

FAITH FOR EARTH

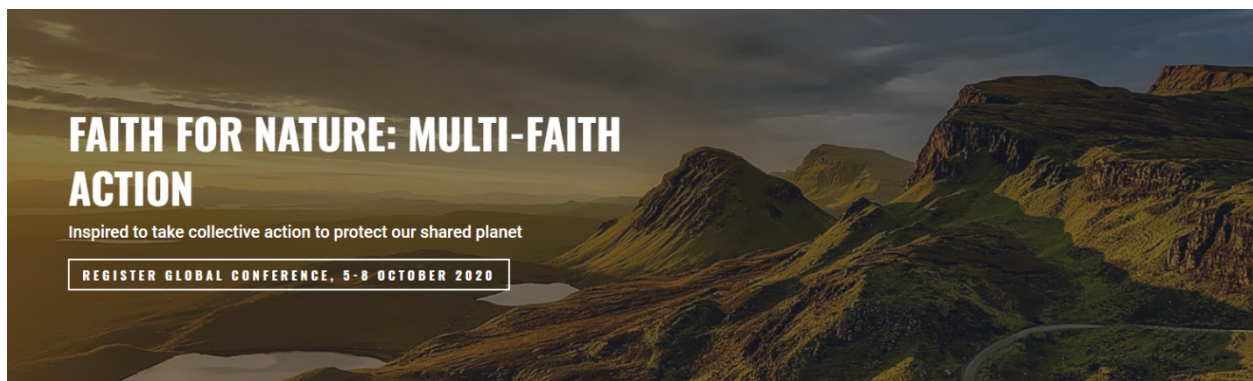


Faith for Earth Updates on 30 August 2020



On Thursday 27 August, around 128 faith leaders, representing 12 religions, 131 organizations from 37 countries and included interfaith practitioners, scientists and scholars have joined us in a discovery session to discuss the United Nations Environment Programme's 2021-2025 mid-term strategy. The participants were divided into 10 groups and discussed three important questions: **1) What changes do you see necessary to enable transformational shifts towards more sustainable outcomes?, 2) What would you expect from an organization like UNEP to contribute to that shift? and 3) How could your organization work with UNEP to contribute to that shift?** Other contributions were made in writing and were submitted to the strategy team of UNEP. A short report of the findings and recommendations of this discovery session will be shared shortly with all. Thank you for all your pouring support and blessings. Those are our renewable source of energy to continue serving you to the best of our ability.

Faith for Nature: Multi-Faith Action Global Conference 5-8 October 2020



We are so excited that the final preparations for the global conference Faith for Nature: Multi-Faith Action are well underway. This Faith for Earth Initiative global conference is being hosted by the President, Prime-Minister, Minister of Environment of Iceland in collaboration with UNEP's Executive Director and a number of partners including Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland, United Nations Association of Iceland, Soil conservation Service of Iceland, Religions for Peace, and the National Religious Partnership for the Environment. High level eminent faith leaders will inspire the conference in their key note addresses and participants will cover all continents of the world and its all major religions and indigenous people. With 6 regional hubs we will ensure all time zones can participate comfortably. While we are expecting a few hundreds to join the conference, seats will be limited. Stay alert an invitation might be coming your way soon. For more information, please visit [this beautiful website](#) that the team in Iceland and the partners have created.

The United Religions Initiative (URI) and UNEP Sign a Cooperation Agreement

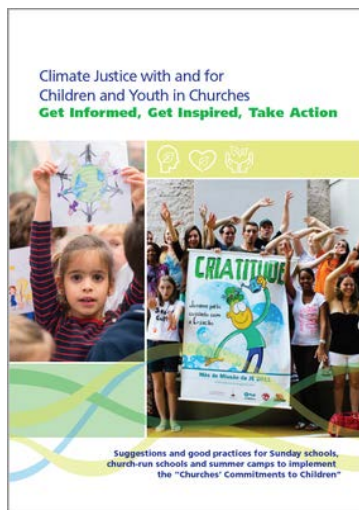


It is a great pleasure to announce the signing of a cooperation agreement between the [United Religions Initiative](#) (URI) and UNEP which was signed between the Executive Director of URI Rev. Victor Kazanjian and the Executive Director of UNEP Ms. Inger Andersen. URI is a global grassroots interfaith network NGO with consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council and accredited to UNEP and working to promote enduring, daily interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence and create cultures of peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings. URI has 1045 member organizations in 109 countries, and provides a platform for religious leaders and faith-based organizations in its member countries to work on the issue of environmental protection and climate change. URI promotes the *Green Rule Initiative* which says Do unto Earth as you would have it do unto you. The agreement is intended to strengthen the working partnership between UNEP and religious leaders from different faith traditions on environmental sustainability issues and promote the role of religious leaders in the stewardship of Mother Earth.

G20 Interfaith Summit Consultation meeting – Africa



Collaboration with King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz International Center for Interfaith Dialogue continues as Faith for Earth gave the key note address on environmental priorities in Africa and the role of religions in the consultation that was held at the G20 Interfaith Forum for the Africa Region, as part of the global consultation process led by [KAICIID](#). The Interfaith Forum aims to facilitate the necessary dialogue between relevant stakeholders to support the creation of a G20 engagement group consisting of interfaith communities. Africa faces intersectional challenges including climate change, environmental degradation, COVID 19 and the Locust invasion. The continent is one of the richest continents in its natural resources, however, unsustainable use, illegal trade in wildlife, land degradation, deforestation, decline of water availability and quality among others, are serious challenges that would require strategic and integrated approaches with the participation of all stakeholders including religious communities. For more on the meeting, [please visit here](#).



[Climate Justice with and for Children and Youth in Churches Toolkit](#)

Thanks to our colleagues at the World Council of Churches for highlighting two of UNEP’s initiatives; Faith for Earth and the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative in their new publication [Climate Justice with and for Children and Youth in Churches Toolkit](#). This toolkit provides resources for churches, church-run schools, and summer camps to support intergenerational climate and environmental justice and promote care for children by stopping further global warming.

[The Church of England Adopts the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management Issued by UNEP and Partners](#)



Adam Matthews, Director Ethics & Engagement, Investment Team, Church of England Pensions Board (representing PRI) said: For decades people have called for a global standard that can drive best practice. For the first time we have a global standard that goes beyond existing best practice and establishes the most comprehensive Standard that Investors will hold companies accountable for in their implementation. UNEP with its partners; the International Council on Mining and

Metals and the Principles for Responsible Investments, has launched the [Global Industry Standard on Tailing Management](#). The catastrophic failure of a tailings facility at Corrego do Feijão mine on 25 January 2019 demanded that tough questions be asked and answered. These sets of standards will initiate a process for all mining industries to contribute to the sustainability of natural resources in the mining sector.

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5) Roadmap



Dozens of activities have and continue to be organized to galvanize the global attention and mobilize governments, civil society and stakeholders in the road to UNEA 5. The latest [Road Map to UNEA](#) has been updated to include the **Faith for Nature: Multi-Faith Action** Global Conference to be held in partnership with the Government of Iceland and other partners. The conference is a contribution towards meaningful and impactful role of faith actors in the highest authority on the environment. Stay tuned for more information on the conference.

PaRD, and its work stream WECARE in partnership with Humboldt University Berlin Virtual Capacity Building Workshop



As part of its activities planned for 2020, the Water, Environment and Climate Action Work Stream (WECARE) of the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD) in collaboration with Research Programme on Religious Communities & Sustainable Development of Humboldt University Berlin is organizing a Virtual Capacity Building Workshop **Religious Communities and Ecological Sustainability in Southern Africa**. PaRD members, religious leaders, staff of development organizations, academic researchers, and individuals engaged with ecological sustainability are invited to participate in the event to be held on **1 September at 9 am -1:30 pm (GMT +2)**. The webinar focuses on the role of religious communities for ecological sustainability in Southern Africa. Topics include water management, climate

change, agriculture and eco-feminism. The webinar will provide insights into ecological sustainability from a theological perspective as well as into the engagement of religious leaders and faith-based organizations. Kindly register before 28th of August by sending an email to theorcsd@hu-berlin.de. This workshop will be held back-to-back with the PaRD Virtual General Assembly Meeting 2-4 September. More information can be found [on this website](#).

Reimagining Development: Youth Perspectives for a Better World



A virtual dialogue series towards the **Economy of Francesco** is being organized by our young friends at [Living Laudato Si Philippines](#) during the period 28 August-25 September 2020. Faith for Earth presented on the SDGs and role of young people in the first setting the context session held **on 28 August at 14:00 GMT+2 pm**. The dialogue brought in 36 young people from international faith-based networks and organizations, seeking to contribute to discourse and actions for a paradigm shift in development. For more, please [visit this event page](#).

Faith Action on the Sustainable Development Goals



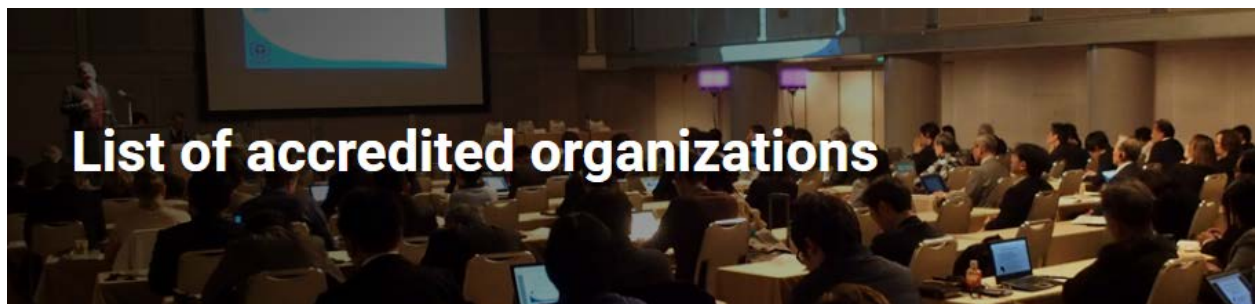
Faith for Earth, the Parliament of World's Religions, the Bhumi Global, and United Religions Initiative will be launching a landmark report on the contributions of faith-based organizations to the SDGs on the occasion of the 5 years anniversary of the SDGs. The launch will be made by holding two webinars scheduled on 21 September at 11 am and 8 pm EST. Keep [watching this space](#) for more information.

Partnership with the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology



On May 4, 2020, Faith for Earth joined forces with the [Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology](#) to feature and build upon the extensive work of the Yale Forum over the past two decades. Founded at the United Nations in 1998 and based at Yale University since 2006, the [Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology](#) is an international multi-religious project contributing to a new academic field and an engaged moral force of religious environmentalism. This spring the Yale Forum launched an updated [website](#) which contains a wealth of environmentally-focused resources for the [world's religions](#): overview essays, annotated bibliographies, statements, engaged projects, and sacred texts. The website also features sections on the [global climate emergency](#) and on [Laudato Si](#), as well as a rich collection of [multimedia resources](#). The Yale Forum shares news, events, and new publications that are related to the intersection of religion and the environment on its website and in its [monthly newsletter](#). You can sign up for the monthly email newsletter [here](#).

Accreditation to UN Environment Assembly



The numbers are increasing. **Five more faith-based organizations have been accredited to UNEP.** You can apply too for accreditation using the [New Online Accreditation System](#) 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.](#)

[Previous Updates can be found HERE.](#)