The term “Enabling Environment” has two implications which I would underscore today. First, it reminds us that the conditions which enable progress can be extremely complex, that an entire “environment” of interacting forces must come together if development is truly to take root -- and to take off.

Second -- the term recognises that even the right environment is still only an enabling condition -- not a sufficient one. Our conference title does not talk about an environment which “solves” or “cures” or “progresses” or “prevails” -- but rather about an environment which “enables”. In the end, human progress must grow out of the human heart and soul. The environment enables -- but it is the human spirit, guided and supported by the Divine Will, which eventually triumphs.

What a sound Enabling Environment must do is to create a favourable framework in which human creativity can flourish.

When I have spoken about this topic in the past, I have emphasised such conditions as political stability, safety and security, citizen rights, predictable democratic practices, and a legal and administrative framework which is streamlined and efficient, impartial and effective. While these concerns are largely the responsibilities of government I believe that the ethics of Islam can contribute significantly to their achievement, especially the importance Islam places on mediation and conciliation.

His Highness the Aga Khan's 2007 Address to the The Enabling Environment Conference (Kabul, Afghanistan)

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References

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[^2] Click here

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(http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/summary-documents/thematic-quote-browser)

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