



# FAITH FOR EARTH

NEWSLETTER  
10 JANUARY 2022

A NEW YEAR, CONTINUING CHALLENGES  
BUT MORE DETERMINED

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The Faith for Earth Team and all of UNEP wish you a bright and prosperous year ahead full of achievements and spiritual fulfilment. We start the year with hope and determination to continue the path we have chosen in mobilizing our collective efforts to serve the people and the planet.

As we continue facing the triple planetary crisis and struggle with Covid-19, this is more of a reason to step up our collective efforts. There is no time to waste and we should grab every opportunity to act. The planet is ailing, and the commitments we have seen in COP 26, with the exception of few positive developments, do not meet the expectations of the people, especially the young generation who will live with these challenges longer than us.

This year is a crucial year. Either we create a new trajectory towards winning the war for the planet, or we continue the war against her. Let's come together, join hands and actions and live, not only in harmony, but ethically with nature.

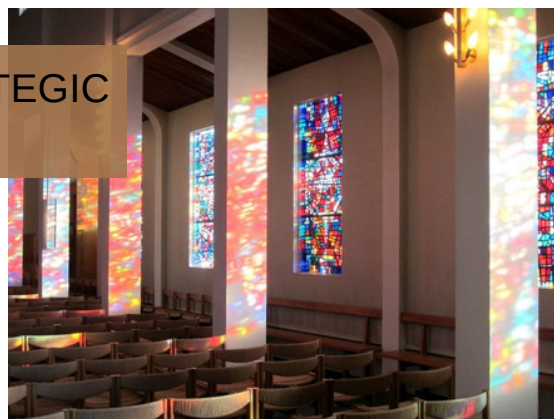
Iyad Abumoghli  
Director, UNEP Faith for Earth  
UN Environment Programme

## OUR SACRED COMMITMENT STRATEGIC MEETING - SKÁLHOLT III

Further to the [Skálholt III Meeting in Iceland on 12 and 13 October 2021](#), The Meeting included 100 faith-based organisations that are accredited to UNEA and who have submitted formal letters of interest to join the Faith for Earth Coalition towards advancing environmental governance at

UNEA by recognising the critical role that faith actors already play in driving action for the environment.

[Skálholt III Recommendations](#)



## In the News:

### LAUDATO SI' READER: AN ALLIANCE OF CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development published [a special e-book](#) about the various ways people have brought Laudato Si' to life over the last six years. This includes Faith for Earth's journey since 2017, inspired by Pope Francis' vision, the Dicastery, and the global Faith community.



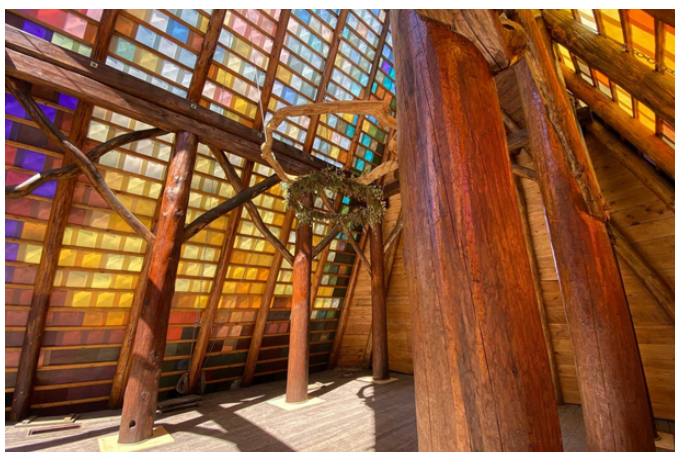
The UN Secretary General António Guterres refers to Laudato Si as an "important impetus" promoting peace, justice, equality, the dignity and worth of the human person through the Care of Our Common Home.

While Iyad Abumoghli, the Director of Faith for Earth reflects on how Laudato Si inspired Faith for Earth as a programme and the launch of Al-Mizan: Covenant for the Earth.

[Laudato Si Reader](#)

### FAITH GROUPS' WORK ON CLIMATE MUST CONTINUE AFTER COP26, SAYS UNEP OFFICIAL

The [piece](#) focuses on the mission of the [Faith for Earth Initiative](#), why UNEP sees the faith community as an important player in environmental issues, including climate change, the expectations for COP26, and the role faith institutions must play beyond it.



### FAITH ORGANIZATIONS: THE FOURTH ECONOMIC POWER ON EARTH

UNEP Director Iyad Abumoghli and activist and cartographer Molly Burhans speak of how engaging with faith institutions is not just necessary but can be immediately beneficial.

[Read more here.](#)

## Past Events:

### FAITH COMMUNITIES AFTER GLASGOW: AN INTERFAITH EXAMEN OF COP26

14 December 2021

During November 2021, governments, companies, and civil society groups came together for COP26 in multiple smaller groups to accelerate change to create a safe and sustainable future for all. This historic meeting, seen by many as the world's last best chance to reduce carbon emissions and commit to a socially just plan for adaptation, was also marked by increased participation and involvement of faith communities and religious leaders.

Faith is an important tool for spreading messages and bringing about change. It is undeniable that faith leaders should play a frontline role in mobilizing people to take action against environmental conflicts. This is why the focus of the world's faith communities cannot be limited to advocacy alone but also needs to include a communal response (i.e., behavioral change and sustainable communal activities, among others).

This webinar was held to discuss the experience of members from Ecojesuit at COP26 and its aftermath.



30 November 2021



UNEP's Faith for Earth Initiative in a webinar hosted by Rowan University College of Humanities and Social Sciences took the opportunity to introduce Rowan University's staff and students to an innovative approach for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially those linked to nature and climate.

The session was conducted by the Faith for Earth's team, each addressing a different topic of concern:

- Dr. Iyad Abumoghli, about Faith for Earth, strategy, achievements, and the coalition.
- Euan McCartney, about Faith and the role of ethics on environmental governance.
- Azmaira Alibhai, on the relationship between Faith and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.



## MAKING CITIES RESILIENT 2030 (MCR2030)

25 November 2021

Resilient urban living spaces is essential. By 2050, 66% of the world’s population is expected to reside in urban areas. Consequently, to mitigate climate change and guarantee a safe and prosperous future for all, cities need to be sustainable, efficient, and smart, this working in tandem for the people and the environment.

The webinar addressed the urgent need for effective multi-stakeholder relationships to accelerate the progress of resilience building at the local level, to bring cities on to the resilience pathway towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, among other environmental action agreements focusing on disaster reduction and urban planning.

The influence of faith actors, within cities and their dwellers, remains untapped despite the fact, that, on a global scale, religious institutions own around 8% of habitable land and more than 50% of educational institutions. Thus, to support the effective implementation of global frameworks at all levels, there is a need for substantive engagement and collaboration between all stakeholders to reach the most at-risk communities to effectively engage on climate change adaptation activities.



## VALUE EDUCATION OLYMPIAD (VEO)

November 22

ISKCON took the initiative, as a Faith for Earth Councilor, of conducting the Value Education Olympiad to share with students of the upcoming generation the importance of putting Values over validation and morals over material.

The goal of the Value Education Olympiad is to empower students with strong value systems that guide them in decision-making and to use their knowledge and skills for betterment of society and the environment.

The Olympiad involved 2,300,000 Students from 20,300 Schools in 15 Countries.

**FREE OF CHARGE**  
E-Certificate Will Be Provided

# ISLAM ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

**TOPIC:**  
INSIGHT ON SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICING IS THE WAY OF LIFE IN ISLAM.

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
Times: 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm  
Venue: Facebook Live and Zoom Meeting  
(Link will be given via e-mail)

**PRESENTER:**  
Dr. Iyad Abumoghli

**MODERATOR:**  
Ir. Nurul Huda binti Mat Nor  
(President of MEPS)

**PRESENTATION OUTLINE:**

- Understanding what is sustainability practice.
- What is faith-based organization?
- Why environmentalism is deeply embedded in the veins of Islam?
- What is Al-Mizan in sustainability?
- How we could contribute towards SDG17?

**DR. IYAD'S BACKGROUND:**

- Ph. D in Biochemical Engineering from University of Bath, UK
- Working as Senior Principal Advisor at UN Environment for 4 years 3 months
- Thirty two years of experience with the private sector, scientific and international organizations

**TARGET PARTICIPANTS:**

- Environmental practitioners
- Lecturers
- Students/ Fresh graduates
- Anyone interested

**Register Here!**

For any enquiries, please contact:  
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Malaysian Environmental Professional Practitioner Society - MEPS  
meps.official@gmail.com

## ISLAM, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

28 October 2021

The Malaysian Environmental Professional Practitioners Society (MEPS) is a non-governmental organisation registered with the Malaysian Government to unite environmental practitioners and promote environmental and sustainability related programs.

During this session, Dr. Iyad Abumoghli shared insights on living sustainable lifestyles as an expression of Islam.

October 18

The Green Hope Foundation hosted a session at the Virtual Parliament of the World's Religions on the theme "Humanity and Mother Earth - Recovering Better through a Compassionate Lens". This panel brought together an inter-generational set of speakers to present a multidimensional perspective on rebuilding better post-COVID through a compassionate lens.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic have disproportionately affected young people, especially those from already vulnerable populations. It has exposed the glaring inadequacies of our infrastructure in terms of healthcare and our socio-economic systems

Consequently, the recovery process presents us with a unique opportunity to build forward better and restore the balance between humanity and Earth. One of the greatest challenges ahead is how the recovery process should address the global climate crisis in order to create a viable future for the coming generations!

## HUMANITY AND MOTHER EARTH



October

## AL-MIZAN: A COVENANT FOR THE EARTH

The Core Team of [Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth](#) hosted a session at the Virtual Parliament of the World's Religions on the principles of the Covenant.

**Dr. Iyad Abumoghli** addressed the triple planetary crisis and why Faith for Earth is working on the Covenant. **Sidi Fazlun Khalid** provided viewers with a glimpse into the recent past outlining our deteriorating relationship with nature calling for a reassessment our relationship with the natural world drawing from the Quran and the teachings of the Prophet. **Aishah Abdallah** outlined a core principle for environmental action: "Al-Mizan/Tawheed" emphasizing humanity's responsibility over the earth- that it is a responsibility, not a privilege.



**Sidi Othman Llewellyn** shared the value of a faith-based approach for environmental action and **Datuk Azizan Baharuddin** spoke about compassion for People & the Planet, linking respect for our fellow brother/sister and respect for all sentient beings

Even though the Covenant draws from the Quran, the Team hopes that it inspires a global movement for environment action during the Decade of Action regardless of religion.

## FROM THE JORDAN TO GANGA: THE POWER OF FAITH TO PROTECT OUR RIVERS

October

Water scarcity already affects every continent and is one of the most serious problems facing our planet today. By the year 2040, the UN estimates that the world will have half the drinking that it needs, and India is on track to be there by 2030 increasing the number of refugees around the world.

This webinar highlighted faith leaders as critical change-makers in their unique ability to shape the way that people think, and subsequently, the way people behave.

The time is now to harness the power of their impact and influence on faith communities to come together for a water-safe future. This panel focused on the protection of water and will engage the leaders on topics around cleaning the sacred rivers of our world, including both the Jordan and the Ganga to discuss leanings, experiences, best practices and how together we can catalyze a global movement for water.

