



Faith for Earth Coalition Achievement Report 2023

Message from the Director of the Coalition

As we reflect upon the past year, it is evident that the Faith for Earth Coalition has flourished, achieving remarkable milestones that underscore the pivotal role of faith in fostering sustainability and ecological harmony. At the forefront of these achievements stands the inaugural Confluence of Conscience Summit, a gathering of high-level faith leaders from diverse traditions, convened under the auspices of the Muslim Council of Elders Faith for Earth. This historic summit served as a catalyst for transformative dialogue, igniting discussions on pressing environmental issues and forging collaborative pathways towards tangible action.

Central to our endeavors was holding the Faith Pavilion, a groundbreaking moment that provided a dedicated space within COP28 for faith-based organizations to converge, collaborate, and amplify their voices. The Faith Pavilion emerged as a nexus of innovation and advocacy, showcasing the rich diversity of faith-inspired initiatives driving positive change across the globe. From grassroots initiatives to global campaigns, the Pavilion served as a testament to the power of faith in mobilizing communities and catalyzing environmental action at every level. This wouldn't have been a remarkable

success without the support of more than 50 organizations contributing in different ways.

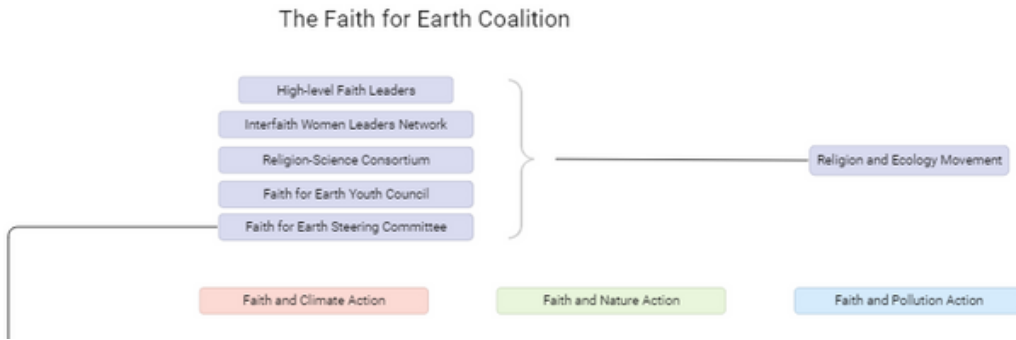
Furthermore, the remarkable increase in the number of accredited faith-based organizations to UNEP underscores the growing recognition of faith communities as indispensable allies in the pursuit of sustainable development.

With each new addition, the global Coalition of faith actor expands. It enriches our collective capacity to address complex environmental challenges and advance the principles of stewardship, justice, and solidarity.

As we embark on the journey ahead, let us draw inspiration from the achievements of 2023, leveraging the transformative potential of faith to safeguard our planet for generations to come. Together, guided by shared values and a shared vision, we can forge a future where harmony between humanity and nature thrives, nurtured by the timeless wisdom and boundless compassion of faith.

Dr. Iyad Abumoghli,
Director, Faith for Earth Coalition

Our priorities



With the activation of its different councils, the 'Initiative' transitioned into a 'Coalition' recognising the need for greater synergy amongst the network of faith actors by acknowledging the diverse needs of groups i.e. high-level faith leaders, faith-based organisations, young faith leaders, and in coordinating the work of the Interfaith Thematic Working Groups.

The Faith for Earth Coalition continues to work towards the interconnected crises with a focus on interfaith dialogue and action under the portfolios on:

- Faith and Climate Action;
- Faith and Nature Action; and
- Faith and Pollution Action.

Faith for Earth offers its platform as a mechanism for the continuous engagement of faith actors on the environment. This approach for institutional engagement leverages on good practices by faith leaders, FBOs, and communities seeking to drive ambitious policy and action.

This programmatic report provides an insight on the Faith for Earth's activities, partnerships, and publications for the year 2023.

Download

Faith for Earth: Achievement Report

2018/19

2020

2021/22

2023

Connect with us



What do we share through the [Faith for Earth Newsletter](#) and other social media platforms?

- Past and Upcoming events;
- Opportunities to engage with us under the interfaith thematic working groups;
- Publication announcements, including best practice guides, information notes, and others;
- News relating to internationally recognized days such as World Environment Day, International Day for Biological Diversity, and others;
- Key updates of UNEP generally.

A commitment to Young Professionals

The [United Nations Internship Programme](#) is a premier opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of the day-to-day working environment of the United Nations, work with experienced and inspiring career professionals and senior management, high-profile conferences, participate in meetings, and contribute to analytical work as well as organizational policy of the United Nations.



At Faith for Earth, interns are part of a dynamic and innovative team working on the nexus between environment, science, policy, and faith values and ethics.

Under the supervision and guidance of the Director of the Faith for Earth Coalition, interns have supported:

- Faith for Earth's integration in the UNEP's strategic frameworks like the Medium-term Strategy (MTS);
- Supported planning of the High-level Leaders Meeting; facilitation of the Faith for Earth Youth Council; and design of the Interfaith Women's Council;
- Supported the coordination of the portfolio or work on Faith and Climate Action - including the Faith Pavilion at COP28 - Faith and Nature Action; Faith and Pollution Action; sustainable consumption and production; culture and sustainable development;
- Joined efforts towards the planning of the World Environment Day, the UNFCCC COP, CBD COP, INC, and more;

Faith for Earth releases a yearly call for interns in Q1 - through our [newsletter](#) and [via Inspira](#).

An Interagency Approach: Interreligious Engagement



The UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development (UN IATF-R) brings together 27 UN entities from across the UN system that meet on a regular basis, and co-organize joint advocacy and capacity-building activities.

- Read the [Annual Reports](#) of the UN IATF-R.



Faith for Earth has been engaged in the implementation of [IPCSD's Strategic Goals](#), and in particular in contribution to the [Culture for Climate Action](#) thematic group, with UNESCO and UNFCCC in the areas of Sustainable consumption and production patterns and civil society-led action.

Accreditation and the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Major Groups and Stakeholders are critical in ensuring that civil society is engaged in the preparation of the Assembly, and the Assembly itself.

Through the Civil Society Unit, Governance Affairs Office, UNEP ensures that there is “transparency and inclusiveness in the intergovernmental decision-making process at UNEP” - This is why civil society matters.

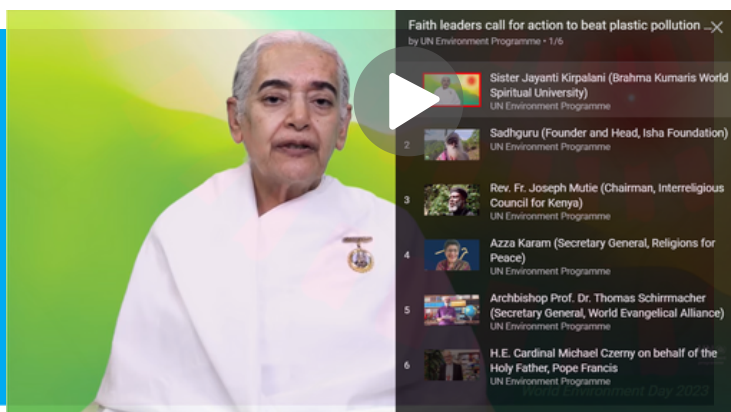
Through the Faith for Earth Steering Committee, the Coalition aims to **convene and coordinate** a growing number of accredited faith-based organisations in preparation of the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (26 February - 1 March 2024). #UNEA6 #Multilateralism

Inspiring Faith, Hope, and Transformative Action to Accelerate Progress Towards the SDGs was a high-Level event organized by the Trilateral Partnership of Regional Faith-Based Networks for the SDGs, scheduled during the September 2023 SDG Summit. Faith for Earth addressed the need for "Strengthening Resilience through Collaborative Climate Initiatives: UNEP and Faith-Based Organizations' Joint Efforts" noting the need for the network to synergize with each actor leveraging their respective strengths to advance the Movement.

World Environment Day

Faiths have the Solution to #BeatPlasticPollution this World Environment Day

5 June 2023
Côte d'Ivoire



Overview

3 actions for faith actors

Inspired to #BeatPlasticPollution

Be engaged

Joining the 2023 global campaign no #BeatPlasticPollution meant increasing public awareness; encouraging transformative action on plastic pollution; and building and nurturing effective coalitions for future global environmental campaigns.

Faith for Earth shared 3 actions that faiths can take to #BeatPlasticPollution; drew support from faith leadership including Sister Jayanti, Sadhguru, Arch. Prof. Thomas Schirmacher, Rev. Fr. Joseph Mutie, Prof. Azza Karam, and H.E. Card. Michael Czerny on behalf of the Holy Father Pope Francis; and makes available the Interfaith Working Group on Pollution.

Accreditation to UNEA

- What is UNEA?
- Responsibilities of an accredited organisation
- Who is responsible?
- List of accredited organisations
- What you need to gain accreditation.

Sustainable Lifestyles

Religion, values, and ethics shape lifestyles - from what believers eat, wear, and how they interact with one another. This includes an understanding of the relationship with the earth, and its the treatment.

In 2023, the Coalition has shared these perspectives to positively influence individuals, institutions, and leaders. Here are some of the ways:

- Global Tolerance & Human Fraternity Summit and the [Zayed Award for Human Fraternity](#) on 4 February 2023
- Mindfulness for Earth for Higher Education
 - [UNEP, UCONN, the Center for Advance Learning for Mindfulness, and Mindfulness for the Earth](#) hosted Mindfulness for Earth: Charting a Path for Higher Education Plenary on 6 March 2023. [Read the report.](#)
 - On 2 December at the Faith Pavilion at COP28, this group launched its new name '[Mindfulness, Spirituality and Planetary Health Initiative](#)'.
- [Partnership](#) with the Global Theological Union (GTU)
 - [Faith and Sustainable Lifestyles - Part 1](#)
 - [Faith and Sustainable Lifestyles - Part 2](#)
 - "We are calling on everyone – countries, cities, the private sector, individuals, and faith-based organizations – to engage with the Coalition for integrating faith, values, and ethics, as well as the incredible social and economic power of faiths in global environmental policies..." said Dr. Iyad.
 - [Faith and Sustainable Lifestyles Online Course \(Certificate\)](#)
- Podcast [The Role of Faith-Inspired Giving and Faith-Based Organisations to Restore Nature](#) with Amaly
- [Believing in change: Faith and the mission to protect our planet](#) by earthrise
- Storytelling through [Global Voices on the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development](#) by the International Partnership on Religion and Development

Calls to People of Faith to Protect our Planet

Faith leadership, like His Holiness Pope Francis continues to lead by example making an effort to deliver the need to protect the planet to the consciousness of billions of faithful worldwide.

In many ways, the development of Al-Mizan: A Covenant of the Earth echos this clear call to action drawing inspiration and perspective from a diverse range of Islamic traditions.

- [Laudato Si': Care for Our Common Home](#) and [Laudato Deum: To All People of Good Will on the Climate Crises](#)
 - Book Launch: [Qur'anic Ecology and Resonances with Laudato Si'](#) by the Laudato Si' Research Institute (LSRI) and Faith for Earth Coalition
- [Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth](#)
 - Podcast [Faith-Fueled Action for the Earth: The UNEP Initiative](#) with Dr. Iyad Abumoghli
 - All [news and updates](#)

Faith & Climate Action

2023 was a major year for the Movement, and the Coalition demonstrated its leadership in convening the Interfaith Working Group on Climate Change towards the UNFCCC COP28.

It was a three-part process consisting of:

Pre-COP Thematic Consultations

A series of [10 thematic consultations](#) with UNEP experts, FBO practitioners, and members of civil society for a whole-of-society approach. This process aimed to take stock of the network's engagement on climate-related priorities, facilitate peer-to-peer learning, and promote capacity-building efforts.

The Global Faith Leaders' Summit: Confluence of Conscience: Uniting Leaders for Planetary Resurgence

28 faith leaders and more than 200 participants representing youth, women, scientists, academia and politicians came together from 6-7 November 2023 at the 'Confluence of Conscience: Uniting for Planetary Resurgence' to sign the ['The Abu Dhabi Interfaith Statement for COP28'](#).

These commitments reflected the importance of strategies to enhance the role of religious leaders and symbols in contributing toward achieving climate justice. [Read the 10 main points under the Statement.](#) [Pope Francis and Grand Imam of Al-Azhar signed the Interfaith Statement](#) in support of urgent climate action.

Faith Pavilion

The first ever [Faith Pavilion](#) at a World Climate Conference was hosted by the Muslim Council of Elders in collaboration with the COP28 Presidency, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Faith for Earth Coalition, and a diverse coalition under the Interfaith Working Group on Climate Change including the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, the Episcopal Diocese of California, the Peace Department, the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD), and over 50 faith organizations.

The Faith Pavilion recognised the importance of faith actors in shifting the needle on climate actions providing a unique opportunity for dialogue, capacity building, information sharing, and engagement with key stakeholders including civil society actors, negotiators, and political decision makers. [Read the Evaluation Report.](#)



The Moral Imperative towards Children

Offering insights since the launch of [Climate-Responsible Finance: A Moral Imperative towards Children](#) and [appeal](#) in 2022, and the [Faith & Science](#) appeal in 2021 that included the commitment “to move away from investments in fossil fuels and toward investments in renewable energy(..)”, [World Council of Churches](#), [UNEP](#), [Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities](#), and the [Laudato Si Movement](#) invited leaders and decision-makers, Child rights specialists, Young people, Finance specialists, Faith-based actors, Secular partners to a session unlocking successful methods for climate-responsible finance.

The Director of the Law Division remarked “Since the launch of this appeal, we have seen incredible progress made towards the goal of climate-responsible finance. Faith leaders, investors, and financial institutions have come together to create new initiatives, programs, and policies that prioritize sustainable and responsible investment practices.” However, there is still much work to be done.

Other climate action-related activities:

- 2023 Africa Regional Workshop for Environment, Climate, and Resilience hosted by the Swedish Mission Council (SMC), Lakarmissionen (LM) and Kenya4Resilience (K4R) to build capacity of grassroots member organisations, increase networking, programming, and advocacy related to Biodiversity, Climate Justice and Disaster Risk Reduction/Resilience. Faith for Earth shared further information about the Interfaith Working Group on Climate Change as the principle mechanism for engagement.
- Faith Action on the UN SDGs launched a Climate Action supplement focusing on SDG 13. It [features six projects](#) that prioritise interreligious collaboration.
- [Faith and the Future: Empowering Sustainability through the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) by the Laudato Si’ Movement. Dr. Iyad articulated the inclusion of spiritual values in the new development paradigm, weaving together wisdom from Jewish, Islamic, and Christian traditions. These spiritual values, including stewardship of the Earth, justice, equity, and caring for future generations, mirror the ethical and moral principles embedded in FFNPT.
- [From Grassroots to the UN – The Role of Faith in Climate Action](#) (Article)
- [Faith communities are rallying to check climate change – their size and influence counts](#) (Article)
- [COP Drop by Faiths for Biodiversity](#) featuring Azmaira.

Share your Project

[Faith Action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) is an open repository for the excellent projects, initiatives, and partnerships by faith actors worldwide.



[Submit a Project](#)

Faith & Nature Action

Restoration and Conservation

Committed to the implementation of the [#GenerationRestoration](#), and the strategy document: [Mainstreaming Faith-based Engagement under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#), the Coalition and WWFs Beliefs and Values Programme launched:

- [Tree Growing for Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration: A Guide for Faith-based Actors with Trillion Trees](#)
- [Case Studies of restoration efforts in Kenya and Tanzania](#)
- [Faith groups help to save disappearing forests](#) (Story)

An exploration of [Restor](#), a geo-mapping platform, with the [Communion Forest](#) sought to understand the challenges that grassroots implementers face while carrying out their activities, including relating to monitoring best practice.

Critical resources under the UN Decade include: [10 Principles for Ecosystem Restoration](#); [Community Organizing Toolkit on Ecosystem Restoration](#); and other [publications](#).

Biodiversity

The Coalition was pleased to support Faiths for Biodiversity in convening [Earth restored: joining hands with faith-based organizations to implement the KMGBF](#) organised at the twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 25) on 15–19 October 2023.

At the event, a [primer](#) on Faith and Biodiversity highlighting how faith groups can work towards the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) was launched, and was [further discussed at the Faith Pavilion](#). [Follow this conversation on X](#).

Food Systems Transformation

Iyad Abumoghli (UNEP), Laura De Matteis (FAO), Lina Mahy (WHO), Oliver Oliveros (Agroecology Coalition), Tina Cambiaghi (International Land Coalition/IFAD), convened by the [Faith & Food Coalition](#) took stock of the progress made after the Food Systems Summit in 2021, ahead of the [UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment](#).

Policymakers and International leaders [shared their insights](#), but the series placed an emphasis on the need for faith communities and grassroots actors to voice their support and engage for transformative and just food systems.

The UN Water Conference 2023

Representatives of faith-based organisations worked on [Water & Health](#) as a thematic priority. WCC EWN's leadership in supporting the [Water Justice Manifesto](#) enabled the network to engage further with civil society, especially Indigenous Peoples.

In March 2023, the Faith For Earth Coalition co-hosted with WCC EWN, PaRD, and WEA SC an [Interfaith networking event](#) ahead of the [UN Water Conference 2023](#) recognising that multiple partners were present. Commitments to the Water Action Agenda were made by at least six partners. [Have a look at the resource page](#).

Other resources

- [Faith and Water Online Course](#) (Certificate)
- Faith Action on the UN SDGs [Clean Water and Sanitation](#) supplement.

Faith & Pollution Action

Following the adoption of UNEA Resolution 5/14 entitled "[End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument](#)", the Interfaith Working Group on Pollution has been following the INC process, having attended the first three sessions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC). Watch this lecture on [the strategic role of faith actors](#), in partnership with GTUx.

70 representatives of FBOs added their voice to the statement '[Stop plastic pollution and restore our world: Faith communities call on UNEA 5.2 to agree to negotiate an ambitious, legally binding Treaty to tackle plastic pollution](#)' and published a Catalogue demonstrating global related projects.

[Beyond Formal Law: The Role of Ethics, Beliefs and Values in Amplifying Action against Plastic Pollution in Africa](#) was organised in partnership with Strathmore University and the [Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Rule of Law Programme](#) exploring

- Alternative cosmologies in plastic governance in Africa: role of customs, ethics, beliefs and Religions,
- Non-formal law approaches to plastics governance in Africa: regional experiences, Role of stakeholders in shaping ethics, belief, and value systems for Plastics Governance in Africa: Indigenous People, local communities, children, youth, women
- How to take the Beyond Formal Law in Environmental Governance Initiative Forward.

Youth Engagement

The [Faith for Earth Youth](#) is a platform for Intergenerational Equity driven by Faith, Values and Ethics that places young people of faith in positions of leadership to advocate for positive change under the Faith for Earth Coalition.

Following the launch Faith for Earth Youth Council

Since the first meeting of the Youth Council 'Youth-Led Advocacy: Promoting Intergenerational Action for Nature' on [International Youth Day 2022](#), the Youth Council have been meeting on a monthly basis to discuss their engagement at key events such as at the [Confluence of Conscience: Uniting Leaders for Planetary Resurgence](#). Ms. Sobia Ibrahim, Chair of the Council represented the voice of interfaith youth under the Coalition.

Other engagement:

- Supported the launch of the [Value Education Olympiad 2023](#) with a [statement of support](#)
- Supported the Council for World Mission at the [Interfaith Eco-spiritualities Global Consultation 2023 Promotes Ecojustice and Inclusive Civil Society Engagement](#) seeking to identify ways to engage the youth network globally

Gender & the Environment

In April, [International Union of Superiors General \(UISG\)](#) invited Faith for Earth to establish how their 1,900 members representing 600,000 Sisters worldwide, can strengthen institutional collaborations with UNEP. The resulting [Environment Policy 2023](#) set the baseline for their engagement at the UNFCCC COP28 (Faith Pavilion), with the KMGBF, and in other policy fora.

In October 2023 the Faith For Earth Coalition held a [thematic consultation on Gender Inclusive Climate Resilience at COP28](#), as part of the Pre-COP Consultation series towards COP28, sharing the outcome of [The Wilton Park Dialogue, in partnership with Global One: Women, Religion and Climate Change : Working together to move Faster on Climate Change](#); on the significant role that women can play as agents of climate change and how providing opportunities for women to participate in decision making can contribute to the development and implementation of efficient and long-lasting climate resilient policies.

Progress towards the development of an Interfaith Women's Council, or mechanism for continuous engagement is underway through the support of the Faith for Earth Coalition.

Capacity Building

'The Faith for Earth Coalition, the [Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology](#), the [Parliament of the World's Religions](#), and [United Religions Initiative](#) maintain an [interactive database](#) called ['Faith Action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals'](#), featuring [86 projects](#) as of 31 December 2023.

Online Courses with the International Dialogue Center (KAICIID)

The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) together with Faith for Earth, University of Peace (UPEACE), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), National Muslim Council of Liberia (NMCL), and Institut Superior de Ciències Religioses de Barcelona (ISCREB) unveiled a new e-learning course ['Engaging Faith Actors to Support the Implementation Process of the Sustainable Development Goals'](#) designed to help religious leaders and faith-based organisations (FBOs) achieve greater understanding and engagement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

['Faith, Environment and Climate Change'](#) is a free e-learning and training course formed of eight modules, each offering faith leaders, religious groups, faith-based organisations and other stakeholders a distinct approach to effectively engage and contribute to environmental thematic areas through different methodologies, models, tools, and other approaches.

KAICIID and the Coalition were pleased to moderate this course for 5 cohorts of 22 participants from UISG and the [Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation \(JPIC\)](#), globally.