



**2019
Kofi Annan Faith Briefings
at the United Nations**

**Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and
Equality: Multifaith and United Nations' Collaboration**

July 15, 2019 | New York City



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Foreword by Chairs of Multifaith Advisory Council to UN Task Force

This report serves as an exciting conclusion to the second edition of the annual United Nations Kofi Annan Faith Briefings held on July 15, 2019. It also marks the end of the first pilot year of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council, which is the unique space for convening faith-based partners as advisors to the United Nations, in their human rights, peace and security, and sustainable development efforts.

It is therefore a fitting time to underscore our unwavering commitment to work together, in and through the Advisory Council, across religious and regional boundaries, to support the United Nations and the case for multilateralism and global human rights, and to ensure that our respective constituencies continue to contribute to Agenda 2030.

Indeed, reflecting on this year's Briefings—and the wealth of insights, perspectives, and visions shared during the event—fills us with distinct optimism for the future. It reaffirms our belief in the capacity of the global faith community to do its part in creating a better and more caring world by reaching the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030. We hope you join us in our optimism as you read this report.

Lastly, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Republic of Finland, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Kingdom of Spain for co-sponsoring, to UNAOC, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UN Office for Genocide Prevention, and UN Women for co-hosting, and to all members of the Advisory Council for their role in ensuring the success of the 2019 Kofi Annan Faith Briefings.

Sincere thanks are also extended to Sarah Tyler for authoring this report and to Chuqiu Peng and Frederik Pedersen for their support to the coordination and planning of the Briefings.

On behalf of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council of 2018-2019

Ms. Tarja Kantola, Finn Church Aid, Co-Chair

Mr. Faisal Bin Muammar, KAICIID, Co-Chair

Ms. Sadhviji Bhagawati Saraswati, GIWA, Vice-Chair

Mr. Jonathan Duffy, ADRA, Vice-Chair



Remarks by H.E. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos on behalf of Secretary-General Guterres

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Allow me to start by expressing my deep gratitude for the invitation to provide opening remarks at this important gathering on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General and in my capacity as High Representative of the Alliance of Civilizations.

These annual briefings offer a unique opportunity for representatives from all relevant stakeholders committed to dialogue and multilateralism to have thorough and timely discussions about the pressing issues of our times.

I am very impressed by the quality and diversity of speakers that will take part in the sessions scheduled today and by the topics and guiding questions for the sessions. These annual gatherings are a stark reminder of our common determination to strengthen multilateralism and dialogue as the most effective way to make progress in the challenges facing all of us today.

I am also particularly honored to participate in an event celebrating the legacy of the late UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who played an instrumental role in the establishment of the UN Alliance of Civilizations on 14 July 2005, almost exactly fourteen years ago. He clearly identified the need for an initiative to build bridges, overcome prejudices, avoid polarization and strengthen dialogue and mutual respect. Fourteen years later this need remains as acute as ever and I am determined to work together with all of you represented in this gathering to advance peaceful and inclusive societies.

Turning now to the subject that brings us together today, I applaud the decision to hold the annual briefing in the margins of the High-Level Political Forum this year, since the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 is a shared agenda for all and every one of us in this room.

For the UN Alliance of Civilizations, three of the Sustainable Development Goals under review in 2019 are central to our mandate and constitute a strong normative framework for the basis of our programmatic activities. I am referring to SDG 4 on inclusive and equitable quality education; SDG 16 to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; and SDG 17 on the global partnership for sustainable development.

Through its education programs, UNAOC enables participants to develop critical thinking skills to help dialogue and understanding. In an increasingly multi-cultural and interconnected world, education is a crucial tool to foster understanding and appreciation of other societies and cultures. UNAOC is fully committed to the promotion of critical thinking that can help overcome polarization, stereotypes, and intolerance. Our collective objective should be to establish a culture of peace from an early age, a culture which will ensure future generations of global citizens from different identities, faiths and cultures. I am committed to expanding the scope and scale of UNAOC education portfolio by including Global Citizenship Education and seeking new partners in the implementation of this approach.

The promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies and the emphasis on a global partnership for sustainable development are the common thread that weaves through every activity and project undertaken under the pillars of the Alliance of Civilization, namely, youth, migration, media and education. It will also permeate a fifth focus area that I have introduced in my capacity as High



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Representative in order to promote the role of women as peace mediators in conflicts with an intercultural and interreligious component.

Societies can only be peaceful and inclusive if they are able to ensure the right of every individual to practice their faith in safety and peace.

In fact, the issue of safeguarding the sanctity of religious sites and the safety of worshippers has become a central part of my mandate as High Representative since March, when in the aftermath of the attacks against mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, the UN Secretary-General entrusted me with the elaboration of a Plan of Action to safeguard religious sites.

During the extensive process of consultations that I have been conducting with all relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations, member states and religious and faith-based organizations, I have been heartened by the overall support for a Plan that can serve as an action-oriented roadmap to bring us together to prevent and better prepare and respond to attacks against religious sites.

The elaboration of the Plan is in its last stages and I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of its main components:

- 1. The Plan is anchored in a number of principles and in relevant General Assembly resolutions and religious texts promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue and understanding.*
- 2. The Plan will contain a section on prevention which will take stock of some of the main initiatives on the prevention of violent extremism and will highlight the role of all main stakeholders including member states, religious leaders and civil society in preventing violent extremism. Continued and pro-active engagement by all actors, the role of social media and the importance of education will also be highlighted. A mapping of religious sites around the world will be developed as an online interactive tool which will serve as a reminder of the universality of religious sites around the world and contribute to foster respect and understanding of their profound significance for individuals and communities in every continent. The Plan will also include a global communications campaign to foster solidarity and mutual respect and understanding.*
- 3. The Plan will include a section on how to respond to attacks against religious sites and worshippers who are peacefully practicing their rites will stress the importance of having normative frameworks and national plans to address the protection of religious sites, and include some recommendations for all relevant actors to strengthen their own internal security measures and to work better with each other.*

Once the UN Secretary-General decides on next steps for the adoption of the Plan, the cooperation of all key stakeholders represented here today: Member States, the United Nations system, religious and faith-based organizations, international and regional organizations, and civil society, will be key to implement its recommendations in the multi-stakeholder multi-pronged approach contained in the Plan.

Let's continue to work together to advance dialogue, respect, collaboration and mutual understanding in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. You can count on my tireless efforts in support of this noble cause and in my availability to continue to work with you all for an effective and result-oriented multilateral system in which we can prove that together we are stronger and can overcome any obstacle and deal effectively with the challenges confronting our world.

Thank you very much.



The Journey to the Kofi Annan Faith Briefings

According to a 2017 Pew Research Study, 84 percent of the global population identifies with a religion or belief. *“To ignore or not acknowledge this statistic,”* stated H.E. Mr Adama Dieng, *“would be to ignore civil societies itself and the very nature of these communities.”*

In the 2008 report, *Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace*, Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon highlighted initiatives of United Nations entities in the field of interreligious and intercultural dialogue. This report demonstrated the increased interest of the United Nations to engage faith-based actors and organizations as a method for international development. To further advance synergies in FBO and UN engagement, the United Nations Interagency Task Force, comprised of 20 UN system entities, approved the development of the Task Force on Engaging Faith-Based Actors for Sustainable Development (also referred to as the UN Task Force on Religion and Development) in 2010. Under the auspices of the UNFPA, members of the UN Task Force on Religion and Development frequently convene policy roundtables, workshops, seminars and joint initiatives in collaboration with faith-based partners with governments, academics and development and humanitarian specialists. Almost ten years after its inception, the Task Force now has a database of over 500 faith-based organizations and partners.

In 2018, the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development convened the first United Nations Multi-Faith Advisory Council (AC). This Council is comprised of leaders from the UN’s top global faith partners, with each major faith tradition recognized. The Council is committed to, “uphold multilateralism and international human rights through multi-faith collaboration around/for Agenda 2030.” The Advisory Council aims to advance peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian response by bringing together diverse groups who share a devotion to support multilateralism for the advancement of global society.

This Council is the only space in the United Nations system where UN actors, faith-based partners and member states convene to review the progress to reach the Sustainable Development Goals from a religious or faith-based perspective. During the 2018 United Nations General Assembly, the Advisory Council hosted the first Kofi Annan Faith Briefings. This was held to champion the accomplishment of former United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, as he invited 1,000 religious leaders to stand with the United Nations during the Millennium Peace Summit in September 2000. The Advisory Council strives to continue to honour his legacy in the continued gathering of faith-based actors and organizations in conjunction with key intergovernmental United Nations events.

The 2019 Kofi Annan Faith Briefing was held during the High Level Political Forum and guided by the theme, *“empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality: the role of UN and multifaith collaboration.”* It served as an opportunity to continue to build a shared UN system legacy of UN-FBO consultations and to serve as a forum for information, celebration and consultation around partnerships with FBOs directly around the work of the United Nations – *for the UN and for multilateralism.*



The Geopolitical Backdrop

“Faith-based organizations and religious actors...possess a culturally-based comparative advantage...as such are most effective when they emphasize the common humanity of all parties while refusing to identify with any single party,” – Mr. Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General, 1997-2006

In most areas of the world, faith and religion influences behaviour, politics and culture norms. Religion or faith provides the foundation of community. When this is undermined or forgotten, the fabric of society can struggle to advance. Communities can be mobilized, and societies advanced, when organizations, entities and governments implement mechanisms to address the 84 percent of the global population that identifies with a religion or belief.

The Sustainable Development goals are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, with the goal of completion in 2030. The goals are broad and interdependent, with each goal having a list of targets that are measured with indicators. The 2018 Sustainable Development Goal report concluded that while there have areas of improvement, significant challenges remain in order to reach the SDGs. Children and adolescents are still not achieving minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics, women are still being deprived of basic rights and opportunities, millions of people are impacted and displaced by armed conflict, violent extremism and domestic violence and climate change will have a detrimental effect on those living in poverty and underdeveloped areas.

The United Nations is globally positioned as an influencer, convener, coordinator and developer, and has the capacity to connect faith-based engagement with all pillars of international development and sustainability.

As emphasized in SDG 16, partnerships are essential to change the present trajectory of the sustainable development goals and to achieve the commitments made by 193 United Nations Member States to create a shared plan for peace and prosperity for the people and the planet by 2030.

Over the past few years, the international dialogue has shifted its focus to the value-added capacity of religious and faith-based actors to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While governments have the ability to influence political and economic decisions, religion and faith actors can understand and connect with cultures and norms that guide a society to create peace and harmony between humans. Faith-based actors are often a trusted resource, have influence among their local communities and frequently hold greater local legitimacy than government and non-governmental actors. In their own communities, religious and faith-based actors and organizations have served in prominent roles, including educators, peacebuilders and mediators.

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Geopolitical actors and entities have made strides to increase engagement and collaboration with faith-based actors. The United Nations is globally positioned as an influencer, convener, coordinator and developer, and has the capacity to connect faith-based engagement with all pillars of international development and sustainability. The increasing role of faith-based organizations and actors within the UN system has demonstrated the legitimacy of these entities as an influencer and decision-making actor that can transcend in multiple areas of work and community relations for the greater good. It is necessary for global entities to mobilize their support and engagement with FBO and actors through the creation of partnerships for the advancement of the SDG’s and ultimately, for the greater prosperity of global society. There is a need to reframe the present dialogue to demonstrate religion is a method to



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prevent violence and highlight its assets to advance all indicators to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. Partnerships are a crucial mechanism to further challenge the mainstream narrative of religion and to capitalize on the assets of religion and faith-based actors.



The Synopsis

The 2019 Kofi Annan Faith Briefing was hosted on 15 July, 2019 at the Ford Foundation in conjunction with the High-Level Political Forum hosted under the Auspices of Economic and Social Council. The 2019 Briefing, guided by the theme, *“empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality: the role of UN and multifaith collaboration,”* was built upon the six Sustainable Development Goals under review during the HLPF. This allowed for panel discussions to share solidarity and discourse with the HLPF and the United Nations while highlighting how faith-based organizations and actors can be mobilized to advance each SDG. The six areas of focus include:

- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

To ensure this Briefing is collaborative and inclusive, invitees included:

- UN Agencies
- International and faith-based organizations focusing on diverse initiatives for global development and humanitarian response
- Bilateral donors and governments
- Academic researchers and researching bodies
- Members of the multifaith Advisory Council of the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development

In totality, the 2019 Kofi Annan Faith Briefing welcomed a representative body of 231 scholars, religious actors and government representatives. The United Nations was represented by over 51 Faith-Based Advisory Council members and 31 United Nations Agency representatives.

Action Points

- Define a dialogue that identifies the positive and negative role of religion in societies.
- Increase interfaith coalitions among UN entities and global actors to build a bridge between global communities to address inequalities and discrimination that hinders sustainable development.
- Address practices that go against religious values, such as domestic violence.
- Address the persecution of religious communities to advance global human rights.
- Build and strengthen coalitions between faith-based organizations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Create a bridge between multilateral entities and local communities in order to empower communities and allow them to take control of their own destiny.
- Allow for principles and organizations of faith-traditions to have an increased relevancy across civil society rather than being categorized or siloed.



Opening Remarks and Keynote Address

Speakers:

- Ms. Tarja Kantola, Co-Chair of multi-Faith Advisory Council and Chair of Finn Church Aid.
- Mr. Faisal Bin Muaammar, Co-Chair of multi-Faith Advisory Council and Secretary General of KAICIID.
- H.E. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, High Representative of the UN Alliance of Civilizations.
- Mr. Dereje Wordofa, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNFPA Deputy Executive Director.

The co-chairs of the Multi-faith Advisory Council of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development, Ms. Tarja Kantola, chair of Finn Church Aid, and Dr. Faisal Bin Muaammar, Secretary-General of KAICIID, offered welcoming remarks. Both chairs emphasized that the Briefings are a momentous gathering which reaffirms the commitments of the UN Inter Agency Task Force, NGOs and civil society, to increase the participation of religious and faith-based actors through the creation of partnerships to further advance all Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Religion must be recognized as part of the solution, not as part of the problem. In order to further promote the inclusion of religious actors in initiatives to achieve the SDGs, organizations must advance inter- as well as intra-religious civic dialogues to build mutual understanding between religions, faiths and cultures.

The UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development is comprised of entities that have a diverse range of engagements yet share a commonality in their support for, and engagement with, religious actors. This is evident in the continued development of reports, policy outcomes and initiatives used to inform the public and to influence policy and practices.

The United Nations has pledged its full commitment to advance religious and faith-based partnerships as a method to advance the international agenda. H.E. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, High Representative of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, noted that UNAOC was created with the intention to build bridges, overcome prejudice and strengthen dialogue and mutual respect. It is more prevalent than ever before to create and sustain partnerships.

SDG 4, *ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*, is one of the eight SDG under review during the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). SDG 4 is central to the mandate of UNAOC and constitutes a strong normative framework for its programmatic activities. Education is an essential tool to reduce religious intolerance as it enhances critical thinking of individuals in order to collectively advance dialogue and understanding of all sectors of society. Mr. Moratinos extended his commitment to expand the scope and scale of UNAOC educational portfolio to include global citizen education for religious understanding and will seek

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new partners to advance this portfolio. UNAOC will also look to partner with UNESCO to incorporate the principle values of the Advisory Council into all educational curriculums.



Welcome Remarks and Keynote Speakers (from L to R): Professor Ana Renata Dias, Fordham University and the *Focolare*; Dr. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Member, Board of Directors, Center for Strategic Development, Former Member of the Shura Council in Saudi Arabia, and former Executive Director, UNFPA; Mr. Michael Suhr, Ambassador for Freedom of Religions or Relief, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Dereje Wordofa, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNFPA Deputy Executive Director; Mr. Faisal Bin Muaammar, Co-Chair of Multi-Faith Advisory Council of the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development; H.E. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations; Ms. Tarja Kantola, Co-Chair of Multi-Faith Advisory Council of the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development; H.E. Ambassador Agustin Santos Maraver, Permanent Representative of Spain; H.E. Ambassador Jukka Salovaara, Permanent Representative of Finland. Missing from the photo: Shaykh Abdallah bin Bayyah, President, Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies, H.E. Ambassador Abdullah bin Yahya Al-Muallami, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Source: Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family

The common thematic focus which connects all activities under the pillars of UNAOC is most affiliated with SDG 16—to *promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*. Societies can only reach sustained peace and inclusivity if they can ensure the rights of all society members to safely practice their faith. SDG 16 will not fulfil all its associated indicators until organizations and entities collaboratively advance intra-dialogue to develop mutual respect for the freedom of religion or belief.

Mr. Dereje Wordofa, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNFPA Deputy Executive Director, highlighted the ‘three zeros:’ *zero* unmet needs for family planning, *zero* preventable maternal deaths and *zero* gender-based violence and harmful practices. These three concepts outline UNFPA’s four-year strategic plan to advance global inclusiveness and equality. UNFPA’s strategic plan also relies on collaboration with faith-based entities and actors to mobilize their followers, address social and political norms and collate political and social capital to realize human rights and dignity.

UNFPA noted the most successful projects include the willingness of organizations to listen to local actors and to invest time understanding how people think, what they believe and how they engage. Communities are successful when they assess their own beliefs and practices to determine if they are empowering or harming others. This allows for community accountability to locally and regionally advance the right to a high-quality life for all citizens. Organizations must work together to empower communities in this rapidly changing world. The Kofi Annan Faith Briefings serve as a method to advance the synergies and acceptance of cultural practices and religious beliefs. We need to collaboratively work to empower communities to obtain their religious and international rights and to reach the goals set by Agenda 2030.



Opening Remarks from UN Co-Sponsoring Missions

Speakers:

- H.E. Mr. Ambassador Agustín Santos Maraver, Permanent Representative of Spain.
- H.E. Mr. Ambassador Abdullah bin Yahya Al-Muallami, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- H.E. Mr. Ambassador Jukka Salovaara, Permanent Representative of Finland.
- H.E. Mr. Michael Suhr, Ambassador for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

To create effective peacebuilding strategies and programming, Finland seeks to include religious and traditional actors, mediation, inclusion of women and youth and community building. When implemented collectively, these concepts have the ability to prevent conflict and create sustainable peace. Ambassador Jukka Salovaara, Permanent Representative of Finland, reiterated the need for inclusive peace process and mediation efforts; the incorporation of inclusivity often produces more sustainable results. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland is proud to host multiple organizations, such as Finn Church Aid and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, who seek to build inclusive peace through partnerships with grassroots religious actors and civil society. As noted by Ambassador Salovaara, gender equality must be a pivotal component in every discussion.

Ambassador Al-Muallami highlighted Saudi Arabia's transition to advance gender equality through a peaceful revolution for social change. This revolution includes the creation of employment and educational opportunities for women. Faith-based actors can play an indispensable role in achieving this goal but cannot achieve this goal alone. There will always be segments that reject change and seek to hinder the progress. Hence, dialogue is the best way to inform and address sentiments and actions of rejection. Saudi Arabia seeks to reengage partnership with the Alliance of Civilizations, especially as the nation embarks on its social revolution.

H.E. Ambassador Agustín Santos Maraver, Permanent Representative of Spain noted that conflict and violence frequently stem from the desire of individuals or organizations to disrupt communities and invoke fear. Religious sites and areas of worship are now frequent targets for violence and attacks. As we progress into the future, he emphasized that partnerships which demonstrate the strength of the faith community can serve as a deterrent for those who want to violently target religious sites. In response to these increasing attacks, UNAOC is developing a Plan of Action (PoA) to safeguard religious sites. UNAOC, in collaboration with government, faith-based organizations, religious leaders and other actors, seek to explore preventative actions against attacks and guarantee the sanctity of religious sites. The POA will not only protect religious sites, but make a clear statement to the international community on the value and importance of religion and spirituality in a complex world.

The denial of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) creates an opportunity for conflict through an 'us versus them' mentality. Freedom of religion or belief cannot be a privilege for few; it is a fundamental human right for all. FoRB is derived from components of social justice, gender equality and economic freedom and is grounded in all the Sustainable Development Goals on the road to achieve Agenda 2030. In Denmark, an internal evaluation was conducted to determine how one can most impactfully fund interreligious dialogue. This evaluation concluded that choosing one concrete problem and then linking this problem to relevant Sustainable Development Goals was a powerful method to advance Freedom of Religion or Belief as well as to collectively advance the SDGs.



Keynote Addresses

Speakers:

- Shaykh Abdallah bin Bayyah, President, Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies.
- Professor Ana Renata Dias, Fordham University, and member of the Focolare movement.
- Dr. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Member, Board of Directors, Center for Strategic Development, Former Member of the Shura Council in Saudi Arabia, and former Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund.



Shaykh Abdallah bin Bayyah, President, Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies

Source: Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family

Shaykh Abdullah bin Bayyah is considered one of the most influential Muslim leaders in the world. He offered words of wisdom on the significance of religion as a fundamental guiding mechanism for personal development and human interaction. He noted that violent misinterpretations of religious texts create an obligation for religious leaders to unite in solidarity, and collaborate to delegitimize these narratives. This will allow for religion to become a catalyst for global peace, harmony and mutual respect. Shaykh Bin Bayyah emphasized and appreciated the significance of partnership and collaboration between the United Nations, governments, religious leaders and civil society to find solutions to misunderstandings and misrepresentations of religion. Shaykh Bin Bayyah is the primary author of the Marrakesh Declaration. This Declaration was agreed upon by over 250 prominent religious actors, government leaders and scholars to protect the rights of religious minorities in Muslim majority countries. It demonstrates the success of multifaith and multi-entity collaboration to advance religious tolerance and freedom.

The focus of peacebuilding efforts pertains to a shared sense of responsibility and to the protection of dignity for local cultures, religious practices and social and economic structures. Focolare is an international organization that promotes the ideals of unity and universal brotherhood. Professor Ana



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Renata Dias summarized Focolare's approach to intercultural and interfaith development work with "reciprocity" as peacebuilding creates mutual benefits for economies, society and government policies. Focolare's grassroots partnership projects have expanded to improve health, education and living conditions to break the cycle of poverty and despair. Focolare hosts projects in cities in Cameroon for instance to assist local actors to develop hospitals, schools and infrastructure. In turn, this has allowed for this area to become self-sufficient and reduced their economic and social dependencies.



Dr. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Member, Board of Directors, Center for Strategic Development, Former Member of the Shura Council in Saudi Arabia, and former Executive Director, UNFPA

Source: Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family

"We, as development initiators ... cannot change people. Our role is to empower people to change their own life and to assess what is positive, to be strengthened and what is negative to be changed, thus making them actors to achieve their own rights," stated Dr. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid. During her tenure as Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, Dr. Obaid developed a program on gender, culture and human rights. This program seeks to address gender bias based on disparities between culture and human rights. She noted that some cultural practices and religious beliefs could be considered major hindrances to development and delivery of development programmes. One method to address disparities in culture and inequality through religion is for women to offer their interpretations of religious texts. Historically, the interpretation of religious texts has primarily been conducted by males. Religious interpretations have, in some cases, been used to justify domestic abuse and the lack of educational opportunities for women. These harmful and exclusive interpretations, along with media sensationalism, promote harm

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to women and can give negative connotations to entire religions. Faith-based organizations need to promote the success of inclusive societies by demonstrating that women's rights do not threaten the fabric of society. Inclusivity must be reframed as a way in which societies enact their duties and become energized and empowered to move forward.

Session Overview:

- *Advancing freedom of religion, belief and conscience is essential in promoting mutual understanding between communities and in contributing towards peaceful societies conducive to realization of sustainable development.*
- *States and UN engagement with faith-based organizations is critical to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.*
- *Inclusivity is essential to sustainable peacebuilding. Initiatives must be framed for local citizens to understand the value of inclusivity in regard to social and economic development.*



Session One: Role of multifaith collaboration in strengthening the means of implementation and revitalization the global partnership for sustainable development

Co-Moderators: Rabbi Burton L Visotzky, Milstein Center, and Dr. Samuel Rizk, UNDP

Speakers:

- Dr. Husna Ahmed, CEO, Global One.
- Ms. Dana Buzducea, Partnership leader for Advocacy and External Engagement, World Vision.
- Mr. Elias Szczytnicki, Secretary General and Regional Director, Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Rev. Carlos Tamez, Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, ACT Alliance.
- Ms. Debra Boudreax, Executive Vice President, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation.
- Ms. Bani Dugal, Principal Representative to the UN, Baha'i International Community.
- Dr. Mohammed Said Al-Mamari, Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Waqf, Oman.
- Mr. James Patton, President and CEO, ICRD (International Center for Religion and Diplomacy).

The Kofi Annan Faith Briefings are a significant gathering for faith-based communities to recognize and reinforce their potential contributions to advance Agenda 2030 and to acknowledge the commitment of the United Nations to advance the inclusion of faith-based actors within its programming. It is crucial for this briefing to demonstrate how organizations can serve as model for collaboration within local faith communities. Partnerships can create social cohesion in conflict-affected communities, restore dignity, transform faith actors and further develop social integration.

In 2019, the UN Secretary-General's annual SDG Progress Report and the recent addition of the Global Sustainable Development Report collectively state that while there have been areas of progress, including extreme poverty reduction, widespread immunization and decrease in child mortality rates, the global response is failing to meet indicators that will allow for the success of the SDGs. If the pace is not accelerated, the Sustainable Development Goals will not be achieved by 2030, resulting in the immediate failure to provide a safe and sustainable future for present and future generations. Ms. Dana Buzducea of World Vision reiterated the importance of multifaith collaboration for faith initiatives to propel the Sustainable Development Goals.

The guiding principles of leave no one behind, universality, people-centred and protection of the planet, must be incorporated into the mission of all organizations to realize the transformative agenda, as adopted by member states in 2015. The cultivation of relationships and partnerships amongst entities is a crucial method to increase awareness and project implementation to achieve Agenda 2030. Ms. Bani Dugal emphasized that the Advisory Council has an opportunity to advance the role of religion at the UN and demonstrate how faith based and spiritual values can enhance development. The Council is needed to serve as a leader in unified action towards advancing human prosperity and to meet the 230 indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals.

84% of the global population has a religious or faith-based affiliation. To mobilize even a small percentage will provide a significant contribution to international development, peace and security. There is still a large percentage of grassroots faith actors who have yet to become engaged in development efforts.

The Advisory Council must work to bring regional understanding of the SDGs. To reach and transform this percentage, Ms. Debrah Boudreax offered the suggestion for the Advisory Council to produce a



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toolkit to ensure grassroots actors are provided updated information on the global development goals, its significance and localized methods to help advance the goals.

Mr. James Patton of the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy (ICRD) noted that the messaging to target and inform these communities must be both culturally and faith sensitive. SDGs messages are more likely to transcend if they are delivered to communities by a credible grassroots religious leader or actor. As such, Mr. Patton spoke to the importance of working with influencers; who have access to these areas and to promote the legitimacy of the SDGs to the community. Religious communities need to understand and relate to the messaging and purposes of the SDGs in order to give their commitment, support and collaboration.



Role of Multi-Faith Collaboration in Strengthening the Means of Implementation and Revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (from L to R): Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky, Milstein Center; Ms. Dana Buzdacea, World Vision; Ms. Bani Dugal, Baha’I Interfaith Community; Mr. Elias Szczytnicki, Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean; Ms. Debra Boudreaux, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation; Dr. Mohammed Said Al-Mamari, Ministry of Waqf, Oman; Mr. James Patton, International Center for Religion and Diplomacy; Rev. Carlos Tamez, ACT Alliance; Dr. Samuel Rizk, UNDP.

Source: Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family

Multifaith organizations can also serve as the bridge between grassroots actors and the United Nations. Mr. Patton noted four ways for NGOs and multilateral organizations to engage with religious organizations around conflict issues: (1) remove the connotation that religion is a driver of conflict; (2) build the capacity of religious peacebuilders; and (3) create more religious and faith-based peacebuilders for conflict transformation and (4) link with other peacebuilding efforts.

Partnerships with governance entities are some of the most critical partnerships for faith-based organizations to develop and maintain. All too frequently, partnerships between these two kinds of entities are created on a project or funding basis. Once the project concludes, or funds diminish, partnerships come to an end. Faith-based and governance entities must work to build and sustain relationships to ensure the longevity of a partnership beyond an immediate project. Latin America, like most regions, is relying on the formation of partnerships and successes around the SDGs to overcome



issues of poverty and inequality. Organizations in Latin America have strived to increase partnerships between multilateral and faith-based organizations.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals have created a call to action for all actors and communities to develop partnerships to protect and preserve our world. The concepts of *community* and *protection of the natural world* is a theme woven throughout most faiths and religions. The mission of the Global One Foundation is to create transformative conditions to permanently uplift the lives of children living in extreme poverty. Global One focuses its efforts on capacity building in Muslim communities to develop initiatives for the advancement of SDG's through collective action. Global One recently developed projects to advance SDG 13, *take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*, by striving to change habits and mindsets through the utilization of faith teachings. Global One also seeks to advance SDG 17, *strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*, through a new campaign for women of faith to advocate for the elimination of global poverty.

SDGs messages are more likely to transcend if they are delivered to communities by a credible grassroots religious leader or actor.

Most speakers affirmed that as societies are becoming more diverse, the acceptance of new ideas and knowledge is crucial to create a common ground and for the security and stability of the international community. Stability and security should be the top priorities for all organizations as these two components allow for citizens to have the ability work, produce, build and reconstruct their communities. The removal of these factors can quickly destabilize a nation and lead to self-destruction. Without peaceful coexistence, lasting peace among nations cannot be preserved.

"When people or nations fail in their dialogue, they become intolerant and use force and aggression to support their opinion," rightfully stated Dr. Mohamed Said Al-Mamari from the Ministry of Waqf in Oman. Oman has historically demonstrated peaceful co-existence in its international relations and trading partners and has managed to prevent threats of violent extremist groups within its borders. In 2015, the International Centre for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence at King's College concluded no Omani citizen had joined the more than 20,000 foreign fighters in extremist organizations. As an advocate and messenger for mutual respect and global partnership, Oman is looking forward to spearheading a new international drive for religious understanding for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

Regardless of personal religious affiliations, we, as a global society, share an indisputable belief in human dignity. Examples of positive interfaith community relations include Muslims in Albania who risked their lives to save their fellow Jewish citizens, religious leaders in Central African Republic who formed interfaith peace communities to find a solution to the conflict and Christians in North Africa who formed a physical barrier to protect the Muslims praying in a mosque. While the impact of these acts of humility are hard to measure, it is an affirmation that faith actors can develop mutual understanding of trust, friendship and partnership for the protection and safety of a multifaith community. Visible acts of interfaith solidarity will continue to accrue if action between multifaith global entities and other governmental actors are strengthened and systematized.

Action Points:

- *Develop stronger connections with regional offices through intentional dialogue and partnerships.*



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- *Engage with initiatives and coalitions that already exist.*
- *Contribute to dialogue on multifaith successes to create additional legitimacy on a regional level.*
- *Educate local faith communities on the Sustainable Development Goals in order to advance their participation to achieve Agenda 2030.*
- *Engage and empower grassroots actors and develop peacebuilders in communities.*



Session Two: Intergenerational gender dialogue: Realizing equality now, leaving no one behind

Co-Moderators: Dr. Nasser Haghamed, IRW and Lopa Banerjee, UN Women

Speakers:

- Rabbi Ms. Rachel Kahn-Troster, Deputy Director, T'ruah and Board Member, Alliance for Fair Food and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.
- Ms. Toni Kruger-Ayebazibwe, Executive Director, GIN-SSOGIE/Global Interfaith Network for People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identities and Expressions.
- Ms. Alyssa Mottahed, Intern at Baha'i International Community UN Office.
- Ms. Margareta Grape, Former Head of UN office of the World Council of Churches and International Director of the Church of Sweden.
- Ms. Jillian Abballe, UN Advocacy Officer and Head of Office for the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations.

As we progress into the 21st century, large disparities of gender-based inequality are still prevalent. The resourcing of partnerships is still inadequate, thus hampering the process of meeting the goals of SDG 5 to *achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*. The multifaith Advisory Council holds enormous potential to mobilize and strengthen partnerships to focus on advancing the role of women and youth to strengthen the fabric of society, as part of an agenda of transformation.

It is crucial that young actors of faith are empowered, transition into leadership roles and are positioned to be influential. Youth actors are the future of humanity and will have to address the potential failures of past and present societies. There are strong examples of female youth leaders who have gained global attention, largely due to social media. Malala Yousafzai is fighting for the right to youth education, with a focus on females, while Greta Thunberg is an advocate for climate change initiatives. Organizations must capitalize on the examples set by these women among others to continue propelling the widespread visibility and capabilities of youth leaders.

It is crucial that young actors of faith are empowered, transition into leadership roles and are positioned to be influential.

The formation and implementation of partnerships can address global gaps which prevent women and youth from participating and advancing in civil society, especially in regard to holding leadership roles. When looking at gender disparity, it is important to look at National Human Rights Mechanisms at national and international levels so as to enforce and protect economic, social and cultural rights.

As intergenerational groups, faith-based organizations must reconceptualise leadership, especially for female youth. According to Ms. Jillian Abballe, UN Advocacy Officer and Head of Office for the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations, intergenerational dialogue is different than youth empowerment. Intergenerational dialogue is essential to ensure there is increased dialogue and solidarity between generations with reduced inhibition and prejudice between the groups. When discussing youth empowerment, faith-based organizations must provide opportunities to build youth capacity for leadership to ensure their inclusion and active role in society. Simultaneously, she argued, we need to ensure that youth have the same level of decision-making abilities as the older generation.



Intergenerational Gender Dialogue: Realizing Equality Now, Leaving No One Behind (from L to R): Lopa Banerjee, UN Women; Ms. Jillian Abballe, UN Advocacy Officer and Head of Office for the Anglican Communion Office at the UN; Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster, Deputy Director, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights and Board Member, Alliance for Fair Food and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility; Ms. Toni Kruger-Ayebazibwe, Executive Director GIN-SSOGIE/Global Interfaith Network for People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identities and Expressions; Ms. Margareta Grape, Former Head of UN Office of the World Council of Churches and International Director of the Church of Sweden; Ms. Alyssa Mottahed, Baha'i International Community; Dr. Nasser Haghamed, Islamic Relief Worldwide

Source: Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family

The role of elder leadership must be reframed in order to transform stereotypes associated with youth leadership. Quite frequently, adults and youth hold certain perceptions and misperceptions of each other. For example, there is the perception that youth do not possess the same degree of experience, expertise and wisdom as older leaders. The assumption that adults are hierarchically higher than young people and entitled to act upon young people without their consent is commonly referred to as “adultism.” While youth leaders may not have as much expertise in the field, they can still be experts in their own lives; dismissing the youth expertise will hinder the system of change and evolution. Older leaders must see youth leadership as part of an ecosystem for change as they can offer new energy, passion and ideas. Religious leaders and organizations must look at their own communities to ensure there are ample opportunities for youth leadership and intergenerational, inclusive dialogue. Informational exchange across generational platforms has the potential to act as a true exchange for dialogue and advancement.

Ms. Alyssa Mottahed is a youth leader from the Baha'i International Community. She stated that intergenerational dialogue must occur on a regular basis and efforts to ensure that dialogue and discourse are frequently evaluated are taken. Communities can be grounds for discriminatory practices and biases that are propelled and integrated into society. These biases are practiced at all levels and must be systematically addressed.

In India, Baha'i-inspired educational practices have been used to address hierarchical systems and have changed ways in which people interact with each other. These practices have provided youth with an opportunity to partake in leadership positions as well as develop opportunities and rights for women.



This educational programming allows all citizens to focus on serving the well-being of communities rather than on actions that stem from the patriarchal system.

Ms. Margareta Grape, Former Head of UN office of the World Council of Churches and International Relations Advisor of the Church of Sweden, recognized the sliding discourse between culture/ethics and legal aspects. To advance the role of women, and particularly women of faith, organizations must defend and expand the international system and international human rights. Systemic discrimination and exclusion are at the forefront of gender-based inequality. To systemically address discrimination and inclusion we must address the patriarchal system that frames and guides many faith traditions and cultural norms. Progress cannot be made until we see a shift in the system. On a localized level, laws are created to uphold the values of that particular society. As a result, many societies face a legal gap in discriminatory laws around, but not limited to, refugees, families, violence and conflict.

The multifaith Advisory Council is in place to develop strategies to uphold the benefits of multilateralism and to address civil society and government pushback. To do this, the Council should place an emphasis on community, especially in areas facing deep human rights challenges. This call-to-action coincides with the need for international organizations to actively listen to different communities to further understand their needs and create location-specific programming. To advance dialogue with youth, organizations and faith-based actors must understand where and on what terms youth are practicing their faith and bring it into the conversation, especially given the fact that the spiritual but non-religious demographic is growing. The development of positive and interreligious dialogue will help to reduce localized tension.

Some human rights' organizations face many issues when trying to implement projects on the ground. These include the question of the organizations' legitimacy among local communities and the concern that development organizations will spread a Western ideology and agenda. Organizations, as *convening networks*, have the obligation to convene different sectors of society and amplify local voices. Community leadership can assist in the development and implementation of grassroots projects as they can create a stronger transformative agenda and have greater ability to mobilize change due to their legitimacy among local communities. When interacting with grassroots actors, Ms. Rachel Kahn-Troster, Deputy Director of T'ruah, suggests that transformative results are possible when organizations channel project leadership to grassroots actors. Indeed, these actors are experts at ending human rights abuses and creating innovative changes within their own lives and communities.

Action Points:

- *Increase intergenerational and gender dialogue in order to leave no one behind.*
- *Strive to give voice to actions taken to mitigate gender inequality in religious and patriarchal traditions.*
- *Increase the engagement with youth and allow for youth to have a platform to discuss and shape solutions to regional and global challenges.*
- *Inform and influence the United Nations and global and local entities and actors to promote a dialogue on gender inequalities with faith actors.*
- *Systematically give voice to the abused and oppressed.*



Session Three: Multi-Religious Perspectives on the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Moderator: Rebeca Rios-Kohn, Director, Arigatou International, New York

Opening Remarks:

- Ms. Henrietta Fore, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNICEF Executive Director.
- Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.
- H.E. Ms. Sima Sami I. Bahous, Permanent Representative of Jordan.
- H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia.
- Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President of Arigatou International and Leader of Miyochikai.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) entered into force on 2 September 1990, and sets the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of all children. The Convention on the Rights of the Child was chosen by the Advisory Council as one of its top priority advocacy issues for 2019. Ms. Henrietta Fore, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNICEF Executive Director, identified ways in which faith-based organizations have supported this treaty, including: (1) raising awareness of challenges faced by children; (2) shaping policy and programs; and (3) supporting children in some of the most challenging areas around the world. These collaborative efforts have helped to offer security and development opportunities for children.



Multi-Religious Perspectives on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (from L to R):

Ms. Henrietta Fore, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNICEF Executive Director; H.E. Ms. Sima Sami I. Bahous, Permanent Representative of Jordan; Reverend Keishi Miyamoto, President of Arigatou International and Spiritual Leader of Miyochikai; H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia; Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

Source: Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family

While many initiatives have proven successful, these efforts are far from over. Millions of children are still denied their rights, live in conflict-ridden areas and face barriers of discrimination. UNICEF calls on the Advisory Council and all faith-based organizations to influence and challenge social norms by ending



childhood marriage, female genital mutilation and gender bias. As most of the world identifies with a religion or belief that places the protection of the children at the core of their practices, FBOs are uniquely positioned to prevent violence against children.

Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, offered thoughts on how to effectively protect children from all forms of violence and neglect. There needs to be collaborative action by all global entities to build capacity and partnership between multi-stakeholders and cross-sector entities, including states, central and local governments, media, private sector, civil society organizations and youth. In addition, child protective values and social norms must be promoted and expanded to strengthen the role and action of faith-based organizations.

Children face new challenges that were unimaginable 30 years ago as a result of global shifts, environmental challenges and technological advancements. These challenges not only impact the child but limit the stability of society, security and peace. The 30th anniversary of the CRC (to be celebrated in November 2019) provides faith-based organizations with a unique opportunity to collaboratively reaffirm commitments to rights of the child through the advancement of programming, increased visibility and increased public support.

“The love of God, love of one’s neighbour and the love of goodwill are three principals at the heart of all religions,” stated H.E. Ms. Sima Sami I. Bahous, Permanent Representative of Jordan. These three concepts should be used as messaging to reach faith-based leaders and actors in order to advance the protection of the child at a grassroots and community level. These concepts also provide the basis for mutual respect, tolerance and peaceful coexistence. The inclusion and capacity building of youth is a long-term investment for sustainable development and the wellbeing of society.

While we must protect our children, we must also instil the values of acceptance and dialogue between faith communities to show mutual compassion and respect for others.

While working directly with youth is key, initiatives must also address those who influence children, including parents, religious leaders, teachers and families, to ensure a welcoming and nurturing environment and to hinder youth participation in violence. While we must protect our children, we must also instil the values of acceptance and dialogue between faith communities to show mutual compassion and respect for others. Jordan has been at the forefront of calling for interfaith harmony and peace through a series of initiatives to promote interfaith dialogue through the use of Islamic teachings. Jordan is presently undertaking a series of collaborative counter-terrorism initiatives in collaboration with UN entities. For example, Jordan co-facilitated the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy with Finland and is presently co-chairing, with Norway, the Group of Friends of Preventing Violent

Extremism efforts at the United Nations.

There is great synergy between advancing interreligious dialogue and the inclusion of youth actors. H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia rightly noted that, while dialogue is crucial, religious actors must *listen* as children and youth have potential to positively contribute to, and advance, the dialogue. It is crucial that children are offered a platform to speak and communicate directly with religious and government actors. Slovakia is a committed party to the CRC as well as to the adoption of the third optional protocol of the CRC, as approved by UNGA in 2014. This optional protocol created a communication procedure to allow children to submit individual complaints on the violations of their rights to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The ultimate goal of this protocol is to



inform children of their rights in order for them to feel safe and protected against violence and exploitation.

Arigato International has long supported the CRC to create a safer and stable world. One example of Arigato's work to advance this Convention is through the establishment of World Day of Prayer and Action for Children, which occurs every year on November 20. Arigato International, with collaboration of the UN and faith-based organizations, has undertaken a multi-religious study to provide perspectives of seven major faith traditions on the CRC. This study is to be released in late Fall 2019.

Panel 1: Shared Values Between World's Major Religions and the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Moderator: Professor Mohammed Abu-Nimer, Senior Advisor, KAICIID

Speakers:

- Prof. Savitri Goonesekere, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Colombo.
- Rev. Olav Fykse-Tveit, General Secretary, World Council of Churches.
- The Most Rev. Julio E. Murray, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Central America, Bishop of Panama.
- Dr. Mustafa Ali, Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children, Director, Arigato International, Kenya.



Shared Values Between World's Major Religions and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (from L to R): Professor Mohammed Abu-Nimer, Senior Advisor, KAICIID; Professor Savitri Goonesekere, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Colombo; Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary, World Council of Churches, The Most Rev. Julio E. Murray, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Central America, Bishop of Panama; Dr. Mustafa Ali, Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children, Director, Arigato International, Kenya

Source: Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family

Religions have a shared value in the support of the right and protection of the child. Prof. Savitri Goonesekere, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Colombo, assisted in authoring the Arigato International report concerning the perspectives of seven faith traditions examining the CRC. She noted



that the foundation for the protection of the child is already built into religious discourses and in international norms. These two discourses reflect the basis and foundation for the development of a child in relation to family and community, harmony and peace.

The Arigato research demonstrated the quintessential wisdom in the values of religious tradition and human rights discourse merging as one to advocate for the right of the child. Interdependence of basic needs and civil security is a foundation of the CRC. The Arigato research determined that all faiths place enormous value on the rights of the child and in ensuring children have access to healthcare and education. The correlation between the beliefs of religious groups and adoption of international declarations identifies the joint accountability of faith-based actors and international organizations to ensure states adhere to the CRC.

Three years ago, the World Council of Churches (WCC), in collaboration with UNICEF, implemented *the Churches Commitment to Children*. The focus of this program is to build on the commitments of the CRC with the acknowledgement that these commitments cannot be reached without partnership. This program comprises a three-point action plan for (1) child protection, (2) child participation and (3) climate-just initiatives with the inclusion of children. Institutions across different faiths have proactively contributed to this project and have strengthened their internal work. The WCC has developed multiple tools, resources and trainings to further demonstrate how to protect and advance the rights of the child. It is important for the protection of the child to expand from this discourse of religious organizations and government institutions to the actual inclusion and participation of the child. Children have the ability to learn and process information quickly and understand the needs for *their* future. As such, religious communities have the obligation to support and include children in dialogue.

Statistics of abuse, exclusion and discrimination have demonstrated reality of violence in which millions of children around the world face on a daily basis. The areas in which children state they experience the most abuse is within their own families and faith communities. As children are the ones who have to endure and experience the violence, the global community cannot exclude their voice from the conversation. Religious leaders must seek to empower youth and serve as mentors to provide guidance to transform youth into impactful leaders.

Bishops in Central America have raised their voice to denounce the death of children caused by regional migration. Religious communities must address governments to ensure there are economic opportunities and security measures to reduce migration. It is important to ensure children on the move are included in all discourse.

The Global Network of Religions for Children is a global grassroots network comprised of organizations and individuals working to address violence against children. During the 2017 Faith Forum held in Panama, faith leaders, communities, the United Nations and governments committed themselves to ten commitments to understand and address issues that affect children.

The international community should look to adding additional protocols to the CRC to adapt and address current challenges including new forms of violent extremism, radicalization and recruitment. During his visit to Kenya in July 2019, UN Secretary-General Guterres noted the disastrous level of violence against children through extremist recruitment and radicalization. We cannot expect children to be peaceful if they are being heavily exposed to this form of violence.



Panel 2: Good practices and evidence on actions taken by religious leaders to safeguard children's rights

Moderator: Dr. Azza Karam, Chair, UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development

Speakers:

- Ms. Amanda Rives, Regional Policy and Advocacy Director World Vision International.
- Ms. Jean Duff, President, Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities.
- Mr. Nasser Haghmad, CEO, Islamic Relief Worldwide.
- Sadviji Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary-General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, representing the UN Task Force Multi-Faith Advisory Council.



Good Practices and Evidence on Actions Taken by Religious Leaders to Safeguard Children's Rights (from L to R): Mr. Nasser Haghmad, CEO, Islamic Relief Worldwide; Dr. Azza Karam, Chair, UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development; Ms. Amanda Rives, Regional Policy and Advocacy Director World Vision International; Ms. Jean Duff, President, Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities; Sadviji Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary-General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Representing the UN Task Force Multi-Faith Advisory Council

Source: Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family

The Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on the Rights of the Child should be viewed as a collective package. World Vision is currently implementing a global campaign to end violence against children through working with faith-based actors and local communities. *Channels of Hope* was developed in close collaboration with Arigato International to better engage faith leaders and their spouses to implement child protective systems in local communities.

When discussing the rights of the child, it is important to include all marginalized groups, including children who are internally displaced and children on the move. In 2017, a meeting was convened to discuss children on the move, based on the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which “expressed the political will of leaders to save lives, protect rights and share responsibility on a global scale.” The meeting reinforced the need for faith actors to develop an action plan to offer protection to



children as their vulnerability increases in this harrowing circumstance. Research concluded that there are three areas of improvement for actors to support children on the move: (1) spiritual support for healing children on the move and for healing their communities and rendering these communities resilient; (2) continuous care for children on the move; and (3) faith and children’s rights viewed as a collective effort in a joint quest to increase the quality of life for humanity.

Faith leaders have the potential to constructively address harmful faith beliefs, break the culture of secrecy and silence and have the opportunity to work with the wider interfaith system as a champion for change.

Joint Learning Initiative (JLI) recently published a scoping-study in collaboration with the “End Violence against Children” joint learning hub. The study, entitled *Faith Actors Involvement in the Prevention, Elimination and Perpetuation of Violence*, looks at the unique contributions of faith communities to end, or ways in which they perpetuate, violence against children. In addition, it examines the role of faith actors in influencing wider child protection systems and the positive impact of faith leadership for social and behavioural change. The research concludes three areas in which faith can offer strong contributions: (1) promote, challenge and reinterpret religious beliefs that contribute to violence against children; (2) the ability to mandate practical social action and service provision in direct relation to ending violence against children; and (3) religious actors can advance protective religious beliefs around the care and protection of children. As such, faith leaders have the potential to constructively address harmful faith beliefs, break the culture of secrecy and silence and have the opportunity to work with the wider interfaith system as a champion for change.



Sadhviji Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary-General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Representing the UN Task Force Multi-Faith Advisory Council

Source: DJ Pierce

Faith It is the role of faith communities to celebrate and emphasize the power in partnerships. Collective action leads to greater global impact for the protection of humanity and contributes to the objective of leaving no one behind. The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) is a global partnership of religious leaders and faith-based organizations collectively working to advance water sanitation and hygiene. The power of partnerships has triggered change in the hearts, minds and actions of hundreds of millions of people. At the ground level, GIWA is mobilizing education for change through the power of faith in action throughout India. The advancement of education has allowed a region in India to be open-defecation free.

Islamic Relief Worldwide has designed and implemented programming for the protection of the children and the long-term sustainability of eradicated violence. IRW is committed to SDG 4 through the advancement of inclusive education. Children with disabilities are more likely to be out of school and to face abuse within their communities. As a result, IRW began to view *disability* and *inclusivity* as synonymous concepts. IRWW developed a marker tool to analyse gender, age and disability. This is unique in that most marker tools only combine one or two elements, not all three. In regard to interfaith work, IRWW uses *Channels of Hope*, which is a methodology that trains faith leaders and communities to address issues preventing child protection. These channels have been adopted through the use of Islamic scriptures and scientific evidence. Programming challenges for



IRWW often arise in relation to the resistance of faith leaders because of belief that Islamic teachings will go against their own practices. Dialogue is essential to demonstrate that while the programming is based on Islamic teachings, the entire focus is to create a safe and healthy environment for all.

Section Three Action Points:

- *Mobilize faith communities around the Convention for the Rights of the Child (CRC).*
- *Faith groups and human rights groups must hold states accountable to uphold the CRC and advocate for, and implement legislative policies.*
- *Faith-based organizations must use their influence to provide children with a platform to lead and be a part of the solution, and be deliberate about addressing the needs of children on the move as immigrants and/or internally displaced.*
- *Increased advocacy efforts with policy makers by religious actors to advance the rights of children, especially in conflict areas in which religious identity is manipulated, is required.*
- *Intensify efforts of FBOs to enhance education for children rights in formal and informal education systems.*



Session Four: Role of Multi-Faith Partnerships to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts

Co-Moderators: Charles McNeill, UNEP and Rev Victor Kazanjian, URI

Opening Remarks: Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Speakers:

- Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, New York Office, UN Environment.
- Prof. Mary-Evelyn Tucker, Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology.
- Mr. Gopal Patel, Director of the Bhumi Project, GreenFaith.
- Ms. Audrey Kitagawa, Chair of the Parliament of Worlds' Religions and Member of the Advisory Council.
- Rev. Ken Kitatani, Executive Director of Forum 21.
- Dr. Karena Gore, Director of the Center for Earth Ethics, Union Theological Seminary.

For thousands of years, living in peace and harmony with mother earth was a central part of spirituality. The rapid progression of climate change will have a negative impact on all Sustainable Development Goals. The planet is already experiencing serious implications of global warming through rising sea levels, diminishing Arctic Sea ice, rising temperatures and extreme weather. UN Secretary-General Guterres has previously stated that the Earth is in the midst of a climate emergency and climate change is happening at a pace quicker than scientists could have anticipated. The global community only has 12 years to limit global warming before consequences become more drastic. A new approach and partnership must be formed to save the lives of all, particularly the poor and vulnerable as they are most susceptible to the impacts of climate change.



Role of Multi-Faith Partnerships to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts (from L to R): Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat; Dr. Charles McNeill, Senior Adviser of Forests and Climate for the Sustainable Development Group of the United Nations Development Programme; Jamil Ahmad, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs-UNEP's New York Office; Mary-Evelyn Tucker, Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology; Gopal Patel, GreenFaith Interfaith Work; Audrey Kitagawa, Chair of the Parliament of the World's Religions and Member of the Advisory Council; Rev. Ken Kitatani, Forum 21; Karena Gore, Director of the Center for Earth Ethics

Source: Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family



The Advisory Council must work to increase the understanding and implications of climate change among faith communities so as to recognize and address the root causes of climate change and loss of biodiversity. The Dalai Lama for example presents a clear message: Regardless of faith, the natural world is our home. Community partnerships with faith-based organizations will allow for increased awareness of climate change while developing best practices to combat this change.

Faith-based actors will be essential to address this existential crisis. The Faith for Earth Dialogue, developed by the UN Environmental Programme, comprises over 135 faith leaders, representing 56 faith-based organizations, to mobilize and maximize interfaith collaboration for the protection of the environment, responsible finance and sustainable societies. The initiative has organized webinars, consultations and seminars with other faith-based organizations including the Parliament for World Religions, Religions for Peace and Islamic Development Bank.

“Regardless of faith, the natural world is our home. Community partnerships with faith-based organizations will allow for increased awareness of climate change while developing best practices to combat this change.”

Sustainability and concern for the environment has been an integral component of the Parliament of the World’s Religions. In that respect, the Parliament of the World’s Religions has developed a Climate Commitments Project to strengthen faith-based, interfaith, spiritual and value-based climate commitment campaigns. This heavily focuses on commitments to bridge the gap from understanding climate change to tangible action initiatives. Religious communities have a special role to play in mobilizing climate action and to assess individual and collective actions by assisting partners in researching existing work, sharing resources and creating methodologies for tracking and measuring our individual and collective impact. The Parliament is developing tools to support and strengthen partnerships while seeking ways to build a global faith-based climate movement to make all initiatives more effective. The first step in developing these tools is through a mapping of all faith-based climate commitment programs across the globe to understand the initiatives already being undertaken by faith-based organizations. This will be utilized for all organizations to learn from each other and combine efforts for greater results.

Forum 21 has worked with faith-based organizations around the world to address climate change. One of their main focus areas is to work directly with indigenous communities as they are frequent victims of climate disasters. Forum 21 is presently working with nine countries in the Amazon to develop pilot projects for indigenous communities in each country. Scientist have realized indigenous communities have traditional practices to protect biodiversity and adapt to changing conditions. Thus, Forum 21 promotes Living Forest Proposals, which are based on traditional ancestral wisdom of faith and indigenous communities around sustainable community plans. There are still many challenges faced by these communities. Rev. Ken Kitatani noted that we must hold each other accountable to maintain a neutral space where we can introduce universal values and global ethics that transcend religions and respect the ethics of all cultures.

Ms. Karenna Gore addressed the need to discuss the *causes* of climate change through less politically-charged messaging. In addition to politically-charged messaging, the binary mindset is entrenched in society and can hinder information channels from identifying climate change. Therefore, religious actors must be able to transcend the binary mindset and the politically-charged messaging in order to bring people together and address climate change.



The burning of fossil fuels is one of the root causes of climate change. The economy must be decarbonized by switching from fossil fuel to renewable energy to hinder the rate of climate destruction. Not only are fossil fuels harming the environment, they also release toxins into the atmosphere which has negative implications for people's health in the form of respiratory and heart diseases. Climate change comes with the risk of pushing millions of people into poverty by 2030 and will have the greatest impact in poor regions of the world.

Environmental justice is another critical avenue for which faith communities can address this crisis. Standing in solidarity with communities who resist toxic sites such as pipelines, coal fired power plants, is a great opportunity for faith-based organizations to engage in advocacy. The protection of land against the Dakota pipeline was a strong example of such an alliance of indigenous actors, faith-based actors and civil society coming together to stand in solidarity. "This is a moral and spiritual issue that has theological underpinnings in that there are different faith traditions in which to draw connections between human life and nature but also in that we are combating a secularized distortion of the religious narrative that human beings should dominate and control all life," stated Ms. Gore. It is all the more important to draw on original teachings to reframe this erroneous narrative and further support our natural world.

Action Points:

- *Demonstrate to faith communities the alignment of cultural and religious values in order to change behavioural practices for the protection of the environment.*
- *Connect religious beliefs and narratives with climate protection actions for religious leaders and actors, to advocate for climate change initiatives and to reiterate the responsibility, shared by all, to protect future generations.*
- *Create an interfaith climate change initiative to engage with religious institutions and actors.*
- *Encourage all organizations to partake in advocacy to emphasize the urgency of climate change, as faith actors.*

Closing Remarks

Moderator: Mr. Jonathan Duffy, Advisory Council Vice-Chair

Mr. Jonathan Duffy, Vice-Chair of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council, offered concluding remarks. The hope for the Kofi Annan Faith Briefings is to be a recurring event—to serve as an "innovative springboard of action that mobilizes movement for transformational change." We must seek ways to collaborate across different entities on issues raised during the Briefings. Mr. Duffy reiterated the idea that smaller goals are easier to obtain. This means that, if each organization chooses one project or focus area to address, we will be more likely to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, it is important to reflect on the work of the Advisory Council together with other faith-based and secular partners to advance our progress on the SDGs. We have all been working to address the significance of advancing interreligious dialogue. The main challenge is now for all organizations and actors to contribute to enriching and transforming dialogues into more inclusive and innovative processes—so as to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



Complete Summary of Action Points

Action Points to Summarize the Briefing

- Define a dialogue that identifies the positive and negative role of religion in societies.
- Increase interfaith coalitions among UN entities and global actors to build a bridge between global communities to address inequalities and discrimination that hinders sustainable development.
- Address practices that go against religious values, such as domestic violence.
- Address the persecution of religious communities to advance global human rights.
- Build and strengthen coalitions between faith-based organizations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Create a bridge between multilateral entities and local communities in order to empower communities and allow them to take control of their own destiny.
- Allow for principles and organizations of faith-traditions to have an increased relevancy across civil society rather than being categorized or siloed.

Session One: Role of Multifaith Collaboration in strengthening the means of implementation and revitalization the global partnership for sustainable development

- *Develop stronger connections with regional offices through intentional dialogue and partnerships.*
- *Engage with initiatives and coalitions that already exist.*
- *Contribute to dialogue on multifaith successes to create additional legitimacy on a regional level.*
- *Educate local faith communities on the Sustainable Development Goals in order to advance their participation to achieve Agenda 2030.*
- *Engage and empower grassroots actors and develop peacebuilders in communities.*

Session Two: Intergenerational Gender dialogue: Realizing equality now, leaving no one behind

- *Mobilize faith communities around the Convention for the Rights of the Child.*
- *Influence dialogue of faith communities to provide a richer framework.*
- *Faith groups and human rights groups must hold states accountable to uphold the CRC and advocate for, and implement legislative policies.*
- *Faith-based organizations must use their influence to provide children with a platform to lead and be a part of the solution.*
- *Faith-based organizations should ensure to address the needs of children on the move.*

Session Three: Multi-Religious Perspectives on the Convention on the Rights of the Child

- *Mobilize faith communities around the Convention for the Rights of the Child.*
- *Influence dialogue of faith communities to provide a richer framework.*
- *Faith groups and human rights groups must hold states accountable to uphold the CRC and advocate for, and implement legislative policies.*
- *Faith-based organizations must use their influence to provide children with a platform to lead and be a part of the solution.*
- *Faith-based organizations should ensure to address the needs of children on the move.*

Section Four: Role of Multi-Faith Partnerships to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts

- *Demonstrate to faith communities the alignment of cultural and religious values in order to change behavioural practices for the protection of the environment.*
- *Connect religious ideology with climate protection actions for religious leaders and actors to advocate for climate change initiatives and to reiterate the responsibility, shared by all, to protect future generations.*



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- *Create an interfaith climate change initiative to engage with religious institutions and actors.*
- *Develop a global coalition between faith-based entities, NGOs, multilateral organizations and governments to organize a humanitarian response to natural disasters.*
- *All civil society organizations, including faith actors, must partake in advocacy stressing the urgency of climate change.*

Further Reading: Access to Presentations, Documents, and Other Material

Provided below is a link to the 2019 Kofi Annan Faith Briefings Google Drive. It includes all information related to the Briefings, including the agenda, presentation slides, bios of speakers, the 2018 Annual Report UN Taskforce-EOSG, the 2018 Kofi Annan Faith Briefings Report, publications from Advisory Council Members and publications from ICPD and UNFPA. All documents on the Google Drive are available for download. LINK:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=14kUAuRf7R9GmBKSiC3bJ39RgMBeZtReD>



Appendix 1: Agenda for the 2019 Kofi Annan Faith Briefings

Comprehensive agenda for the second Kofi Annan Faith Briefings held at the Ford Foundation on July 15, 2019.

8:30 - REGISTRATION and Refreshments

08:45 - Welcome

- Welcome on behalf of the multi-Faith Advisory Council of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Religion, by the Co-Chairs- Ms. Tarja Kantola and Mr. Faisal Bin Muaammar

08:55 - Opening Remarks from the United Nations entities

- Opening remarks on behalf of the United Nations Secretary General, Mr Antonio Guterres and as Under Secretary General and High Representative of the **UN Alliance of Civilizations**, H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos
- Opening remarks by Mr. Dereje Wordofa, UN Assistant Secretary-General and **UNFPA** Deputy Executive Director (Programmes)
- Opening remarks by Dr. Jehangir Khan, Director of the **UN Office of Counter-Terrorism**

09:15 - Opening Remarks from UN Co-Sponsoring Missions

- H.E. Ambassador Agustín Santos Maraver, Permanent Representative of Spain
- H.E. Ambassador Abdullah bin Yahya Al-Muallami, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- H.E. Ambassador Jukka Salovaara, Permanent Representative of Finland
- H.E. Michael Suhr, Ambassador for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

09:35 - Keynotes

- Shaykh Abdallah bin Bayyah, President, Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies
- Professor Ana Renata Dias, Fordham University, and the *Focolare*
- Dr. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Member, Board of Directors, Center for Strategic Development, Former Member of the Shura Council in Saudi Arabia, and former Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund

10:00-11:05 - Role of multi-faith collaboration in strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development

Co-Moderators: Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky (Milstein Center) & Samuel Rizk, Ph.D. UNDP

Guiding Questions:

- *How do FBOs partner with the UN system? How do these partnerships address issues of women's empowerment, children's rights, youth, employment?*
- *What are some of the challenges to partnerships (both interfaith/multifaith and with the UN) around the SDGs this HLPF is assessing?*
- *And what are some of the success stories of overcoming and consolidating partnerships in spite of the challenges [of inequalities - SDG 10, economic growth - SDG 8, societal conflicts including atrocity crimes - SDG 16]?*

Speakers:

- Dr. Husna Ahmed, Global One
- Ms. Dana Buzdacea, World Vision



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- Mr. Elias Szczytnicki, Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean
- Rev. Carlos Tamez, ACT Alliance
- Ms. Debra Boudreax, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation
- Ms. Bani Dugal, Baha'i International Community
- Dr. Mohammed Said Al-Mamari, Ministry of Waqf, Oman
- Mr. James Patton, ICRD (International Center for Religion and Diplomacy)

11:10 - 12:30 - Intergenerational Gender dialogue: Realizing equality now, leaving no one behind

Co-Moderators: Dr. Nasser Haghamed, IRW + Lopa Banerjee, UN Women

Guiding questions:

- *How can intergenerational alliances be strengthened to advocate against discriminatory laws and practices that stand in the way of gender equality (e.g. child marriage laws, land rights, inheritance laws, equal pay, family laws, etc).*
- *How can young women's leadership be strengthened to break stereotypes that promote discrimination?*
- *How can young men and boys and young women and girls be integrated into different alliance structures to promote new ideas of equality and solidarity?*

Speakers:

- Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster: Deputy Director, T'ruah's (T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights) and Board Member, Alliance for Fair Food and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
- Ms. Toni Kruger-Ayebazibwe: Executive Director, GIN-SSOGIE/Global Interfaith Network for People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identities and Expressions
- Ms. Alyssa Mottahed: Baha'i International Community
- Ms. Margareta Grape: Former Head of UN office of the World Council of Churches and International Director of the Church of Sweden
- Ms. Jillian Abballe: UN Advocacy Officer and Head of Office for the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations

12:30 - 13:15 — LUNCH (2 rooms)

13:15 - 15:15 - Multi-Religious Perspectives on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

M.C. of this Session: Rebeca Rios-Kohn, Director, Arigatou International, New York

Opening Remarks:

- Ms. Henrietta Fore, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNICEF Executive Director
- Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
- H.E. Ms. Sima Sami I. Bahous, Permanent Representative of Jordan
- H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia
- Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President of Arigatou International and Leader of Miyochikai

Panel 1: Shared Values Between World's Major Religions and the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Moderator: Prof. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, Senior Advisor, KAICIID

Speakers:



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- Prof. Savitri Goonesekere, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Colombo
- Rev. Olav Fykse-Tveit, General Secretary, World Council of Churches
- The Most Rev. Julio E. Murray, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Central America, Bishop of Panama
- Dr. Mustafa Ali, Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children, Director, Arigatou International, Kenya

Panel 2: Discussion will focus on good practices and evidence on actions taken by religious leaders to safeguard children's rights

Moderator: *Dr. Azza Karam, Chair, UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development*

Speakers:

- Ms. Amanda Rives, Regional Policy and Advocacy Director World Vision International,
- Ms. Jean Duff, President, Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities,
- Mr. Nasser Haghmad, CEO, Islamic Relief Worldwide
- Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary-General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Representing *the UN Task Force Multi-Faith Advisory Council*

Closing of Session: Ms. Paloma Escudero, Director, Division of Communication, UNICEF

Coffee Break

15:15-17:15 - Role of Multi-Faith Partnerships to Combat CLIMATE CHANGE and its Impacts

What are some successful flagship programmes/projects of inter/multi-faith collaboration around climate change and its impacts?

Co-Moderators: *Charles McNeill (UNEP) and Rev Victor Kazanjian (URI)*

Guiding questions:

- *What are some challenges of multi-faith and UN collaboration in this area and what are some success stories?*
- *What are some of the partnership efforts in this area which also tie in concerns about peace and inclusive societies? educational dynamics? reducing inequalities?*
- *What Commitments the interfaith community is/will be making/announcing to advance climate action.*

Opening Remarks: Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Speakers:

- Jamil Ahmad (Director of Intergovernmental Affairs- UNEP's New York Office), Presentation on UN Environment Faith for Earth Strategy and UNEA Faith for Earth Dialogue that has mobilized 135 faith leaders representing 56 FBOs –
- Mary-Evelyn Tucker (Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology) - Presentation on the Rainforest initiative as an interfaith practical initiative with several FBOs
- Gopal Patel, GreenFaith Interfaith work
- Audrey Kitagawa (Chair of the Parliament of Worlds' Religions and member of the Advisory Council) - Presentation on the Climate Action Interfaith project
- Rev. Ken Kitatani, Forum 21



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- Karena Gore - Engagement on Climate Action

17:15-18:00 — Summary of the Briefings

Advisory Council Chair(s) address: *“What can my organisation commit to doing in partnership with other faith NGOs and the UN?”*

Mr. Jonathan Duffy, Advisory Council Vice-Chair, to lead this with the Advisory Council Members.



Appendix 2: List of Members of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council (2018-2019)

Chairs of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council to the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Religion:

- Co-chair: Ms. Tarja Kantola, Finn Church Aid
- Co-chair: H.E. Mr. Faisal Bin Muammar, Secretary General, KAICIID
- Vice-chair: Ms. Sadhviji Bhagawathi Saraswathi, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance
- Vice-chair: Mr. Jonathan Duffy, President, Adventist Development and Relief/ADRA

Members of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council to the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Religion:

- Professor Dr. Mohammed A. Fadeel A. Rahem, Al-Azhar University, Egypt.
- Dr. Husna Ahmed, Executive Director, Global One, UK.
- Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children, Director, Arrigatou International, Kenya.
- Ms. Zainah Anwar, Executive Director, Musawah, , Malaysia.
- Ms. Debra Boudreaux, Executive Vice President, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, USA.
- Mr. Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, General Secretary, ACT Alliance, Switzerland.
- Ms. Joyce S. Dubensky, Esq., Chief Executive Officer, Tanenbaum, Center for Interreligious Understanding, USA.
- Mr. Jonathan Duffy, President, Adventist Development and Relief/ADRA, USA
- Dr. Mohammed Elsanousi, Executive Director, Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, Finland and USA.
- Rev. Olav Fikse-Tveit, General Secretary, World Council of Churches, Switzerland.
- Ms. Margareta Grape, Church of Sweden, Sweden.
- Mr. Naser Haghamed, Chief Executive Officer, Islamic Relief Worldwide, UK.
- Fr. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director, Greenfaith, UK.
- Ms. Malaya Harper, General Secretary, World Young Women's Christian Association/YWCA, Switzerland.
- Mr. Kevin Jenkins, President and Chief Executive Officer, World Vision International, USA.
- Mr. Martin Junge, General Secretary, Lutheran World Federation, Switzerland.
- Rev. Victor Kazanjian, Executive Director, United Religions Initiative/URI, USA
- Ms. Audrey E. Kitagawa, Chair, Parliament of the World's Religions/PWR, USA.
- Mr. Fazlun Khalid, Director, Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Sciences, UK.
- Mr. Ryan Koch, Director, UN-NY Office, Latter Day Saints Charities, USA.
- Rev. Phumzille Mabizela, Executive Director, International Network for Religious Leaders Living with HIVandAIDS/INERELA, South Africa.
- Commissioner Christine Macmillan, World Evangelical Alliance, Canada.
- Ms. Junghee Min, Secretary General, Inter-Religious Climate and Ecology Network, South Korea.
- Rabbi Yonatan Neril, Founder & Executive Director, The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, Israel.
- Mr. Martin Palmer, Secretary General, Alliance of Religions for Conservation, UK.
- Mr. Gopal D. Patel, Director, Bhumi Project / Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, UK.
- Prof. Dr. (Mr.) Gamal I. Serour, Director of the International Islamic Center for Population studies and Research, Al Azhar University, Egypt.
- Rev. Ms. Sarah Snyder, Director, Rose Castle Foundation, UK.
- Ms. Sadhviji Bhagawathi Saraswathi, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, India
- Prof. Dr. (Ms.) Mounia Terraz, Director of Research/ Gender and Islam, Rabita Muhammadiya - Centre for Research and Studies, Morocco.
- Mr. Jack Palmer-White, Personal Representative to the United Nations, The Archbishop of Canterbury (signed on behalf of The Archbishop of Canterbury), UK.



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- Mr. Alberto Quattrucci, Secretary General of Peoples and Religions, Sant'Egidio Community, Italy.
- Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky, Director, Milstein Center for Interreligious Dialogue, Jewish Theological Seminary, USA
- Ms. Ani Zonneveld, Founder, President, Muslims for Progressive Values, Malaysia, Tunisia, USA, and The Netherland



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Finn Church Aid



Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation



GreenFaith



KAICIID



Tanenbaum, Center for Interreligious Understanding



World Young Women's Christian Association/YWCA



Global Interfaith WASH Alliance



ACT Alliance



World Vision International



Adventist Development and Relief/ADRA



Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers



Lutheran World Federation



Al-Azhar University



World Council of Churches



United Religions Initiative/URI



Global One



Church of Sweden



Parliament of the World's Religions/PWR



Arigatou International



Islamic Relief Worldwide



Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences



Musawah





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Latter Day Saints Charities



International Network for Religious Leaders Living with HIV and AIDS /INERELA



World Evangelical Alliance



Inter-Religious Climate and Ecology Network



The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development



Alliance of Religions and Conservation



Bhumi Project



Rose Castle Foundation



Rabita Muhammadiya



The Archbishop of Canterbury



Sant'Egidio Community



Milstein Center for Interreligious Dialogue



Muslims for Progressive Values



Baha'i International Community



Princeton University, Office of Religious Life and the Chapel

