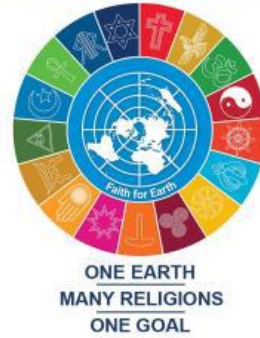


# FAITH FOR EARTH



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Multilateralism remains our only option to cooperate in achieving the goals that would take us to a better future. The only viable agenda we have today, is Agenda 2030. The Agenda does address all aspects of the needs of the people and the planet. If implemented with commitments from all stakeholders, it would lead us to the future we want.

The international system represented by the UN, and other development organizations, is ready. The unprecedented environmental challenges we are facing today cannot be solved or adequately addressed, if we do not solve a very important underlying cause; the lack of the system of values, ethical approaches and the moral responsibility of nations, institutions, organizations and individuals. What we need to rebuild better, is to look within and find common ethical approaches to sustainability.

The Faith community provides the much-needed insights on the moral and spiritual responsibilities towards living in harmony with nature.



**RESTORING OUR EARTH TO ITS RIGHTFUL EQUILIBRIUM** Join Us On Zoom!

**28th April 2021 12noon-1:30pm EDT**

**Speakers:**

- HE Taina Holonen, Former President of Finland
- Dr Richard Byron-Cox, Head, UNCCD Capacity Development and Innovation Office, UNCCD Secretariat
- HE Maria Fernanda Espinosa, 27 President of the United Nations General Assembly, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs & Minister of Defense, Ecuador
- Iyad Abumoghli, Director, United Nations Environment Programme Evaluation Institute
- Kathin Harvey, CEO, Ben El-Mechaieck Centre For Global Citizens

**MODERATOR:** Ekaterina Stoykova, Founder, President, Green Hope Foundation

## Restoring our Earth to its Rightful Equilibrium

In a [webinar](#) hosted by the Green Hope Foundation on 28 April 2021, [Dr. Iyad Abumoghli spoke](#) about the global environment governance system, highlighting 5 challenges and what is needed to address them.

Recognising that there are several principles on environmental ethics, environmental justice for equitable access and use of resources must be coupled with sustainable justice to foster harmony between People and Planet for all living forms to flourish. The time is now to integrate these principles in the global environmental agenda. At UNEA 5.2 in 2022, a group of member states will call for the adoption of a global resolution integrating ethical, moral and spiritual values in global environmental governance.

## Earth Day 2021 | The Lineage and Future of *Faith for Earth: A Call for Action*

In honor of Earth Day, the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology partnered with the Parliament of the World's Religions and UNEPs Faith for Earth to celebrate the history and potential of the newly updated and published resource, [Faith for Earth: A Call for Action](#).

Watch the celebratory video: [Earth Day 2021 | Faith for Earth](#)

According to Yale Forum Co-Director, Mary Evelyn Tucker, *Faith for Earth* signals the growth of the state of the field and its potential for further outreach. When this book was originally published in 2000, the academic field and the moral force of religion and ecology were still quite new. Twenty years later, religious environmentalism is both an engaged ethical movement that is growing in society and an academic field that is expanding in educational institutions and seminaries around the world.

*Faith for Earth* presents a compendium of religious practices for the environment, guiding seekers of knowledge to an invaluable resource coupling theology and science for the People and Planet. International multi-stakeholder dialogues for the environment require a common value-based system to drive action, that interfaith collaboration presents. Dr. Iyad Abumoghli comments that this is a book of enlightenment about religions, the environment, and nature.

The role of religious leaders, of academics, and of grassroots activists is now visible through the *Faith for Earth* book and the complementary Yale Forum website. Indeed, this summer the Yale Forum will be launching online religion and ecology classes with Coursera where this book will be a key text.

Visit the [Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology](#) to explore statements and sacred texts, publications, and news from around the world, which is updated daily.



## Interreligious/Interfaith Dialogue, Good Practices and Future Directions

The United Religions Initiative (URI) in collaboration with UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding and Banaras Hindu University is developing a compendium on Interreligious/Interfaith Dialogue, Good Practices and Future Directions. This Book seeks to collate innovative narratives and good practices of interreligious/interfaith dialogue from across cultures and regions to supplement the expanding scope and outreach of UN engagement with religious entities. To this end, *faith leaders, activists, and FBOs* are encouraged to contact Tanya Sablok ([tsablok@uri.org](mailto:tsablok@uri.org)) to share the vision and contribution to interfaith and intercultural dialogue. Visit the [UNESCO page](#) to learn more about their work.

## Some Laudato Si' Gardens and installations inspired by the Living Chapel Project in Italy and across the world

Benin City, **NIGERIA**  
managed by Felicia Aigbiremhon



Living Chapel in Romblon, **PHILIPPINES** managed by Living Laudato Si Philippines



Comune di Fidene, **ITALY**, managed by Gruppo Postramici in collaboration with Comitato di Quartiere



Dominican House-Cathedral Area di Maseru, area of schools and kindergartens, **LESOTHO**, managed by TED (Technologies for Economic Development)



Sama Village, Bageshwar, Uttarakhand, **INDIA**, managed by CHINAR (Central Himalayan Institute for Nature & Applied Research)



Living Chapel in Rosolina (Rovigo), managed by Parco Regionale del Delta del Po, **ITALIA** designed by Mario Cucinella Architects

## Laudato Si' Gardens in Schools and Institutions across Italy

The Living Chapel is expanding outreach for [Laudato Si' Gardens](#) to spaces managed by schools, governmental and non-governmental organisations encouraging participation in caring for our common home by supplying indigenous young plant species to various regions. This project distributes young plants throughout Italy for the recovery of degraded areas. Outside Italy, Laudato Si' Gardens shared a Four Element Package that symbolise Air, Earth, Water and Fire. Make a wish for your future garden.

Wondering where to find a Laudato Si' Garden around the world? Click on the [map](#). Learn more about setting up a Laudato Si' Garden by contacting Francesca Marcolini ([la.fra.marc@gmail.com](mailto:la.fra.marc@gmail.com)).



## Ecosystem Restoration Playbook: Proposed Actions for Faith Leader and Faith-Based Organisations

People & the Planet are only as healthy as the ecosystems we ALL depend on. Bringing degraded ecosystems back to life increases their benefits to society and biodiversity. [The Ecosystem Restoration Playbook](#) breaks down what Faith Leaders and Faith Actors can do for #Generation Restoration.

It's time to #ActNow to: explore religious teachings and traditions about our environmental responsibility; promote these teachings in sermons and the different modes of religious education; launch or support restoration projects; identify ways to [green places of worship](#) and faith-based investments; and more.



## Calling Ecopreneurs and Young Change-Makers for the #GenerationRestoration Youth Challenge

UpLink and 1t.org, in collaboration with Salesforce and supported by the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, have launched the [#GenerationRestoration Youth Challenge](#). The Challenge is a global call for impactful and inspiring solutions by ecopreneurs and young change-makers to conserve and restore ecosystems of all types, including intact and degraded terrestrial and coastal ecosystems, such as forests, grasslands, peat, etc. Submissions are open until **15 June 2021**.

The best 10-20 submissions will be invited to a 4-month accelerator programme by 1t.org to help scale and advance their impact. This will include targeted support, access to networks and community, as well as social media and communications for increased public exposure. [Learn more](#) about the scope of the Challenge, assessment criteria and how to submit your solution.



## Growing the Team with Bright Youthful Voices

In April, Faith for Earth welcomed seven new interns in an opportunity to be part of a growing and innovative team. Claire Iceaga, Dimitri Saad, Disha Upadhyay, Esther Breffka, Leila Owens, Maria Francisca Ferro de Gusmao, and William Fitter will be supporting the Team in a myriad of different projects such as the implementation of the National Coordination Hubs in India, Lebanon, and Bosnia and Herzegovina; development of the 8 online courses; the World Environment Day; ethics and spiritual values; development of publications; and more. This internship with the Initiative is an exclusive opportunity to students and recent graduates to dive into an active and growing programme at the UN Environment Programme.

We continue to encourage Faith-Based Organizations to get accredited to UNEP. With UNEA 5.2 coming up soon, please expect delays in responses.

**Accreditation to UN Environment Assembly** You can apply for accreditation using the [New Online Accreditation System](#) and gain 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, [the Guidelines](#), and submit your request accordingly.

### [Faith for Earth Newsletters](#)

Best wishes,

Iyad

[Faith4Earth Website](#)

Social Media Hashtag [#Faith4Earth](#)

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