



## Nahdlatul Ulama Centennial Proclamation

Nahdlatul Ulama believes it is essential to the well-being of Muslims to develop a new vision capable of replacing the long-established aspiration, rooted in Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*), of uniting Muslims throughout the world into a single universal state, or caliphate.

It is neither feasible nor desirable to re-establish a universal caliphate that would unite Muslims throughout the world in opposition to non-Muslims. As recently demonstrated by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, attempts to do so will inevitably be disastrous and contrary to the purposes of *shari'ah* (*maqashid al-shari'ah*): i.e., the protection of religion, human life, sound reasoning, family, and property.

In fact, efforts to re-establish a caliphate are directly counter to the purposes of *shari'ah*. This is because any such effort is inherently destabilizing and subversive of social and political order. Furthermore, if successful, such efforts would entail the dissolution of nation states and violent conflict that engulfs much of the world. As history proves, the chaos of war is inevitably accompanied by the widespread destruction of religious institutions and places of worship, of human life, of rational behavior, of families, and of property.

In the view of Nahdlatul Ulama, the most appropriate and effective means to promote the wellbeing of Muslims worldwide (*al-ummah al-Islamiyyah*) is to foster the wellbeing of all humanity, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, and to acknowledge the brotherhood of all human beings (*ukhuwwah basyariyah*).

The Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Organization are imperfect, and, indeed, remain problematic to the present day. However, the UN Charter was intended to end the destructive warfare and savagery that have characterized international relations throughout human history. Thus, the UN Charter and United Nations Organization may constitute the strongest available foundation upon which to develop a new *fiqh* for a peaceful and harmonious future for human civilization.

Rather than aspire and seek to consolidate the world's Muslim population into a single unitary state, or caliphate, Nahdlatul Ulama calls upon Muslims to embrace a new vision and develop a new discourse regarding Islamic jurisprudence, which will prevent the political weaponization of identity; curtail the spread of communal hatred; promote solidarity and respect among the diverse peoples, cultures, and nations of the world; and foster the emergence of a truly just and harmonious world order, founded upon respect for the equal rights and dignity of every human being. Such a vision will serve to fulfil the purposes of *shari'ah*.