



SPECIAL EVENT

“Islamic Finance for Food Security: Connecting Russia and Muslim countries”

held by HSE-Skolkovo Institute for Law and Development,
in collaboration with the Russian-Egyptian Business Council,

chaired by Sheikh Muhammad Taqi Usmani,

with contributions by Shari’ah scholars and Islamic finance industry experts supported
by AAOIFI and in association with Usmani and Co,

during the 14th AAOIFI — World Bank Conference ‘Revolutionary Changes in Global Islamic
“Finance Ecosystem: Need for Governance, Standardization and Regulatory Support”

(Bahrain, 3 November, 2019)

The participants of this special event presented the Agrofinmost project, launched by the HSE-Skolkovo Institute for Law and Development. In addition to their presentations, the participants took great attention to the opinions and contributions made by the attendees, and have declared that:

- 1 Sustainable food security is an urgent concern requiring innovative solutions. Increased food security brings a country closer to food sovereignty.
- 2 The current food trading model is unsustainable, characterized by monopolisation of trading and high speculation. It conflicts with basic principles of fair trade, and is incapable of delivering food at fair prices to all people, as a public good and not as an object of speculation.
- 3 Alternative food reserve models together with important grain stabilization funds shall protect large populations from adverse price volatilities.
- 4 Connecting consumption markets directly with producers may include alternative models of pre-season crop financing.
- 5 Sustainable trade corridors shall be set up between Russia, its neighboring countries and the Muslim world, enhancing the efficiency of transport and logistics.
- 6 These measures will provide sustained social stability, which strongly supports the governments in place, thus providing political stability. It also helps the private sector involved in the food industry and the whole international community to rely on more stable and predictable commodity market conditions.
- 7 Different Islamic finance instruments, including sukuks, are viable and fair alternatives to speculative instruments, and will attract a wide base of investors motivated by ethical investments.
- 8 The Agrofinmost project and the different solutions, which it proposes, target a significant and sustained improvement of the food security of Muslim (and non-Muslim) countries dependent on food import.
- 9 Islamic businesses, institutions and governments are encouraged to participate in the Agrofinmost project to make the world a better place.