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### **Exploring Maqasid -ul-Shariah in contributing towards the SDGs**

The concept of human development has evolved and through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an understanding of human development has prioritised the concept of well-being. Yet, Muslim charities and development agencies are conspicuous by their absence in the global debate in a meaningful way. Since the religion of Islam sets the agenda for development in predominantly Muslim societies, it is interesting to examine to what extent the SDGs conform to the Islamic vision of development. Within Islamic teachings, the concept of Maqasid ul Shariah (or the Higher Objectives of the Shariah) as a system of ethics that links to the protection of life and a contribution towards human development (Chapra 2008), is well established. Whilst there has been some mapping of the viability of the 17 developmental goals of the SDGs with the Maqasid, Muslim organisations appear to be struggling to articulate a modus operandi for operation brought about by a lack of understanding of how to truly utilise Maqasid and where the SDGs fit into the conversation.

This paper will understand from a Maqasid perspective the broad ethics and teachings building a close relationship and alignment with the SDGs. It proposes the need to recalibrate the moral compass to return to Islam's five core principles: of solidarity through *Tawhid* and unity, of universality through *Fitrah* and human dignity, of social empowerment and doing good through stewardship or *Khilafah*, of social justice through *Adl*, and lastly, of transforming relationships and compassion through *Rahman* and *Rahim*. This recalibration will align the Maqasid principles with the SDGs. This paper is based on a desk-based research, and it adopts the qualitative research paradigm for the analysis of the available literature.

Keywords: Islam, Sustainable Development Goals, Islamic Law, Maqasid ul Shariah, faith-based organisations