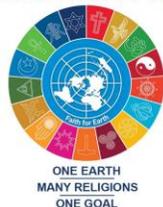


FAITH FOR EARTH



Dear Brothers and Sisters;

A new year, a new decade, but same global challenges. Isn't it about time to shift gears, adopt innovative approaches, accelerate actions and scale up efforts? The Faith-based and faith-inspired communities are just doing that. The massive faith engagement in global conferences, COPs and calls is unprecedented. We at Faith for Earth, are also starting the decade with ambitious plans in strengthening our partnerships. While I will be sharing a comprehensive report on our efforts in the past 2 years and a planned approach soon, let me recap a few happenings and highlight a few upcoming events.

IT IS TIME FOR A BEHAVIORAL REVOLUTION TOWARDS EARTH - Kairos for Creation

Anthropogenic climate change is widely acknowledged as presenting the most significant threat to world peace, security and prosperity, and potentially even the very existence of humanity. Transitioning to more sustainable consumption and production practices is of paramount importance and efforts towards sustainable development must be truly global in nature. However, addressing the multitude of contributing factors to climate change, as well as dealing with its negative manifestations, requires an unprecedented degree of cooperation from all stakeholders, or a behavioral revolution towards Earth.

This is the argument Faith for Earth made (pp 351-355) as part of the [Kairos for Creation: Confessing Hope for the Earth](#) Publication which is being launched today by The “Wuppertal Call” – Contributions and Recommendations from an International Conference on Eco-Theology and Ethics of Sustainability representing the views of 51 participants from over 22 different countries, men and women from different cultural, denominational and religious backgrounds, theologians, eco-activists, scientists and representatives of Faith Based Organizations that was held in June 2019 in Wuppertal/Germany. At the end of the conference the participants adopted the “Wuppertal Call” which recommends to the World Council of Churches (WCC) to declare a “Decade for the Healing of Creation”.

Faith for Earth Coalition

Thanks to over 120 respondents to the Coalition Questionnaire that was launched earlier this month. We have received overwhelming support from parliamentarians, CEOs of Faith-based Organizations, theologians, faith leaders, UN staff, any many others. We will be giving some more time for those interested in providing their views on the establishment and structure of the Faith for Earth Coalition. We hope by the end of the month we will prepare a synthesis report and share it with you. If you have not done so, kindly answer the questionnaire by clicking on [THIS LINK](#).

FAITH FOR EARTH



Learning Exchange and Participants Commitments

“Thank you for the inspiring workshop. The three days were well spent and indeed memorable”. This is the feedback of one of the participants of the Learning Exchange workshop on Faith for Earth that was held on 17-19 December 2019. Another participant said: “It was a great honor and privilege to be nominated to attend this memorable workshop and to meet wonderful colleagues committed to Faith4Earth”, while a third said: “ Thank you for the valuable additional knowledge through Faith for Earth initiative, that came hand in hand with creating linkages with the Faith Based Organization/ Faith led initiatives. I will now have additional lens through which my eyes would look at our programs and partnerships”

However, the crème of the workshop was the commitments made by each and every participant as they recorded them on one minute video clips that can be accessed [HERE](#). The workshop did not only facilitate learning by exchange of experiences, but also participants presented project ideas and worked in the global café to design joint projects. We will be delighted to share the workshop report very soon and follow up on the projects ideas that might become global projects contributing to local priorities.

First Global Digital Interfaith Capacity Building Workshop to be held in 6 countries – People and the Planet

The Swedish International Development agency (SIDA) in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Faith for Earth are planning a global advanced course on People and Planet. The course serves to enable the mobilization of faith resources and collective action for a more sustainable planet. This first digital global endeavor will be conducted simultaneously in 6 hubs including Sweden, Kenya, Jordan, Bosnia, South Africa and Indonesia representing different continent and different priorities. The course is conducted in partnership with Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket). The global workshop will be held during the period 14-16 March 2020. More is constantly updated on [THIS LINK](#).

Young Khalifahs of the Earth

Commensurate with the Quranic views on the responsibility of humans towards Earth (vice-regents), a training for young Muslim's in Birmingham will be organized by [Islamic Help](#) and [Bahu Trust](#). Faith for Earth is supporting such a training by conveying a message to the participating youth to get involved in campaigning and advocating on climate action. This will contribute to empowering young people to be aware of the environmental challenges and how can they approach solutions based on their faith teachings. More details can be found [HERE](#).

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[Interfaith Rainforest Initiative](#)

What did UNEP's Interfaith Rainforest Initiative achieve in 2019? The story is [told here](#), but you can also access some important documents, guidelines and other resources in different languages by visiting [IRI Website](#).

[United Nations Environment Assembly UNEA 5](#)

Are you ready for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly that will take place in Nairobi 22-26 February 2021. The theme for the fifth session has been decided by the Bureau of the Assembly and reads as follows: "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals". Although UNEA is still over a year ahead, but it is now where we start debating relevant issues, propose resolutions for adoption, preparing papers for submission and planning for special events. I will keep everyone informed of the progression of the preparations, but certainly we need to reflect on the faith-based perspectives of what is meant by "Strengthening Actions for Nature"? Last UNEA. We had 200 faith leaders participating for the first time, but with more than 45 FBOs already accredited to UNEP, we are expecting not only a massive participation, but also policy implications and impact. Please keep monitoring the [UNEA space](#).

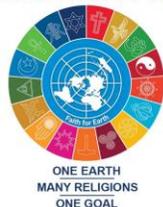
[Champions of the Earth](#)

Just been launched, the Champions of the Earth award, aim to recognize the contribution of outstanding leaders from government, civil society and the private sector whose actions have had a positive impact on the environment. Nominations are open to the public and will remain open until **20 March 2020**. The award, established in 2005 celebrates visionaries in four categories: Policy Leadership; Inspiration and Action; Entrepreneurial Vision and Science and Innovation. To date, 93 laureates, ranging from world leaders to technology inventors, have been recognized – 22 world leaders, 57 individuals and 14 groups or organizations. To know more, take 60 seconds to watch the 2020 launch [video](#). Do you have a religious leader, a faith-based organization or a group that you wish to nominate? The nomination process is [outlined here](#):

[World Environment Day Celebrations in 2020 is on Biodiversity.](#)

Last year, on the World Environment Day, [460 faith-based Organizations](#) took part in the celebrations by conducting a wide range of activities from planting trees, to cleaning rivers, slums, as well as organizing advocacy campaigns. What are you planning for the 2020 World Environment Day? This year theme has been decided on Biodiversity! [Colombia will host](#) the launch and main event of the 2020 World Environment Day on biodiversity! Soon we will start uploading guidelines, proposed activities, stories, registration of your activity, etc. on the [WED2020 website](#), but I'd like to hear from you about your reflections on Faith and

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Biodiversity! Please share your views that we will include in a special package for this important day.

[UN-Habitat - Dubai International Best Practices Award for Sustainable Development](#)

Our sister agency, UN-Habitat, invites you to apply or nominate potential candidates within your networks for the [Dubai International Best Practices Award for Sustainable Development](#). The winner of each category will receive a cash prize of **USD 200,000** and will be awarded at the Expo Dubai in November 2020. The award is open to national and regional governments, local authorities and their associations, non-governmental organizations, multilateral agencies, community-based organizations, research and academic institutions, public and private foundations, media entities and individuals. Do you know someone, an organization or an initiative that you would like to nominate? Please do so by the deadline for applications on **30 April 2020**.

[Interfaith Public Health Coalition](#)

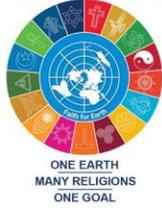
The importance of living a healthy and happy life is embraced by all cultures and people in every corner of the world. Similarly, all of the world's religions and spiritual practices see the ability to breathe clean air, drink fresh water, and consume healthy food as an integral part of being human. Additionally, these same traditions speak of protecting the natural environments that afford us these wonderful provisions and nourishment. In the Islamic faith, the Prophet Muhammad created *Himas*, or designated areas of land that restricted grazing and woodcutting or where certain animals were protected. Among the Anishinaabe of Turtle Island (North America), water is seen as a sacred gift from the Creator, and their Seven Fires Prophecy speaks of a time when the waters will turn bitter and fish will perish from pollution. In Buddhist philosophy, *Dhammapada*, or the ethical injunction to do good and not evil, extends to loving-kindness for all creation, including animals and plant life. These are just a few examples of how religious and spiritual practices center public health through the preservation of the environment.

Faith-based public health organizations (FBPHOs) are emerging as additional voices taking action, and bring a unique combination of ethics and science to policymaking conversations and cultural forums alike. Faith for Earth will be joining forces with [The Islamic Medical Association of North America \(IMANA\)](#) in addressing the critical issues of environmental health, impacts of climate change on the health of the people and the health of the planet. If you are engaged on health issues, or are interested to take part, please send me a note.

[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

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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