, which can provide a solution

to this problem. A such strategy can be adopt in which rich Islamic countries may help the poor countries to overcome these problems, with OIC playing the role of bridge, by investing in health, education and energy sectors.

Conclusion.

One cannot refute that fact that indeed, Muslim Ummah is in shambles as a whole. Unity among the Ummah seems the only possible remedy. In order to strengthen the unity within Muslim Ummah, it is imperative to soon establish a central organ with which all countries of Muslim Ummah are equally connected. OIC can become such body, but it would require many reform and shifts in policies to make it effective.