

FAITH FOR EARTH



**Faith for Earth Updates**  
**May 24, 2019**



Dear Sisters and Brothers;

First of all a warm welcome to the new members of the [Faith for Earth](#) Network. As you know, you can always choose to unsubscribe.

## **World Environment Day**

A million thank you for all those who have shared with me what their organizations are doing for the [World Environment Day](#). Extended gratitude to those who have registered their activities [online](#). We have created a special page as a [Faith-based guide](#) with simple steps for FBOs and faith followers to adopt when celebrating WED. More content will be added, especially on Eid Al-Fiter as WED coincides on the same day. WED celebrations do not have to be on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June only, but anytime around that date. At the end of this email, I am listing all those who have shared with me their activities.

## **UN-Habitat Assembly and Interfaith Dialogue**

As part of the first [UN-Habitat Assembly](#) that will be held in Nairobi – Kenya during the period 27-31 May 2019, the Faith for Earth Initiative is supporting UN-Habitat, in partnership with Member States and Jamia Mosque Committee, in hosting the first Interfaith Dialogue on 27 and 29 May 2019. The Interfaith Dialogue series will provide an inclusive platform where people from around the world attending the UN-Habitat Assembly can share their experiences and offer their perspectives on interfaith issues to assist UN-Habitat develop its roadmap on engaging with Faith-based organizations and faith leaders.

## **Abrahamic Traditions and Environmental Change**

Faith for Earth will be participating in the workshop on [Abrahamic Traditions and Environmental Change](#) that will be held 23-26 June in Rhodes-Greece. The aim of the workshop is to look for a means through which the three Abrahamic faiths can help understand and counteract contemporary environmental change in the MENA region. The workshop is being organized

by the University of Connecticut Abrahamic Programs, Al Akhawayn University of Morocco and the Forum for Religion and Ecology at Yale.

## **International Conference on the 4th Anniversary of Laudato Si' and 5th Anniversary of CYNESA**

Faith for Earth is partnering with the Vatican's [Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#) and the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa ([CYNESA](#)) will be holding the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Laudato Si at UN Environment premises in Nairobi 15-16 July 2019. The title of this year's conference will be Laudato Si Generation: Young People Caring for our Common Home.

### **Leading with Ethics in Achieving the SDGs**

As part of our UN Interagency collaboration, I will be representing Faith for Earth in working with UNITAR, over the next six months, to produce some video series to be used in its training and capacity building on [Leading with Ethics in Achieving the SDGs](#).

### **Synthesis Report**

I am delighted to write to you and share the promised **Faith for Earth** Dialogue Synthesis Report ([Download Here](#)). The report highlights the key messages of the presentations that were made at the Dialogue sessions and also rearrange them according to the most strategic priority areas that we discussed during the dialogue. I hope you will find the report useful. Please feel free to share it with your networks.

### **Mailing List**

You will have noticed that I am using a mailing list" [unenvironment-faith4earth@lists.un.org](mailto:unenvironment-faith4earth@lists.un.org)". This is a better way of sending emails to our 700+ network members without being backlisted by internet providers and will allow you the option to unsubscribe should you wish to do so. Kindly note that I am the sole person who can use this email address and none other will be able to send mass emails using it.

### **International Partnership on Religions and Sustainable Development (PaRD)**

PaRD General Assembly was held between the period 1-3 May 2019 in Copenhagen where more than 105 Faith-based organizations attended along

with member governments and some intergovernmental organizations. While the general assembly was a great success discussing issues of health, peace and gender, the highlight to me was the creation of a working group on Environment, Water and Climate Action. Around 40 FBOs, who were in Copenhagen, have requested to be members of this working group. If you are interested to join this working group, you need to apply for a membership in PaRD. If you already are a PaRD member, but you want to be a member in the working group, please send me a note and I will communicate with the co-chairs. Please visit PaRD website for more information on memberships. <http://www.partner-religion-development.org/>

## **Kofi Annan Faith Briefings at the High Level Political Forum**

On the margins of the High Level Political Forum HLPF that will be held in New York during the period 7-17 July 2019, the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development (comprised of 20 UN agencies) and the UN Multi-Faith Advisory Council (AC) (comprised of 34 CEOs of FBOs) will be holding the "**ANNUAL KOFI ANNAN FAITH BRIEFINGS**" - **Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality**: The Role of UN and Multi Faith Collaboration on July 15 2019 in New York.

The briefings will address Partnerships, Gender, Children and Climate Action. The **Faith for Earth Initiative** will be organizing the part on Climate Change and has already invited distinguished members of our network, who are also council members of the Advisory Council, to be speakers at the briefing. Sessions of the Kofi Annan Briefings will focus on sharing best practices and success stories on interfaith and interagency programme and initiatives highlighting that "*Faith works when we work together*".

If you are in New York, or planning to be for the HLPF, kindly let me know to ensure that you will get an invitation to attend and participate in the briefing.

## **Climate Change Webinar**

The Joint Learning Initiative JLI is organizing a series of online webinars addressing Climate Action. The next webinar will be on May 21, 2019 9:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada). I am delighted that I will be a speaker talking about the **Faith for Earth** Dialogue and interfaith Climate Action Efforts. Other speakers include Father Fletcher Harper, Green Faith and Leo Dee, Interfaith Sustain. If you are interested to participate in this webinar, please register at <https://jliflc.com/events/inter-faith-climate-programs/>

## **Organizations who have indicated organizing events to celebrate the WED 2019**

Brahma Kumaris (300 centers in India are celebrating) along with Denmark and other centers globally.

Bahu Trust activities in London.

URI in Africa and globally.

All Africa Council of Churches (AACC)

Eden Stewards - Kenya, Inter-religious council of Kenya, Mathare North Seventh Day Adventist Church. Wangari Matthai institute, Sant Nirkari Charitable Foundation, Kiserian and Ongata Rongai Residents Association (KORRA), Mother Earth network, Nairobi Chapel

Green Anglicans – South Africa.

The Sacred Ecology Forum, the Bhumi Project (Hindu), The Bhakti Center, Global Peace Initiative of Women, and the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary.

Islamic Platform Society, SDDC-Nigeria.

Best wishes

Iyad

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