

# Faith for Earth Side-Events at UNEA 4

Faith for Earth Initiative  
UN Environment  
March 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> 2019



- Target Group: Open for accredited and non-accredited organizations
- March 11 – 15, 08:00 – 13:00, Faith and SDGs Tent
- Share faith-based experiences on how the environment is an integral part of different faiths and how issues ranging from climate change to sustainable lifestyles impact us all.
- Inspiring and interactive
- Main contact: [iyad.abumoghli@un.org](mailto:iyad.abumoghli@un.org); [yu.cheng@un.org](mailto:yu.cheng@un.org)

# Eco-just Churches and Communities: Models for Living with Justice and Sustainability

**Monday, 11th March, 10:30 A.M -12:00 P.M.**

World Council of Churches

All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)

Athena Peralta, Programme Executive for Economic and Ecological Justice, World Council of Churches, [athena.Peralta@wcc-coe.org](mailto:athena.Peralta@wcc-coe.org)

# About the event

- Tackling the climate and larger ecological crisis demands deep-seated changes in the way we consume and produce. Churches and faith-based communities are stepping up to this challenge. The event will discuss a roadmap for churches, congregations and communities to live sustainably and build economies of life in local contexts. It will showcase concrete examples of how faith-based communities are practicing and applying life-giving agriculture and forestry, climate-friendly energy and transport solutions, sustainable consumption and creative alternative economic models.
- Possible Outcome: to share good practices from churches and faith communities and to empower each other to meet and organize our daily needs in a just and sustainable way.

# Speakers and Themes

This session is moderated by **Dr. Agnes Abuom**, Moderator, World Council of Churches, and Executive Director, TAABCO; **Theme**: Welcome and opening: The role of Christian Churches in addressing ecological challenges

1. **Prof. Dr. Jesse Mugambi**, Professor, University of Nairobi; **Theme**: Empowered to a transformative faith
2. **Rev. Norman Tendis**, Consultant for Economy of Life, WCC, and Pastor, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Austria; **Theme**: Roadmap for an Economy of Life and Ecological Justice: a tool for engagement
3. **Bishop Arnold Temple, Dr Bright Mawudor, Ms Afiwa Allahare** from All Africa Conference of Churches; **Theme**: Stories of commitment and hope from Africa
4. **Prof. Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad**, Director, Church of South India Department of Ecological Concerns; **Theme**: Stories of commitment and hope from Asia (India)
5. **(In groups)**; **Theme**: Sharing and developing new stories
6. **(In plenary)**; **Theme**: Harvesting initiatives



## Dr. Agnes Abuom

Dr. Agnes Abuom from Kenya serves as the moderator of the central committee of the World Council of Churches – the first woman and African to do so. As a development consultant, her passion and work are in the areas of economic justice, peace, and reconciliation.



# Jesse Mugambi

Dr. Jesse Mugambi is a professor of philosophy and religious studies at the University of Nairobi. As a member of the Working Group on Climate Change and Ecumenical Water Network of the World Council of Churches, he has worked with various communities in African countries to promote awareness and build responses to ecological concerns.



# Rev Norman Tendis

Rev Norman Tendis serves as a pastor of a rural congregation and is a Consultant for Economy of Life at the World Council of Churches. He is responsible for the Economy in the Service of Life and Ecology and Integrity of Creation programmes at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Austria.





# Bishop Arnold Temple

Bishop Arnold Temple is Bishop of the Methodist Church in Sierra Leone, president of the All Africa Conference of Churches and chairperson of the Ecumenical Water Network of the World Council of Churches. He teaches eco-theology at the Freetown's College of Theology and Management in Sierra Leone and is a proponent of water justice.



# Dr Bright Mawudor

Dr Bright Mawudor hails from Ghana and is deputy-general secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches. He had previously represented the organisation in climate change conferences sponsored by Alliance for Religions and Conservation, World Council of Churches and UNEP.



# Afiwa Allahare

Afiwa Allahare is the Executive Secretary for Communication and Climate Change at the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC). Originally from Togo, she is passionate about the connections between climate change, peace and migration.



# Prof. Dr. Mathew Koshy

Prof. Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad directs the Department of Ecological Concerns at the Church of South India. He initiated the Green Church Movement in India and is a lifelong ecological activist.

**Monday, 11th March, 12:00 -13:30  
P.M.**

**World Evangelical Alliance**

Dr. Peirong Lin (Ms.), HR Director & Research  
Coordinator, Theological Concerns Dept, World  
Evangelical Alliance, [peironglin@worldea.org](mailto:peironglin@worldea.org)

Advancing climate justice  
with faith-based renewable  
energy projects



# About the event

In order to cope with poverty and the adverse impacts of climate change, populations in rural Africa need to be empowered. This is especially true for poor and vulnerable women and girls. This session explores how decentralized renewable energy projects conceptualized, implemented and run by faith-based actors in rural Africa, can be a means to greater empowerment to achieve climate justice for vulnerable groups as well as an innovation in rural areas with this actor set-up for the sustainable consumption and production of energy. This approach empowers vulnerable groups to become proactive agents of change in climate mitigation efforts. Empowered rural populations are able to implement sound natural resources management. This will be exemplified by the practical case of a farmer's empowerment program in rural Kenya that is moving beyond adaptation into building innovative sustainable business models.

# About the event

- Possible outcome:

This session seeks to address how faith-based actors can support climate justice in rural Africa through decentralized renewable energy projects. Key points that will be raised include establishing a common understanding of climate justice from the perspective of FBAs, developing a deeper understanding of the relevant activities of FBAs in the renewable energy field, creating awareness of the unique relationship between FBAs and vulnerable members of society and finally, identifying potential areas of cooperation with FBAs.

# Speakers and Themes

This session is moderated by **Matthias K. Boehning**, Director, World Evangelical Alliance Sustainability Center, Bonn

1. **Introduction** of event, of speakers and format of the session
2. **Matthias K. Boehning**, Director, World Evangelical Alliance Sustainability Center, Bonn; **Theme**: Towards a common mission to advance climate justice
3. **Rabbi Yonatan Neril**, Founder & Executive Director, The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, Jerusalem; **Theme**: How Can Faith Groups Promote the Use of Renewable Energy?
4. **Philipine Kidulah**, Director, Jitokeze Wamama Wafrika, Kenya; **Theme**: How self-help and small business approaches empower vulnerable women and girls for impact of climate change
5. Facilitated **interactive dialogue**





# Matthias Böhning

He is the director of the World Evangelical Alliance Sustainability Center (<http://wea-sc.org>) and Permanent Representative of the World Evangelical Alliance at the United Nations site in Bonn. In addition, he is the managing director of PIRON Global Development (<http://www.piron.global>), advising clients on international development cooperation and humanitarian aid on fundraising, communication and project management. As an expert in the subject area "Religion / Faith and Development", he and his team publish the bimonthly "Faith in Development Monitor" at PIRON and - together with Micah Germany - is the organizer of the CEO format "Bonn Salon - Christian Development Cooperation".



# Rabbi Yonatan Neril founded

Founded and directs The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development. He has spoken internationally on religion and the environment, including at the Fez Climate Conscience Summit, the Parliament of World Religions, and the Pontifical Urban University. He co-organized ten interfaith environmental conferences in Jerusalem, New York City, Washington D.C., Atlanta, and Columbus, Ohio. As part of ICSD's Faith Inspired Renewable Energy Project in Africa, he has been involved in facilitating the development of commercial scale solar fields on church lands in Africa.



# Philipine Kidulah

A Kenyan social entrepreneur who works for women empowerment, climate justice and sustainability. In 2010, she founded an organization called jitokeze wamama wafrika that works to empower vulnerable women and their households for resilience to the impacts of climate change in west pokot kenya, where she comes from. She is passionate about living sustainability and empowering others in their own journey of transformation and sustainability.

# Lifestyle Changes based on Values and Ethics – The Role of Faith in promoting Sustainable Consumption and Innovative Technology

**Tuesday, 12th March 09:30-11:00 A.M.**

Brahma Kumaris and Catholic Youth Network for  
Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA)

Sonja Ohlsson, national coordinator, Brahma Kumaris Environment  
Initiative, Denmark, [sonja.ohlsson@dk.brahmakumaris.org](mailto:sonja.ohlsson@dk.brahmakumaris.org); David Ngigi  
Munene, Programs Manager, CYNESA, Kenya, [dnmunene@cynesa.org](mailto:dnmunene@cynesa.org)



# About the event

To create lasting changes in lifestyle and awareness for the future of our planet has proven not to be easy. The panelists from faith-based communities will elaborate in detail on innovative solutions for environmental challenges and that sustainable consumption/production is doable, urgent and the right way forward. At the beginning of such transition stands the empowerment of the individual - we have to change and become an example of good action and governance. Therefore, representatives from major religions have joined hands in order to strengthen the momentum for the transformation of society. They will share their insights from their communities on environmental challenges related to poverty and natural resources management, including sustainable food systems, food security and halting biodiversity loss.

# About the event

- Possible Outcome:

Changes on following areas:

1. Sustainable Lifestyle: Adopting a less materialistic consumption patterns and increasing the use of clean energy saves the planet's resources and brings greater well-being.
2. Diet: Vegetarian/Vegan food, contributes to the health and future of the planet by reducing our carbon footprint.
3. Peaceful Living: Promoting and living by the principles of universal peace can lead to less violent conflicts and wars, thus enabling vast resources to be redirected to development and innovation.
4. Reflection: Spending time in silent reflection or meditation helps us to connect with our deeper values and find the strength to live by them, enabling us to be more mindful of the impact of our choices.

# Speakers and Themes

This session is moderated by **David Munene**, Programs Manager of CYNESA

**Joyce Msuya**, UN Environment Acting Executive Director and **Inger Anderson**, UN Environment Executive Director Designee will have a brief visit at 09:30

1. **Allen Ottaro**, Founder – Executive Director, Catholic Youth Network for Environment Sustainability for Africa; **Theme**: Youth as protagonists of environmental sustainability: A faith perspective
2. **Golo J. Pilz**, Energy Adviser Brahma Kumaris; Germany/India; (participation via video); **Theme**: Changing mindset for innovative technology and lifestyle change
3. **Rev Dr Canon Rachel Mash**, Environment Co-ordinator, Green Anglicans, Anglican Church of Southern Africa; **Theme**: The role of faith communities in mitigation and adaptation
4. **Yusuf Ahmed**, Regional Director-East Africa, Islamic Relief WorldWide, **Theme**: Role of faith leaders in promoting environmental awareness among the communities – the case of Kenya and Somalia
5. **Sonja Ohlsson**, Director Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative, Focal Point to UNFCCC, Denmark; **Theme**: Making lifestyle changes that lasts based on values and ethics
6. **Iyad Abumoghli**, Ph.D., Principal Advisor, Strategic Engagement with Faith-based Organizations, UN Environment; **Theme**: Brief on Publication UN Environments take on Sustainable Living and Faith

# Allen Ottaro



Mr. Allen Ottaro is the Founder and Executive Director of the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA), based in Nairobi, Kenya and which has chapters in 8 African countries. Mr. Ottaro serves as a member of the steering committee of the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM), where he has been instrumental in shaping youth campaigns of the movement that has 650+ Catholic member organizations. Since 2015, he sits on the Ecology Commission of the World Christian Life Community as the representative for Africa.





# Golo J. Pilz

Golo J. Pilz, joined the Brahma Kumaris in 1984 and is currently the Advisor on Renewable Energy. Since the early 90s, he has played a key role in establishing the Brahma Kumaris as one of the major users of renewable energies in India. Recently, Golo has directed the construction of "India One", a 1MW solar thermal power plant.

This innovative R&D project was partly sponsored by the German (BMUB/GIZ) and Indian Governments (MNRE). Since the last 35 years Golo is a regular meditation practitioner and advocates sustainable solutions through an ethical and value-based approach.



## Rev Dr Canon Rachel Mash

Canon Rev Dr. Rachel Mash is the environmental Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. (South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, Lesotho, Eswatini)

She is a member of the steering committee of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network. She sits on the steering committee of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network. She is a member of the steering committee of the Season of Creation Initiative.



# Yusuf Ahmed

Yusuf Ahmed holds MSc in Agricultural Development from the University of London. Worked in the humanitarian sector for the last 20 years in the Horn of Africa Region in various capacities including Programme Manager, Country Director in Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan and currently a Regional Director for Islamic Relief Worldwide. He worked with communities affected by conflicts and climate-induced emergencies. Managed and directed community development programme that include: Food security and livelihoods, basic social services, environment and peace-building.



# Sonja Ohlsson

Designated Contact Point to the UNFCCC, International Coordinator, Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative. Sonja Ohlsson is the national coordinator of Brahma Kumaris in Denmark and has practiced Raja Yoga meditation since 1986. She is a meditation teacher with the Prison and Probation service in Copenhagen. In 2009 she was instrumental in developing the BK Environment Initiative in order to meet the need for a higher environmental awareness within the BK community and to add the inner dimension to the discussions at the UN climate change and biodiversity conferences.



# Dr. Iyad Abumoghli

Dr. Iyad Abumoghli has more than 34 years of experience with international organizations, the private sector, and scientific institution. Dr. Abumoghli's expertise focus on strategic planning, sustainable development, water resources management, and knowledge and innovation. Currently, Dr. Abumoghli is the Lead Principal Advisor on Engaging with Faith-Based Organizations at UN Environment. Previously Dr. Abumoghli held several leading positions including the Regional Director and Representative of UN Environment in West Asia 2012-2017.

Inter-faith partnership  
for sustainable  
environment and  
development in Nigeria

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**Wednesday, 13th March, 09:30-  
11:00 A.M.**

Strength in Diversity  
Development Center (SDDC) –  
Nigeria

Imam SHEFIU Abdulkareem Majemu, Founder/Co-  
Executive Director, SDDC, Nigeria,  
imammajemu2@gmail.com



# About the event

The SDDC is an Inter-religious and intercultural dialogue center working on strengthening diversity for sustainable development in Nigeria with a focus on religious understanding and dialogue, peacebuilding and conflict transformation, good governance, and empowerment. SDDC, in the past 5 years have provided the greater initiative to engender peace and development in Nigeria. The proposal of SDDC seeks to widen their scope of work, share their perspectives and experiences and failures and successes on these projects. SDDC will equally be presenting their projects for a possible partnership, supports, and networking. In the end, SDDC would want useful contribution of ideas and best practices to enhance and improve their work. The SDDC's modest approach would be to hold 60 minutes of Panel Discussion that would include about 3 presentations of 10 minutes each, have audience contributions and questions for another 15 minutes and final recap for another 15 minutes depending on the UN Environment programme schedule.

# About the event

- Possible outcome:

The SDDC's proposal seeks to widen their scope of work, share their perspectives and experiences and failures and successes on these projects. They will equally be presenting their projects for possible partnership, supports and networking. In the end, they would want useful contribution of ideas and best practices to enhance and improve their work. The outcome of this would create more focus on the Nigeria state and how far it has gone in improving standard of living for its people in the wake of Climate Change. Gather more support for their projects, build network and share best practices. Learn from others and create more avenue and opportunities for collaborations, especially mobilizing the Faith-based Institutions in the various efforts to maintain a safe environment for all.



# Speakers and Themes

This session is moderated by **Imam Shefiu Abdulkareem Majemu**, Founder, SDDC/FASI

1. **Imam Shefiu Abdulkareem Majemu**, Founder, SDDC/FASI; **Theme**: Violent-Extremism and Corruption: Impact on the Environment
2. **Abdulsalam Kassim Buhari**, Farmers Advocacy and Support Initiative in Nigeria FASI/OpenFarmNigeria; **Theme**: Effect of Climate Change on Food Production and Security in the Sub-Saharan Africa
3. **Maryam Belgore**, Founder, Maryam Onikijipa Belgore M.O.B Foundation; **Theme**: Curtailing Environmental Crisis through Quality Health Care Support and Service Delivery in Africa
4. **Akeem Olabanji Olasunkanmi**, Executive Director, FASI, Nigeria and Research Fellow at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria; **Theme**: Climate Change and the Environment: Imperatives of Renewable Energy Support for Urban/Rural Dwellers in Sub-Saharan Africa



# Imam Shefiu Abdulkareem Majemu

A Religious Leader, Peace Worker and a Media Expert. He is the Founder of the Strength in Diversity Development Centre and the Farmers Advocacy and Support Initiative in Nigeria. He is the Chief Imam of the Islamic Platform Society of Nigeria and Joint Zonal Coordinator of the Interfaith Mediation Centre in Lagos, Nigeria. He also the Initiator and the Chair of the Interfaith Partnership For Sustainable Environment and Development in Nigeria. He is an Alumni of the United States International Visitors Leadership Programme (IVLP), Member of the Partnership for Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD). Imam SHEFIU Abdulkareem Majemu is a Research Fellow at the Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos, Nigeria.



# Abdulsalaam kassim buhari

An Agricultural Specialist working on Food Production and Agricultural Value Chain Security. He is an Advocate of Sustainable Environment for Steady-Food-Chain Supply. A graduate of the Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology, Lagos, Nigeria. He is an Executive Director at the Farmers Advocacy and Support Initiative in Nigeria (FASI) and has benefitted in several trainings such as the Certificate in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and partnered prominent International Agencies on Good Agricultural Practices Advocacy Projects and Trainings such as IITA, OYSADEP, USAIDS FMARD and GIZ. He is a full time Farmer in Nigeria under the Successful Framers Programme and the FASI.

# Maryam Belgore Onikijipa

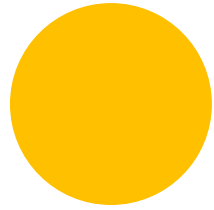
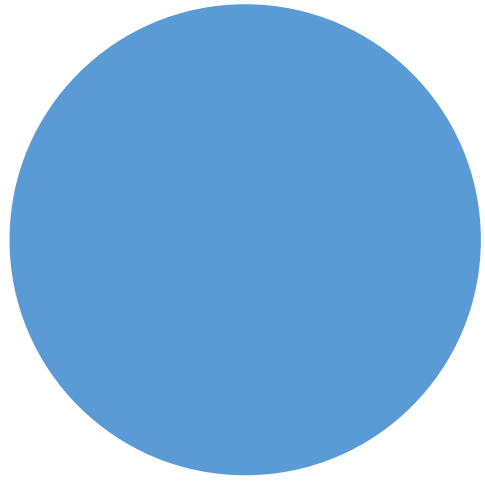


A Micro-Biologist and Environmental Specialist by training. She is the Founder of the MARYAM ONIKIJIPA BELGORE – M.O.B FOUNDATION in Nigeria. The M.O.B is a Not-for-Profit and Non-governmental Organization dedicated to making lives more meaningful for the common people, bringing hope to the deprived and destitute and generally promoting the advancement of happiness in the lives of the general populace. Due to the current Climate Change which has render more people homeless, spread hunger and created serious health threat to the common man in Nigeria, the M.O.B has really worked on Safe-the-Environment Project to create a safe haven for the affected victims through its humanitarian and charity work promoting sustainable environment and development.



# Akeem Olabanji Olasunkanmi

He is an Energy and Economics Expert with special focus on the Oil and Gas Economics and a Research Fellow at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He is also an Executive Director, Research and Development, at the Farmers Advocacy and Support Initiative (FASI), Nigeria. His current work in the Environment Sectors on The Effects of Nigeria Exports on co2 Emission will be highly sought in quest for a sustainable environment in the wake of Climate Change in Nigeria.



Success stories on  
environmental faith innovation

WEDNESDAY, MARCH  
13TH 2019, 11:30 A.M. -  
13:00 P.M.

Faith for Earth Initiative

# About the event

This session will consist of several innovative organizations. It involves various topics, such as sustainable fashion, interfaith-based community, ocean plastic, united religions, and spiritual solutions in finding #SolveDifferent and innovative solutions in order to achieve SDGs.

# Speakers and Themes

This session is moderated by **Dr. Iyad Abumoghli**, the Head of Faith for Earth Initiative, UN Environment

1. **Gauranga Das**, Eco Village; **Theme**: Govardhan Ecovillage - An innovative interfaith-based community harmonizing environment, emotions, and economy
2. **Dr. Helmut Fluhrer**, Founder and CEO of Weathertec; **Theme**: Weathertec technology
3. **Peter Nitschke**, Specialist at Plastic Bank; **Theme**: The Social Plastic Interfaith Stewardship Movement: Engaging communities of faith toward a solution for ocean plastic
4. **Kiran Bali**, United Religions Initiative (URI); **Theme**: United Religions rescuing our planet
5. **Gautam Vazirani**, Leader on Sustainable fashion in India; **Theme**: Circular design challenge – India's first sustainable fashion award in partnership with un environment, fashion for earth by r elan & lakmé fashion week (the winner of the Circular Design Challenge – an initiative that has been created in partnership with the UN Environment in India, Mr. Stefano Funari, will be presenting the slides work)
6. **Punit Mehta**, Managing Director at The Sathya Sai International Organization (SSIO); **Theme**: Spiritual Solutions to the Environmental Crisis





# Gauranga Das

As an emerging social reformer he is facilitating various social and economic interventions to promote sustainable development in the tribal villages. He led India to win the United Nations Award for Excellence and Innovation in Sustainable Tourism by presenting Govardhan Ecovillage's case study of "Ecotourism as a catalyst for Rural Development". Under his guidance, Govardhan Ecovillage has won more than 30 awards in last 5 years including the International Green World Award for Sustainable Waste Management, SKOCH Platinum and Renaissance Award for Water Conservation, National Award for Excellence in Renewable Energy etc.



## Dr. Helmut Fluhrer

Dr. Helmut Fluhrer, Munich/Zurich, is the founder of “WeatherTec” with its worldwide unique eco-friendly technology offering rain enhancement. The zero-emission technology can create hundreds of millions of cubic meter of additional freshwater over areas of 10,000 of square kilometers. WeatherTec works since 2005 for governments only on three continents in countries like Switzerland, Australia, UAE, and Jordan. The technology has proven to break and reverse the 30-year trend of declining precipitation, which makes it to a technology leader in “Change Climate Change”. He is also the winner of the Laudato Si Challenge Award, Vatican, 2018



# Dr. Peter Nitschke

In 2017, he pioneered the Philippines operation of the Plastic Bank starting a plastic collection center in Baseco Manila and creating a multisectoral partnership for plastic recovery. Seeing the direct impact of plastic waste on creation during his stay in the Philippines. Peter is very passionate to encourage faith communities to be on the forefront fighting this problem. He is leading now the Interfaith Stewardship Program of the Plastic Bank building a movement of Faith communities to prevent ocean plastic.



## Kiran Bali

Kiran Bali MBE JP is a remarkable global organizational leader and spokesperson in areas of interfaith understanding, environmental justice, women's empowerment and peacebuilding. Kiran was honored by HM Queen Elizabeth II with the MBE award and has received a number of international awards. As the global Chair of the United Religions Initiative, Kiran exemplifies the principles of respecting the diversity of the world's religions and cultures, and encouraging people across the globe to build bridges of cooperation. Kiran provides powerful organizational leadership managing a board of 35 trustees from over 24 countries, successfully leading the organization through a major transition of leadership and advancing international interfaith cooperation and impact through extraordinary global leadership.



# Gautam Vazirani

Strategist & fashion curator at IMG Reliance, is today one of the leading voices in sustainable fashion in India. At IMG Reliance, Gautam has been leading developmental initiatives with diverse organisations/stakeholders in India such as Ministry of Textiles (Govt. of India), United Nations, British Council, Lenzing Austria, Raymond and 'Fashion For Earth' by R Elan by creating meaningful synergies between textiles, artisan, culture and creative industries for growth of sustainable fashion in India. His recent op-ed in India Today magazine underlines the need for "fashion that is conscious of its impact on air, water and land and empowering people who are involved in the making of it."



# Punit Mehta

He has studied Bachelor of Laws from the University of London (2007), is a graduate of the Sathya Sai International Leadership Programme (2017), and is certified as a fitness trainer by the International Sports Sciences Association (2019).

He currently works as the CEO at Tangerine Printing & Design, Nairobi, and, the Managing Director at Sai Taj Limited, Nairobi. He is also a member of the Sathya Sai International Organization and strives to live up to the teachings of his Spiritual teacher, Sri Sathya Sai Baba.



# Faith for Earth: Faith-Based Initiatives for Addressing Environmental Challenges

**Wednesday, 13th March 14.30 - 16.00  
P.M.**

**Faith for Earth Initiative, UN Environment**

Dr. Iyad Abumoghli, Principal Coordinator, Faith for Earth  
Initiative, UN Environment, [iyad.abumoghli@un.org](mailto:iyad.abumoghli@un.org)



# About the event

Around the world, hundreds of millions of people either have faith as an integral part of their lives or are affiliated with a religious group. Globally, faith and religious identities continue to be a major driver of behavior among many people. Indeed, the role of faith-based groups and religious organizations in mobilizing action for the sustainable development goals cannot be over-emphasized. As faith and religion constitute a key part of human identity and cultural values in most parts of the world, any serious efforts on development ought to incorporate faith. To this end, the UN Environment Programme has launched the Faith for Earth Initiative. The Initiative is a platform for Faith Leaders and Faith-based organizations to share experiences on how the environment is an integral part of different faiths and how issues ranging from climate change to sustainable lifestyles impact us all.



# About the event

- Possible outcome:

Key outcomes of the panel discussion could be having renowned faith leaders commit to championing sustainable consumption and production in their places of worship and to raise public awareness on the solutions, ignite partnerships and possibly support resource mobilization. \*Please note that these outcomes should contribute to Priorities 3(c), 3(e) and 3(g) of the Draft Ministerial Declaration.

# Themes and Speakers

This session is moderated by **Dr. Iyad Abumoghli**, the Head of Faith for Earth Initiative, UN Environment

1. **Opening remark by Mr. Satya Tripathi**, Assistant Secretary General and Director of UN Environment Office in New York
2. **Fr. Fletcher Harper**, Executive Director of GreenFaith/Living the Change Initiative; **Theme**: Living the Change: Faith-consistent lifestyles
3. **Rabbi Yonatan Neril**, Founder & Executive Director, The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development; **Theme**: Renewable Energy and Religious Institutions: Who, How, Why, and When.
4. **Mr. Fazlun Khalid**, Director and Founder of Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences; **Theme**: Losing the Balance to Recovering the Balance
5. **Dr. Chris Elisara**, Director Creation Care Taskforce, World Evangelical Alliance; Theme: Sustainable Cities, the New Frontier of Faith Based Environmental Action
6. **Rudolf Makhanu**, Director of Eden's Stewards; **Theme**: Faith for Earth has inspired the Nairobi Chapel to establish an environment ministry and their efforts in Kenya
7. **Sonja Ohlsson**, International Coordinator, Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative; **Theme**: Reflection on mindset for sustainable living and innovation (5 min)



## Fr. Fletcher Harper

Fletcher Harper, an Episcopal priest, directs GreenFaith, an international interfaith environmental organization. In the past four years, he coordinated the 2015 OurVoices campaign, which mobilized religious support for COP 21, organized of faith communities for the People's Climate Marches in NYC and Washington DC, helped lead the faith-based fossil fuel divestment movement, supported the launch of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, and co-founded Shine, a campaign to end energy poverty with renewable energy. He's now focused on creating multi-faith GreenFaith Circles in local communities globally. Fletcher is the author of *GreenFaith: Mobilizing God's People to Protect the Earth* (Abingdon Press, March 2015).



# Rabbi Yonatan Neril founded

Founded and directs The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development. He has spoken internationally on religion and the environment, including at the Fez Climate Conscience Summit, the Parliament of World Religions, and the Pontifical Urban University. He co-organized ten interfaith environmental conferences in Jerusalem, New York City, Washington D.C., Atlanta, and Columbus, Ohio. As part of ICSD's Faith Inspired Renewable Energy Project in Africa, he has been involved in facilitating the development of commercial scale solar fields on church lands in Africa.



# Fazlun Khalid

Fazlun Khalid has a world wide reputation as an indefatigable advocate of environmental protection rooted in religious traditions and is now recognised as one of fifteen leading eco theologians in the world. He appeared on the Independent on Sunday list of the top 100 environmentalists in the UK in 2008 and is also listed amongst the “500 Most Influential Muslims in the World” by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre of Jordan. He founded the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences which is now established as the world’s leading Islamic environmental NGO. He was the convenor of the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change which was launched in Istanbul in August 2015.



## Dr. Chris Elisara

Dr. Chris Elisara is founder and director of the World Evangelical Alliance's Creation Care Task Force where he represents evangelical perspectives on creation care at national and international forums while catalyzing and leading evangelical creation care initiatives for WEA alliances and partners. Dr. Elisara is the Associate Director of the new WEA Sustainability Center in Bonn, Germany.

In 1995 Dr. Elisara founded, and still directs, the Creation Care Study Program (CCSP), an environmental study abroad program in New Zealand and Belize, which serves 25 evangelical institutions from North America.



# Rudolf Makhanu

Mr. Makhanu is a natural resources management specialist with over sixteen years' hands on experience. He holds a masters degree in Environmental Planning and Management (University of Nairobi), a Post Graduate Diploma in Designing Sustainable Forest Landscapes and food security (Helsinki University, Finland), and Bsc. Natural Resources Management. He is the director, Eden's Stewards, an environment ministry of Nairobi Chapel Ongata Rongai, whose establishment was inspired and nurtured by UN Environment, under the Faith for Earth Initiative. Previously, he was the Kenya Country Coordinator for the International Crane Foundation/Endangered Wildlife Trust that was based at Community Action for Nature Conservation, Kenya.



# Sonja Ohlsson

Designated Contact Point to the UNFCCC, International Coordinator, Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative. Sonja Ohlsson is the national coordinator of Brahma Kumaris in Denmark and has practiced Raja Yoga meditation since 1986. She is a meditation teacher with the Prison and Probation service in Copenhagen. In 2009 she was instrumental in developing the BK Environment Initiative in order to meet the need for a higher environmental awareness within the BK community and to add the inner dimension to the discussions at the UN climate change and biodiversity conferences.



# From theory to practice: The Islamic Perspective of Environmental Protection and Promoting Interfaith Actions

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**Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 2019, 09:30-11:00 A.M.**

Joint activity UN Environment and Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

Abdelmajid TRIBAK, Expert at Division of Sustainable Environment and Natural Resources, Science and Technology Directorate, Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, [atribak@isesco.org.ma](mailto:atribak@isesco.org.ma)

# About the event

This Joint activity between UN Environment and Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) is a side-event at the ministerial level for ministers of the environment participating at the 4th UNEA, Kenya March 2019. It will be a panel gathering scholars from different issues in environment and sustainable development aspects. The side event will be given 90 minutes to be rationally used between presentations and discussions. Few good titles summarizing the targeted message can be enough to open the floor to discussions.

# About the event

- Possible outcome:
  1. Showcasing and strengthening the role of Islam in contributing to the theme of the assembly on sustainable consumption and production and innovation.
  2. Going from theory to best practices on Faith-based actions in Environmental protection and SD in Islamic World,
  3. Enhancing the level of understanding of the Islamic Texts instruction (Koran and Sunna) in Earth Care and Human Responsibility.
  4. Demonstrating the role of faith-based financing and investment in achieving Agenda 2030.
  5. Tolerance for the protection of the environment.
  6. Role of Islam for better Interfaith Dialogue in the field.
  7. Building interfaith cooperation on Faith-based actions to empower Faith for Earth.
  8. Enhance Interfaith dialogue.

# Speakers and Themes

This session is moderated by **Dr. Iyad Abumoghli**, the Head of Faith for Earth Initiative, UN Environment

1. **Opening remark, Gary Lewis**, Director of Policy and Programme Division. UN Environment
2. **Prof.Dr. Ibrahim Ozdemir**, Professor of Philosophy and the Founding President of Hasan Kalyoncu University, Gaziantep Turkey; **Theme**: How the Islamic declaration on Climate Change supports sustainable consumption and production?
3. **Fazlun Khalid**, IFEES; **Theme**: Islamic impacts on Economic growth in a decarbonized world (**Yet to be confirmed**)
4. **Dr. Fachruddin Mangunjaya**, Expert at the National Commission for Protected Areas in KSA; **Theme**: Natural resources conservation, Obligations of Muslim Consumers and producers
5. **Abdelmajid TRIBAK**, ISESCO; **Theme**: Environmental education in Islam towards innovation and sustainable consumption
6. **Prof Samira Idllalene**, Professor of Law at the University Cadi Ayyad in Morocco; **Theme**: Islamic environmental law tools: Waqf and Agdals for the SDGs.
7. **Dr. Chris Elisara**, Director Creation Care Taskforce, World Evangelical Alliance Faith Invest; **Theme**: FaithInvest: Faith-based Investment innovative approach to financing sustainable development
8. **(Open for ministers); Theme**: Ministerial Perspectives on the Role of Faith for Earth



# İBRAHİM ÖZDEMİR

Ibrahim Özdemir is a professor of philosophy and the Founding President of Hasan Kalyoncu University, Gaziantep Turkey. Currently, he is Visiting Professor of Philosophy at Abo Akademi University, Turku, Finland.

He holds a Doctorate degree in philosophy from the Middle East Technical University, Ankara and a Bachelor's degree in Islamic Theology and Islamic Philosophy from Ankara University, Turkey.

Dr. Özdemir's major is environmental ethics and environmental philosophy. However, he is a generalist with a wide variety of scholarly and pedagogical interests, which include ethics, history of philosophy, modern philosophy, philosophy of education and philosophy of higher education.



# Fazlun Khalid

Fazlun Khalid has a world wide reputation as an indefatigable advocate of environmental protection rooted in religious traditions and is now recognised as one of fifteen leading eco theologians in the world. He appeared on the Independent on Sunday list of the top 100 environmentalists in the UK in 2008 and is also listed amongst the “500 Most Influential Muslims in the World” by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre of Jordan. He founded the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences which is now established as the world’s leading Islamic environmental NGO. He was the convenor of the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change which was launched in Istanbul in August 2015.



# Dr. Fachruddin Majeri Mangunjaya

Dr. Mangunjaya is Chairman of Center for Islamic Studies, Universitas Nasional, Jakarta, Indonesia. PhD in Environmental Management and Natural Resources from Bogor Agricultural University (IPB). He is The Climate Reality Leaders voluntary fellow presenter on climate change trained by Al Gore. Vice Chairman for Environmental Department at Indonesian Council of Ulama (Majelis Ulama Indonesia -MUI). Honorary Fellow of Malaysia Institute of Islamic Understanding (IKIM) 2018-2019.



# Samira Idllalène

Samira Idllalène is a professor of law at the University Cadi Ayyad in Morocco (Center for Territorial and Social Governance). She teaches international law, comparative law, environmental law and law of the sea. She is author of several publications in coastal environmental law in Morocco.

She was Courtesy associate professor at the University of Oregon School of law (USA). Previously, she was teaching marine environmental law at the Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (Casablanca) as part of the Advanced Cycle in Maritime Affairs in collaboration with the University of Quebec in Rimouski.





# Dr. Abdelmajid Tribak

Expert on Sustainable Environment and Natural Resources Programs at the Science Directorate of Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). He was awarded the International Mohamed VI Prize for Islamic Thought and Studies for his book on Islam and Environment (2007). Member of the drafting team of Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change (Istambul 2015).


Ph.D in Environmental Engineering and land use planning from the Polytechnic School of the Free University of Brussels (1998) on “Urban Planning and Environment in Morocco”.



## Dr. Chris Elisara

Dr. Chris Elisara is founder and director of the World Evangelical Alliance's Creation Care Task Force where he represents evangelical perspectives on creation care at national and international forums while catalyzing and leading evangelical creation care initiatives for WEA alliances and partners. Dr. Elisara is the Associate Director of the new WEA Sustainability Center in Bonn, Germany.

In 1995 Dr. Elisara founded, and still directs, the Creation Care Study Program (CCSP), an environmental study abroad program in New Zealand and Belize, which serves 25 evangelical institutions from North America.



From Trash to Treasures: Community-  
Driven Approaches to Sustainable  
Consumption

**Thursday, 14th March, 11:30 A.M.-13:00 P.M.**

**Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation**

Debra Boudreaux, Executive Vice President, [tzehuei@us.tzuchi.org](mailto:tzehuei@us.tzuchi.org)

# About the event

This side-event will be an interactive panel discussion, showcasing projects addressing environment and sustainability, including Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation's Trash into Gold program, where PET waste is collected and processed into household items, as well as education programs that teach practical sustainable practices that individuals and their communities may implement. Further, this session will also showcase the organization's partners' innovative projects and approaches, including Solar Cooker International's innovative yet simple solar cookers, which use the power of the sun to cook--a much cleaner, environmentally responsible alternative to traditional gas and electric stoves. Lastly, Green Fighter will discuss the role of youths in community engagement efforts, such as Solar Cooking and Trash-into-Gold, to resolve environmental challenges. These programs are demonstrations of what is possible when governments, the private sector, and the communities and its people collaborate and work together. As the world's human population grows and development accelerates, more must be done to address responsible consumption; a broader range of stakeholders must be engaged and empowered, transforming apathy into action.

# About the event

- Possible outcome

This session will explore innovative, practical, community-driven approaches that seek to find inclusive solutions that address environmental challenges. Innovation can arise non-conventionally, not only from the tech sector, but from within local communities, education, and even faith, or perhaps all three and every other sector. Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation's recycling program, "Trash into Gold," is one such example that merges the three, where local volunteers collect plastic bottle waste in their own communities to be reprocessed into household items to be used for charity and aid, all the while educating their community, small and large, in sustainable and green living and consumption. The event will explore the benefits and challenges of implementing this program, as well as the approaches and programs of Tzu Chi's partners, the benefits of community-building, and how governments can partner with the private sector to implement similar programs to address challenges to waste management and energy consumption. Tzu Chi hopes to create an open dialogue between civil society and governments in order to address waste management challenges and to spur opportunities to form relationships between public and private sectors to find solutions to this global issue.

# Speakers and Themes

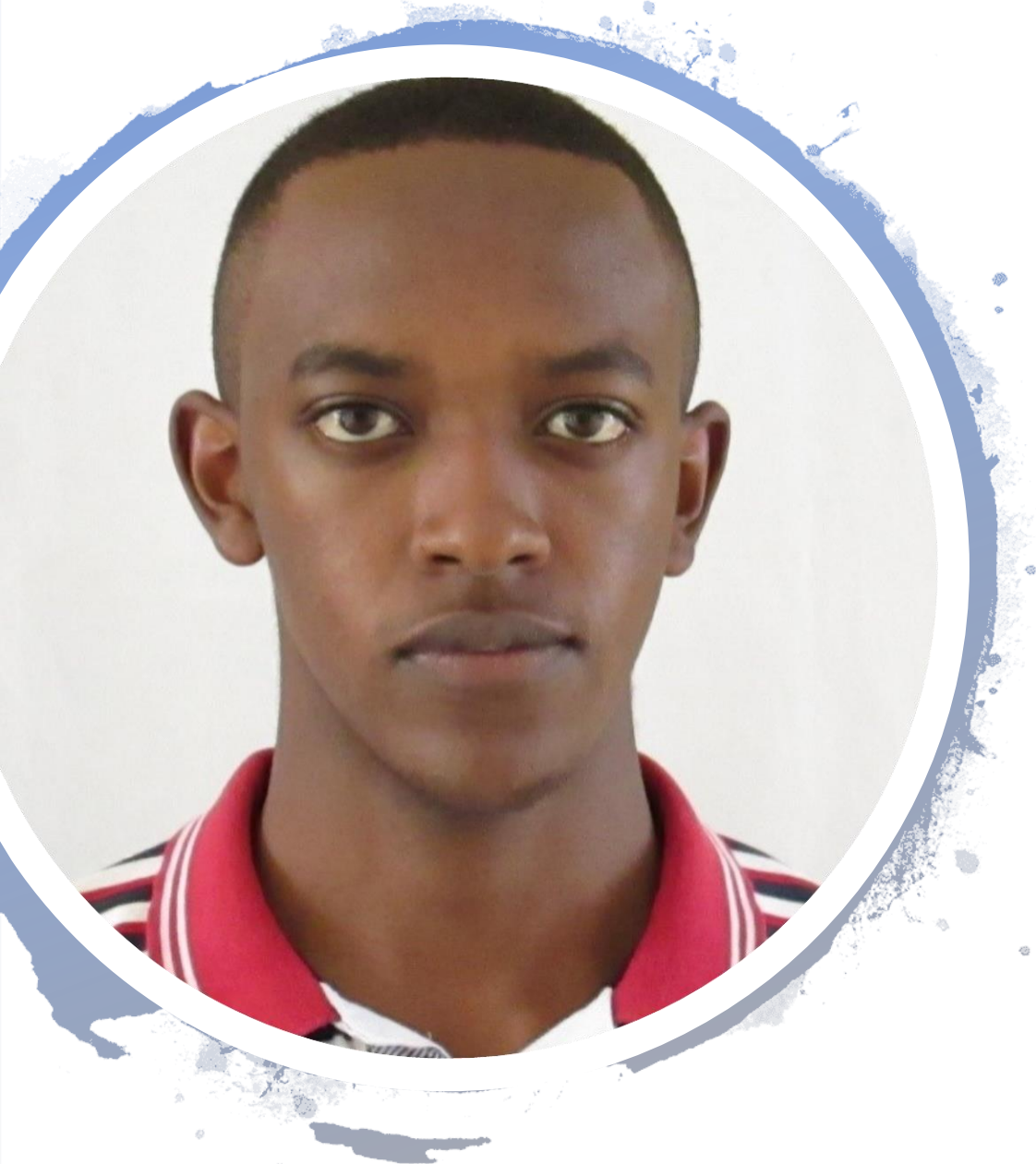
This session is moderated by **Debra Boudreaux**, Executive Vice President, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation

1. **Lori Chen**, Department Senior Specialist, DaAi Technology; **Theme**: Turn "Trash into Gold" Community-Building and Outcomes of the program, Collaboration Across Different Sections
2. **Alan Bigalow**, Science Director, Solar Cookers International; **Theme**: Solar Cooking, Community - Building to gain Support From Solar Cooking
3. **Karangwa Emmanuel**, Chief of Operation, The Green Fighter; **Theme**: Youth Engagement, Community Education



## Dr. Lori Chen

Dr. Lori Chen received her Ph.D. in Chemistry from Cleveland State University in 2001. After working as postdoctoral researcher at the National Health Research Institute for two years, she transitioned to the analytical lab in Virginia Contract Research Organization Co., Ltd. as Manager. In 2012, Dr. Chen joined the Research and Development Department of DA.AI Technology. DA.AI combines the core values of environmental protection, technology, love, and contribution, and developed the Compassion Technology Series to guard these compassionate living Bodhisattvas, as well as protecting the Earth with these eco-friendly products.



# Karangwa Emmanuel

Karangwa Emmanuel was born in Rwanda, Kigali City in a family of three children; He is the elder to his little brother and sister. He did his primary school at St Joseph, secondary school at Lycee de Kigali in the scientific combination of Physics-Biology-Chemistry, and university at the University of Rwanda where he was pursuing a bachelor's degree in Water and Environmental Engineering.

Right after his bachelor's degree, being motivated to act for the better of the environment and the community he joined in the starting of the youth lead movement which later was registered as a non- governmental organization operating in Rwanda, He is the deputy legal representative and the Chief Operating Officer of the organization, the organization name is The Green Fighter.





# Alan Bigelow

Alan Bigelow joined Solar Cookers International in 2016 as Director of Science and Main Representative at the United Nations. He leads testing and performance evaluation programs at Solar Cookers International and advocates for solar-thermal cooking at the United Nations in New York.

Alan is a physicist who started solar cooking in 2008. He has led solar cooking workshops locally in New York and internationally in India, Nepal and Haiti. He participated in a solar expedition in Nepal where during nine days at high altitude all meals were prepared using portable solar cookers.

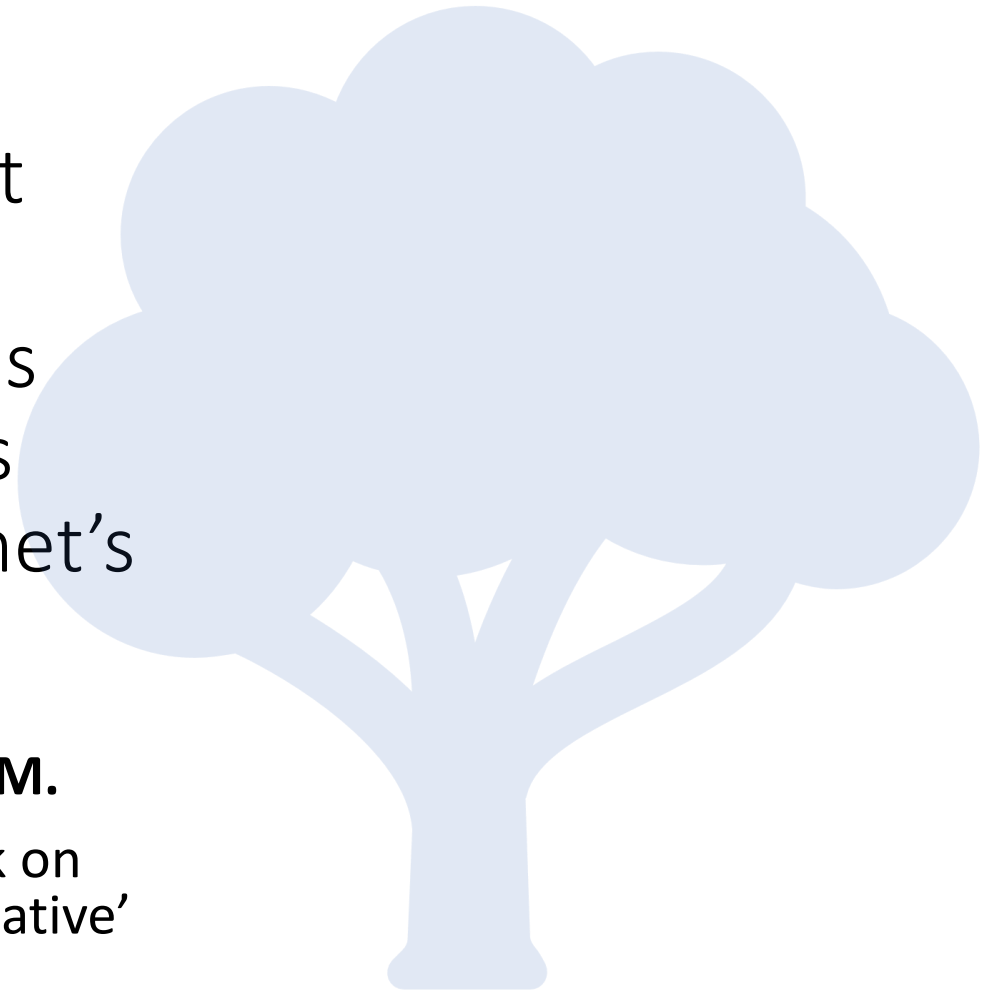


The Interfaith Rainforest  
Initiative: An Historic  
Convergence of Religious  
Leaders and Indigenous  
Peoples To Protect the Planet's  
Tropical Forests

**Friday, 15th March, 09:30-11:00 A.M.**

UN Environment's office in New York on  
behalf of the 'Interfaith Rainforest Initiative'  
partnership

Dr. Charles Ian McNeill, Senior Advisor, Forests & Climate, UN  
Environment, [charles.mcneill@un.org](mailto:charles.mcneill@un.org)



# About the event

Religious and faith-based actors are emerging as a force to be reckoned with in the domain of environmental issues, mobilizing broad coalitions and alliances around specific environmental policy issues. To date, however, the issue of forest protection has not been a focus for faith-based/interfaith leaders and activists. The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative (IRI) was launched last year by UN Environment in partnership with major interfaith groups, supported by the government of Norway, to fill this gap. It is an international, multi-faith alliance that aims to bring moral urgency and spiritual resources to global efforts to end tropical deforestation and a platform for faith-based leaders and communities to work hand-in-hand with indigenous peoples, governments, civil society and business on actions that protect rainforests and safeguard those that serve as their guardians. It was launched in recognition of the fact that the spiritual resources, moral guidance and authority, and unparalleled influence of the world's religious leaders and faith communities are urgently needed to protect the planet's remaining rainforests.

This side event will review the status of IRI's work in the five pilot countries that comprise 70% of all remaining tropical forests: Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and future plans.

# About the event

- Possible outcome:

Key outcomes include an increased understanding of how:

1. This interfaith alliance and global partnership brings moral leadership to global efforts to protect, restore and sustainably manage rainforests in 5 major rainforest countries and how ending deforestation is consistent with the beliefs of major religions, and is an ethical priority.
2. Coordinated interventions by religious and spiritual leaders can hold governments and private sector companies accountable to the laws, goals and international commitments that protect tropical rainforests and indigenous peoples.
3. Faith-based networks in priority countries are becoming dynamic platforms for cross-sector mobilization, collaboration and partnerships, advocacy, awareness-raising and on-the-ground action that protect rainforests and indigenous peoples' rights in IRI's 5 pilot countries.

# Speakers and Themes

This session is moderated by **Dr. Charles Ian McNeill**, Senior Advisor, Forests & Climate, UN Environment

1. **HE Ola Elvestuen**, Minister of Climate & Environment, Government of Norway [TBC]; **Theme:** Potential transformative role of religious leaders in protecting tropical forests and indigenous people's rights
2. **Fr. Fletcher Harper**, Executive Director of GreenFaith; **Theme:** Overview of, and status report on, IRI's work at the global and national level.
3. **Prof. Kusumita Pedersen**, Professor Emerita of Religious Studies, St. Francis College; Trustee, Parliament of the World's Religions; Co-Chair, Interfaith Center of New York; Vice President, Committee of Religious NGOs at the UN; **Theme:** Reflections on the value of an interfaith approach to protecting tropical forests.
4. **Mr. Fazlun Khalid**, Director and Founder of Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences; **Theme:** Innovative initiatives by Muslim leaders and communities to protect forests.
5. **Dr. Hayu Prabowo**, Director, Siaga Bumi; Chair, Council of Ulama's environment and natural resources body; Center for Dialogue and Cooperation Among Civilizations; representative of Religions for Peace; **Theme:** Report on the recent launch of an interfaith movement to protect Indonesia's rainforests.
6. **Rev. Henrik Grape**, Coordinator of World Council of Churches Working Group on Climate change; **Theme:** IRI's theory of change: how interfaith action on forests and indigenous peoples can turn the tide on biodiversity loss and climate change.



## Fr. Fletcher Harper

Fletcher Harper, an Episcopal priest, directs GreenFaith, an international interfaith environmental organization. In the past four years, he coordinated the 2015 OurVoices campaign, which mobilized religious support for COP 21, organized of faith communities for the People's Climate Marches in NYC and Washington DC, helped lead the faith-based fossil fuel divestment movement, supported the launch of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, and co-founded Shine, a campaign to end energy poverty with renewable energy. He's now focused on creating multi-faith GreenFaith Circles in local communities globally. Fletcher is the author of *GreenFaith: Mobilizing God's People to Protect the Earth* (Abingdon Press, March 2015).



## Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen

Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen is a Trustee of the Parliament of the World's Religions and a founding member of its Climate Action Task Force (CATF). She is Professor Emerita of Religious Studies at St. Francis College, New York, and Co-Chair of the Interfaith Center of New York. She is co-editor of *Earth and Faith: A Book of Reflection for Action* (UNEP, 2000) and co-author of *The Practices of Global Ethics: Historical Developments, Current Issues and Contemporary Prospects* (Edinburgh University Press, 2016).



# Fazlun Khalid

Fazlun Khalid has a world wide reputation as an indefatigable advocate of environmental protection rooted in religious traditions and is now recognised as one of fifteen leading eco theologians in the world. He appeared on the Independent on Sunday list of the top 100 environmentalists in the UK in 2008 and is also listed amongst the “500 Most Influential Muslims in the World” by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre of Jordan. He founded the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences which is now established as the world’s leading Islamic environmental NGO. He was the convenor of the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change which was launched in Istanbul in August 2015.





# Hayu Susilo Prabowo

Initiator of EcoMasjid or Environmentally Friendly Mosque. Mosque is one of the means used for religious moral formation. The mosque is not only used as a means of ritual worship, but it becomes a means and also a strength in building and instilling the values of good and renewal of life of the people, now and in the future. Prospering the mosque can not only by spoken, it needs real actions to face the threat of water, energy and food scarcity. To realize this objectives, we work towards self-sustaining mosque, and hence the society, through idarah (management), imarah (prospering activities), and riayah (operation and maintenance of facilities).



# Rev Henrik Grape

Rev Henrik Grape is ordained in Church of Sweden (Lutheran). He has worked at the national office of Church of Sweden since year 2000 as Officer in Sustainable Development. Member of ECEN (European Christian Environmental Network) steering committee since 2005 and World Council of Churches (WCC) working group on climate change since 2006. Today he is seconded to WCC as Senior Advisor on Care for Creation, Sustainability, and Climate Justice and the coordinator of the Working Group on Climate Change.

Parliament of the World's Religions

**March 15th, 11:30 A.M-13:00 P.M.**

Audrey Kitagawa, J. D, Chair of the Board of the  
Parliament of the World's Religions,  
[dmaudrey@aek9.net](mailto:dmaudrey@aek9.net)

Faith, Global Ethics and  
Climate Commitments



# About the event

This panel presentation will show the continuity that exists between faith or religion, “global ethics” or values shared across traditions, the ethical and spiritual nature of a commitment, and the ways that concrete action is a direct expression of commitment. We will bring together research, reflection and story in addition to information on current environmental programs to demonstrate this continuity and its importance. In 1993 the centenary Parliament of the World’s Religions adopted a “Declaration towards a Global Ethic” with Four Directives or principles. In 2018 the 25th anniversary of the Global Ethic was observed with the adoption of a Fifth Directive – on Sustainability and Care for the Earth – based on points in environmental ethics on which traditions agree. This inquiry on shared values has been a long-standing project of both UNEP and the Parliament, as well as the Earth Charter (finalized in 2000) which will also be included in our discussion. All these texts call us to commitment. A commitment, vow or promise made in the presence of a community is a theme common to the world’s religions and is now a focus of many civil society groups and faith-based organizations or FBOs. The Parliament’s Climate Commitments Project is a program of capacity-building and movement-building among faith-based organizations concerned with climate commitment; it seeks to catalyze and strengthen commitments on advocacy, greening of congregations, decarbonization and resources and education, launching an intercommunications hub, providing forums and developing methodologies for assessment of impact.

# About the event

- Possible outcome:

This program will display the continuity between faith, ethics shared across traditions, the key role of commitment, and concrete action that comes directly from commitment. “Facts” even when proven by research do not necessarily motivate people to action, while faith-based and ethical commitment can do so. We will share insights, resources, best practices and plans for ongoing programs among FBOs that focus on ethics and commitment as essential to their work.

# Speakers and Themes

This session is moderated by **Audrey Kitagawa, J. D.**, Chair of the Board of the Parliament of the World's Religions

1. **Kiran Bali Mbe Jp**, Global Council Chairperson and an At-Large Trustee of the United Religions Initiative (URI); **Theme**: The Environmental Network of the United Religions Initiative
2. **Debra Boudreaux**, Executive Vice President, Tzu Chi Foundation; **Theme**: The Commitment of Compassion for All Beings
3. **Dr. Charles Mcneill**, UN Environment Senior Advisor on Forests & Climate; **Theme**: Global Ethics for the Environment: An Emerging Understanding
4. **Rev Dr Canon Rachel Mash**, Environmental Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa; **Theme**: A Faith-Based Response to Climate Change: The Green Anglican Movement
5. **Joshua Basofin**, Director of Climate Action at Parliament of the World's Religions; **Theme**: The Climate Commitments Project: Explore, Collaborate, Assess, Celebrate
6. **Rev. Dr. Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam**, Coordinator of the Sector of "Ecology and Creation" at the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development; **Theme**: Laudato Si' and the Invitation to Care for Our Common Home



## Kiran Bali

Kiran Bali MBE JP is a remarkable global organizational leader and spokesperson in areas of interfaith understanding, environmental justice, women's empowerment and peacebuilding. Kiran was honored by HM Queen Elizabeth II with the MBE award and has received a number of international awards. As the global Chair of the United Religions Initiative, Kiran exemplifies the principles of respecting the diversity of the world's religions and cultures, and encouraging people across the globe to build bridges of cooperation. Kiran provides powerful organizational leadership managing a board of 35 trustees from over 24 countries, successfully leading the organization through a major transition of leadership and advancing international interfaith cooperation and impact through extraordinary global leadership.



# Debra Boudreaux

Debra Boudreaux has been serving Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation as a volunteer since 1989, with more than 30 years of experience working on regional, national, and international disaster relief missions. As a volunteer, Debra has been involved in many of the organization's aid and response efforts around the world, which includes: rebuilding of several key structures following the Haitian earthquake, distribution of rice and food to survivors of Ebola, supporting migrants in Mexico at key shelters near the US-Mexican border through provision of supplies and medicines, and supporting refugees in Thailand and Malaysia through provision of healthcare.





## Dr. Charles McNeill

Dr. Charles McNeill is UN Environment Senior Advisor on Forests & Climate, overseeing the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative and forest policy. He served in UNDP for 25 years with responsibility for environmental policy, programs and empowering Indigenous peoples and civil society. He led the establishment of the New York Declaration on Forests, co-founded the UN-REDD Programme and founded the Equator Initiative. Previously, Charles managed UNDP's Global Environment Facility's Africa work and global policy and programming, worked in NGOs on hunger and development in South Asia and Africa, and earned a Ph.D. in genetics with a focus on conservation biology at UC-Davis.



## Rev Dr Canon Rachel Mash

Canon Rev Dr. Rachel Mash is the environmental Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. (South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, Lesotho, Eswatini)

She is a member of the steering committee of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network. She sits on the steering committee of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network. She is a member of the steering committee of the Season of Creation Initiative.



# Rev. Dr. Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam

Rev. Dr. Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam is Coordinator of the Sector of “Ecology and Creation” at the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. He is also Chair of Philosophy of Science and Director of the Institute of Social and Political Sciences at the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome. He was a Research Scholar at the University of Oxford where he is an Academic Visitor from 2011. His most recent books include *Creation in Crisis: Science, Ethics and Theology* (Orbis Books, 2014), *The Philosophical Roots of the Ecological Crisis* (Cambridge Scholars, 2017), *The Ten Green Commandments of Laudato Si’* (Liturgical Press, 2018).



# Joshua Basofin

Joshua Basofin is Director of Climate Action at Parliament of the World's Religions. Joshua has worked in the environmental field for over fifteen years as an attorney, advocate, sustainability expert, and writer. He started his career in roles with Environment Now and Defenders of Wildlife focusing on water policy and environmental conservation. Joshua later worked with businesses, local governments, and civil society to develop strategies for systemically reducing their environmental impact.