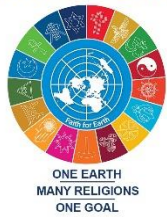


FAITH FOR EARTH



Faith for Earth Updates September 22, 2019



Dear Brothers and Sisters;

It's been three weeks since my last message to you. A lot has been happening and I wanted to wait until some announcements have officially been made.

First Faith Leader wins UNEP's Young Champion of the Earth Award

Molly Burhans, founder of GoodLands, has been announced as the North America's winner of 2019 UNEP Young Champions Award. The Young Champions of the Earth initiative is a forward-looking prize designed to breathe life into the ambitions of brilliant young environmentalists, aged 18-30, with bold, innovative ideas to address some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

Molly won the award on her work "[Digitally shaping a greener world](#)". "When I was 26, I learned that the Catholic Church was one of the biggest land-owners globally, (over 177 million acres) but had rarely done land inventories. This led me to found GoodLands, where we are working to bring Catholic conservation to the scale and impact of Catholic healthcare and education, as the largest global network of its kind. Our aim is to make the Catholic Church a leader in the fight against climate change as well as related social issues like migration and human trafficking. Our work can be a model for other globally distributed non-state actors including for other religions, the British commonwealth, the United Nations and meta-national entities." The list of all winners can be accessed [here](#).

PaRD Environment, Water and Climate Action Work Stream

The first inaugural PaRD Environment, Water, and Climate Action work-stream meeting was held on August 29th, 2019 in Stockholm. The meeting was hosted by SIWI and WCC during the World Water Week. This important meeting resulted in electing the co-chairs of the work stream as follows:

- o 4 CSOs/FBOs:
 - Global One 2015 - Najat Abdi Muhammad;
 - Tearfund - Liu Liu;
 - World Council of Churches - Dinesh Suna;
 - World Evangelical Alliance - Lillian Kurz;

- o 1 intergovernmental entity:
 - UNEP Faith for Earth - Iyad Abu Moghli.

Faiths for Forests Declaration and Action Agenda endorsed at Religions for Peace World Assembly on 23 August 2019

The Religions for Peace World Assembly was held in Lindau, Germany from 20-23 August 2019 and included the participation of over 900 religious leaders from 125 countries. The religious leaders unanimously adopted the [Faiths for Forests Declaration and Action Agenda](#), which included endorsement of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative and that will be brought as an official contribution to the forthcoming UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in New York on 23 September 2019.

Islamic Relief Kenya

The Faith for Earth team met with the Director of the Islamic Relief in Kenya to discuss collaboration in Kenya, Africa and globally. Both sides have agreed to share human stories highlighting the creation of livelihoods and income while at the same time demonstrating environmental stewardship at the community level. In addition, joint activities have been discussed including the SDG Kenya Forum and the Youth Council, among others.

UN Secretary-General's remarks on UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites

The UN Secretary General Mr. António Guterres said during the launch of the [Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites](#): "The Plan offers concrete recommendations to support countries in promoting safety of holy sites, ensuring that worshipers can observe their rituals in peace, and fostering the values of compassion and tolerance." At Faith for Earth, working with our network of faith-based organizations will make sure that houses of worship will also be minarets for sustainable living. Stay tuned!

Anatomy of Action

This month we see that the climate emergency is in mainstream and public consciousness and UNEP is deeply engaged to address and change the "take-make-waste" economy to one that is more circular for sustainable for consumption and production. In addition we - as individuals - have a huge potential to contribute. Our everyday choices – how we move, what food we eat and how we treat our clothes – determine the impact we have on the planet. But what actions should we focus on? This is the rationale behind the [#AnatomyofAction](#), a social media tool kit developed with expertise from across UNEP, in partnership with our Champion of the Earth, Leyla Acaroglu and the [UnSchool](#), as a contribution to the [One Planet Network's Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme](#). It takes evidence and merges it into simple lifestyle swaps we can make to live more sustainably and what kinds of information and action we can ask of companies and governments. Made up of videos, social media assets and facts, it targets people who increasingly get their information from social media. **Join the Challenge.** To activate the power behind individual action, we invite Faith-based organizations and faith leaders [15 Ways in 15 Days Challenge](#) starting 15 - 30 September, which challenges us all to: 1) pick 1 (or more!) action from the [#anatomyofaction](#), 2) post on social media and 3) ask 3 friends to join. Based on the Anatomy of Action menu, you can look at what you are already doing and find even more ways to live more sustainably. Let's walk the talk when it comes to sustainability.

Financing The Future Global Climate Divest-Invest Summit

The Summit was held in Cape Town – South Africa on 10-11 September 2019 organized by more than 40 partners and was attended by more than 300 delegates. During the Summit it was announced that 1100 institutions have pledged to divest \$11 Trillion dollars from oil, coal and gas as opposed to the 2014 pledge of \$50 billion. The [report that was released](#) shows:

- 1- The rate of growth in the number of institutions and assets pledged to divestment;
- 2- The geographic breakdown of divestments around the world;
- 3- The sectoral breakdown of divestment actions with faith groups, foundations and universities in the lead.

Also during the summit, the Fiqh Council of North America, the council of Islamic Religious Scholars responsible for issuing authoritative religious rulings, also known as fatwa, has issued a ruling on climate change and fossil

fuel divestment. This is the first time that a Fiqh Council anywhere in the world has taken such a position. The ruling calls upon Islamic investment houses and other investment fund administrators and managers to immediately develop fossil fuel-free investment vehicles and portfolios that include investments in renewable and clean energy companies.

Faith for Earth in Envirocities Newsletter

With much appreciation to the Environment Center of Arab Towns (ECAT), an article on Faith for Earth was published on their 24th issue of the envirocities e-Magazine. The Article was published in [Arabic](#) and [English](#).

International Day of Peace

On Saturday 21st September, Faith for Earth gave the key note address for the celebration on the [International Day of Peace](#). This year the theme was on Climate Action. The [celebration in Nairobi](#) was organized in Kenya by the United Religions Initiative regional office for Africa, the East African Ramgarhia Board, Kenya Interfaith Network on Action for Environment, Mother Earth Network, All African Council of Churches, Baha'i International Community, Global Peace Foundation, Unity Earth and African Media Initiative.

The UN Task Force Multi-Faith Advisory Council

The UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion celebrates the election of the new Chairs of the UN Task Force Multi Faith Advisory Council for the period September 2019 to September 2021:

- Mr. Rudelmar Bueno de Faria (ACT Alliance),
- Dr. (Ms.) Husna Ahmed (Global One),
- Mr. Gopal Patel (Bhumi Project), and
- Ms. Bani Dugal (Baha'i Principle Representative to the UN).

Accreditation to UN Environment Assembly

If your organization is not yet accredited to UN Environment Assembly and if you are interested to be accredited and gain a consultative status within the **rules of procedure** of the **UN Environment Assembly**, please refer to the criteria for accreditation as derived from Rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure and submit your request accordingly. **Guidelines here.**

Warm wishes
Iyad

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