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Elaborate the principles of good governance of Islam:

Introduction:

"Islamic governance means establishing a system where sovereignty belongs to Allah alone, and rulers act as His trustees to enforce justice, Shura, and moral conduct."

(Abul a'la Maududi)

Good governance refers to the system where authority is exercised with fairness, transparency, accountability, and efficiency to achieve the welfare of society. It is the process through which public institutions function responsibly, protect citizens' rights, uphold the rule of law, and ensure equitable development.

Definitions of Good Governance:

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United Nations Definition:

"Good governance is
the process of decision-making
and the process by which
decisions are implemented,
characterised by participation,
accountability, transparency,
effectiveness, and
rule of law."

Ibn Khaldun

"Good governance is
-the establishment of justice.
for injustice brings ruins
to civilization."

Literal and Conceptual meaning
of Good Governance:

Literally, good governance means
good management or good ruling, where
governance refers to the process of governing

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a state or organisation.

Conceptually, good governance is a comprehensive framework where power is exercised with justice, transparency, participation, rule of law, and accountability to achieve collective welfare.

Principles of Good Governance in Islam:

Islamic governance is rooted in justice, accountability, consultation, and protection of rights. These principles ensure that rulers serve people ethically and responsibly, following the Quran, Sunnah, and the model of the Khulfa-e-Rashidin.

1- Islam Emphasizes Justice as the Cornerstone of Governance:

a- Justice as Divine Command:

Islam makes justice obligatory for rulers because it ensures fairness and prevents oppression. It creates public trust by protecting the rights of

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all individuals equally.

"Allah commands justice".

(Quran - 16:90)

b. Imperial and Universal Justice

No personal ties influence legal decisions. It ensures that justice

remains objective regardless of social status.

The Prophet (PBUH) said,

"If Fatima, daughter of
Muhammad stole, I would punish
her."

c- Justice as Protection Against Tyranny:

Justice prevents rulers from becoming dictators and protects citizens from exploitation and abuse. As Hazrat Umar (RA) stated,

"When did you enslave people
when their mothers bore

them free?"

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2. Islam promotes Consultation in Governance:

Shura ensures that government decisions reflect diverse perspectives. It promotes inclusiveness and improves the quality of policies.

Quran Commands,

'Their affairs are decided by consultation' (42:38)

This makes collective decision-making an Islamic duty. The Prophet (PBUH) consulted companions in matters like Uhud and Khandaq.

3. Islam Requires Accountability of Leaders:

"Each of you is a shepherd and responsible for his folk" (Hadith)

Leadership is a trust (amanah) that comes with moral accountability. Islamic governance discourages bribery, nepotism, and misuse of power. Rulers will be questioned by Allah for misuse of authority. Hazrat Umar

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answered people's questions even about his clothing.

4. Islam Upholds the Rule of Law:

"Judge between them with justice; do not follow desires" (5:49)

Through Quran, Allah prevents judges and rulers from making biased decisions. Islam rejects legal privilege for the rich or elite. All individuals, including rulers, are equally subject to law.

5. Islam Ensures Protection of Human Rights:

Human life is a sacred in Islam, making its protection a state obligation. Islam also ensures legal protection for minorities, rejecting racism, tribalism, and caste-based privileges.

"No Arab is superior to a Non-Arab except by piety" (Al-Hadith)

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6. Islam Promotes Moral and Ethical Leadership:

The Prophet (PBUH) lived with humility despite great authority. Leaders must possess integrity because governance is a sacred trust. Dishonesty weakens institutions and erodes public confidence. Corruption is considered a violation of Allah's trust.

'Do not consume each other's wealth unjustly.'
(Quran-2:188)

7. Islam Encourages Welfare and Public Service:

When basic needs are met, citizens trust their government. A compassionate state reflects Islamic values. Hazrat Umar (RA) introduced stipends, food distribution, and public services.

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8- Islam Encourages Merit-Based Administration:

The Prophet (PBUH) discouraged giving authority to the unfit. Meritocracy ensures efficiency and prevents incompetence. Islam values skilled individuals in administrative roles. Expert opinions improve outcomes and reduce errors.

Conclusion:

Islam provides a comprehensive framework for good governance, built on justice, consultation, accountability, merit, moral conduct and protection of life. These principles create a just, peaceful, and prosperous society, as demonstrated by the Prophet (PBUH) and the Righteous Caliphs.