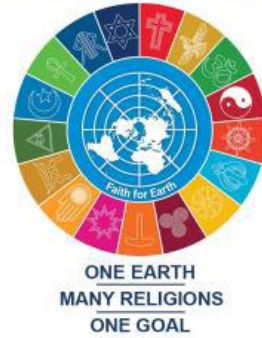
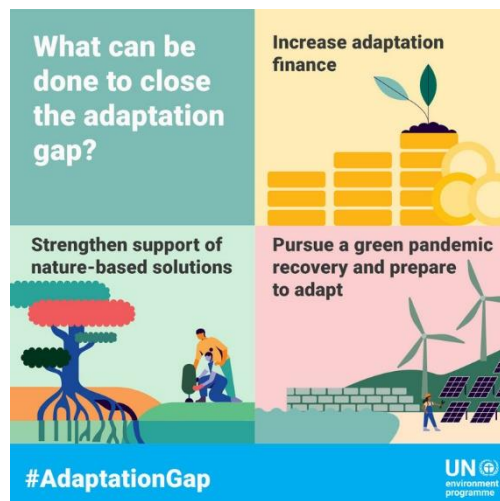


FAITH FOR EARTH



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We cannot believe that the first month of 2021 is already over. Time is flying, but also time is passing without real action on the planetary crises we are facing. We need bold, extraordinary and non-conventional actions by governments and all stakeholders alike. Adjusting the relationship between the People and the Planet requires adjusting the understanding of our liability towards the Earth. Faith for Earth focuses on highlighting the ethical, moral and spiritual responsibility that individuals and groups hold as duty bearers. The role of religious actors is essential to restore harmony to the unbalanced relationship.



[UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2020](#)

The [UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2020](#) highlights the benefits of Nature-Based Solutions that were the focus of our [Faith for Nature Conference](#) held in October 2020:

*“Additional benefits can include environmental benefits (such as carbon sequestration and storage and biodiversity conservation) and socioeconomic benefits such as the provision of food, marketable products, jobs and livelihoods, improved health, and **support for cultural and religious values**. Most of these benefits can be especially important for women and for poor and marginalized people”.*

The AGP report highlights financing inequalities and stresses the need to provide adequate funding for Indigenous People: This means ensuring that financing mechanisms reach the full range of NbS cost-bearers and implementers, including youth, women, **indigenous peoples and local communities**. The role of these key groups as innovators and implementers of NbS should be fully considered when designing and implementing financing mechanisms.

**SDGs
through the
lens of
VALUES**

Wednesday,
3rd Feb. 2021

4.30 – 6.00 PM CET
6.30 – 8.00 PM EAT
9.00 – 10.30 PM IST

organised by Brahma Kumaris

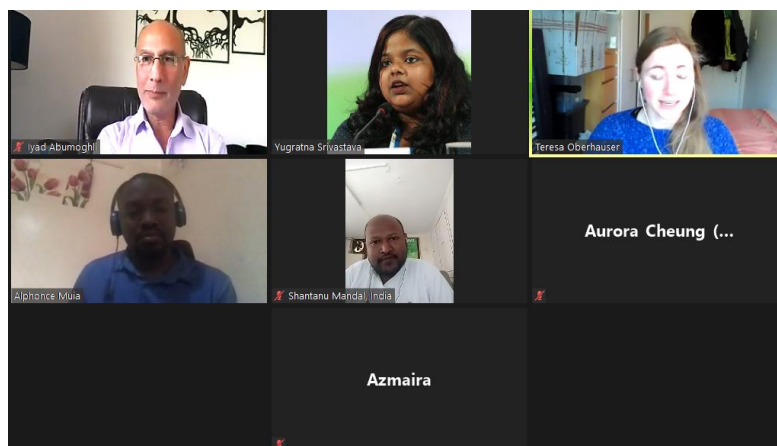
Meet **Dr Iyad Abumoghli**
Principal Advisor, Strategic
Engagement with Faith-based
Organizations, UNEP

Join: <http://tiny.cc/bkunea5>

[Sustainable Development Goals through the Lens of Values](#)

Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative have organised an interactive online webinar on **3 February 2021 (18.30-20.00 AET)**. Faith for Earth have been invited to speak about the Sustainable Development Goals, the universal values upon which the Initiative operates to promote environmental stewardship, and the particular importance of engaging youth groups.

For more about this event, visit: <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/online-event/sustainable-development-goals-through-lens-values>.



[Global Youth Environment Assembly: Faith for Earth and the Youth Constituency](#)

On 28 January 2021, Faith for Earth met with Yugratna Srivastava and Teresa Oberhauser, co-chairs of the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP, and Alphonse Muya and Shantanu Mandal, the Thematic Facilitators for Environment and Faith-Based Engagement. The meeting sought to explore avenues for collaboration between Faith for Earth and the Youth Constituency. The Youth Constituency will hold a youth-led Global [Youth Environment Assembly](#) (YEA) from 12-13 February 2021 and 18-20 February 2021.

Faith for Earth is committed to working closely with the Youth Constituency, and on 12 February 2021, will promote the need and avenues for concerted youth-led efforts to drive environmental stewardship at all levels in their faith communities, and in tandem with other faith communities. In the long-term, Faith for Earth seeks to coordinate with the Children and Youth Major Group for their active participation in the Faith for Earth Coalition Youth Council, and will convene a meeting in March 2021 to coordinate efforts by the leads of the Youth Councils in the UK and in Canada.



[The Faith for Earth Coalition: Brainstorming Session to Mobilise Resources](#)

Faith for Earth Initiative has been working on establishing a *global* Faith for Earth Coalition that will transition the Initiative, and its engagement, to higher levels by building a global multi-faith coalition for the environment. Over the past year or so, Faith for Earth has been working on the concept and structural documents for the Coalition. At the [Faith for Nature Conference](#), held in conjunction with the Government of Iceland from 5-8 October 2020, hundreds of participants and faith leaders indicated their support in “[Our Sacred Commitment](#)”.

On 26 January 2021, Faith for Earth hosted a brainstorming session to identify priority areas, priority actions and funding opportunities from traditional and non-traditional donors to finance the activities of the Coalition, and support implementing partners. Crowdfunding will attract committed donors but also will provide a platform for small organizations that otherwise have little chance in securing funds for their essential contributions. As a result, participants sought a need to jointly prepare proposals with a focused programme to secure funds from potential non-conventional sponsors. Participants of the meeting who are members of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council (MFAC) to the UN Interreligious Task Force on Religion and Development were requested to facilitate a session to discuss the Coalition and the role of MFAC in contributing to its launch at UNEA 5.2.

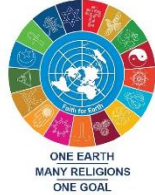


[Online Learning in Collaboration with King Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz International Center for Interfaith Dialogue \(KAICIID\)](#)

Focusing on the relationship between religions and spiritual beliefs and the environment, Faith for Earth in collaboration with KAICIID, will produce eight online modules that correspond to eight critical thematic areas on:

- Climate Change;
- Water Issues;
- Environmental Governance;
- Financing Sustainable Development;
- Ecosystem Restoration;
- Chemicals and Hazardous Waste Pollution
- Environmental Security; and
- Sustainable Lifestyles.

The modules are being designed to correspond to and support the priority areas outlined in UNEP’s Programme of Work. These online learning modules seek to leverage the unique capacities of FBOs and direct them towards environmental challenges that require urgent action. The first module “Faith for Earth: A Time for Action” will be coming soon and will demonstrate how partnerships with faith-based organisations can achieve the SDGs in the context of climate change by addressing environmental challenges.



Faith for Earth National Coordination Hubs: India; Lebanon; Bosnia & Herzegovina

Faith for Earth Initiative (UNEP) and United Religions Initiative (URI) have signed a global MOU to develop and launch National Faith for Earth Coordination Hubs in India, Lebanon, and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2021. This partnership, along with key local entities, endeavors to educate and equip Faith Leaders and community members to respond quickly and effectively to the climate crisis, and to train a select group of faith leaders who will serve as Faith for Earth Councilors at their localities. The goal of this project is to engage Faith Leaders and their institutions, initially in the three countries, to prioritize environmental concerns and to act. This will be through a well-defined process of increasing awareness, building the capacity of Faith Leaders, and supporting plans that affect behavioral change towards the Earth.



Confucian and Daoist Resources from the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology

In honor of the Chinese Lunar New Year, our knowledge partner, the Yale Forum celebrates the contributions of voices from within the Confucian and Daoist traditions, past and present, that inspire environmental protection. Explore the [Daoism](#) and [Confucianism](#) listings of the Yale Forum website to find:

- Selections of [Daoist writings that relate to ecological consciousness](#)
- An introduction to [Daoism and Ecology](#) by Dr. James Miller of Duke Kunshan University
- The [Daoist Faith Statement](#) authored by The China Daoist Association, the leading body representing all Daoists in mainland China
- The Harvard volume on [Daoism and Ecology](#) edited by N. J. Girardot, James Miller, and Liu Xiaogan
- Selections of [Confucian writings that relate to Earth and environment](#)
- Writings on [Confucian Environmental Virtue Ethics](#) by Dr. Yong Huang of The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- A [curated video playlist](#) that features noted Confucian scholar Tu Weiming
- The Harvard volume on [Confucianism and Ecology](#) edited by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Berthrong



[A Strong Start to the Year by the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative \(IRI\)](#)

Our colleagues at UNEP's Interfaith Rainforest Initiative (IRI) have continued to make amazing achievements. To subscribe to their rich newsletter, kindly visit [Interfaith Rainforest Initiative](#) and sign up at the bottom of the page.

In the past few weeks, IRI briefed Peru's President **on their work and the moral responsibility to protect rainforests focusing on COVID 19** as a result of the destruction of forests and nature (and that forest protection should be considered a public health measure). **IRI Indonesia produced resource guides and religious teaching books from different religions' perspectives covering** the science of forests, climate change, biodiversity, sustainable development and the rights of indigenous peoples. Access them on Islam – ([here](#)) and ([here](#)), Buddhism ([here](#)) and ([here](#)), Hindu ([here](#)) and ([here](#)), Catholic ([here](#)) and ([here](#)), and Confucian ([here](#)) and ([here](#)).

Also see IRI Indonesia [video](#) of religious leaders discussing moral responsibility to protect forests, and a new animation video on IRI Peru [here](#). While in IRI Colombia planning is underway with IRI local chapter coordinators, planning on public hearings for government officials to assess action on forest protection and has scheduled High-level meetings and much more.



[Online Global Major Groups and Stakeholders \(GMGSF\) prior to the first session of UNEA 5](#)

Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) Accredited to UNEP, under the lead of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC) will be organizing consultations prior to the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP. The consultation will take place on 9-11 February. This will be followed by the meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR, February 15-16, 2021) and the first session of UNEA 5 (February 22-23, 2021). UNEA 5.1 discussions will focus on the following:

1. UNEP Mid-Term Strategy
2. UNEP Program of Work
3. UNEP @ 50
4. Stockholm + 50
5. Main messages from MGS to UNEA

Interested accredited and non-accredited organisations are invited to view the [draft agenda of the GMGSF](#).

Register: <https://indico.un.org/event/1000068/>

We continue to encourage Faith-Based Organizations to get accredited to UNEP. With UNEA 5 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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