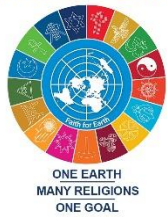


FAITH FOR EARTH



Faith for Earth Updates March 12, 2020



As many global conferences are being canceled due to the outbreak of coronavirus limiting people's abilities to travel for meetings, Faith for Earth with our partners the Swedish International Development Agency SIDA and Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) are going ahead with the People and Planet Global digital Conference 16-18 March. SIDA has launched [a video clip](#) describing the conference's focus on reducing the carbon footprint in holding digital conferences. Around 200 participants from Sweden, Kenya, Jordan, Bosnia, South Africa and Indonesia will be connecting to discuss interfaith collaboration, water, deforestation and youth issues. Some sessions will be webcasted to the general public so please monitor [THIS LINK](#).

[Faith for Earth Meets World Evangelical Alliance Leadership - Bonn 25-27 February 2020](#)

The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) has put an increased strategic focus on engaging with United Nations Organizations in relation to the SDGs and Agenda 2030. With an aim to strengthen its contribution to addressing global environmental challenges, WEA leadership invited Faith for Earth to address its global leadership meeting that was held in Bonn 25-27 February 2020 as the first and only UN organization to address such a global leadership meeting. At a dinner speech, the director of the Faith for Earth Initiative reiterated the central role faith-based organizations play in mobilizing the global and local communities in finding ethical solutions to global environmental challenges. To expand its outreach to the UN system, the WEA leadership and Faith for Earth organized at the UN premises in Bonn a general meeting with other UN organizations including the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UN SDG Action Campaign. The Secretary General of WEA, Bishop Efraim Tendero reiterated in the meeting the commitment of WEA to strengthen its collaboration with the UN in continuation of their already existing efforts including working in 2020 on the launch of a global youth campaign focused on climate change and creation care. The WEA launched the Global Evangelical Clean Energy Initiative – a commitment that 20% of the Evangelical carbon footprint will be converted to clean renewable energy by 2025. The WEA Creation Care Task Force launched the Project 20.'25 to implement this commitment in Uganda and the US in 2019. [WEA Sustainability Center](#) has already engaged in the different activities and dialogue conferences organized by Faith for Earth.

[Discrimination and Inequalities based on Gender and Religion/Belief in the Context of Climate Change and its Impact, Geneva 4 March 2020](#)

Faith for Earth contributed to the discussions held in Geneva on 4 March 2020 as part of the [launch of the report](#) of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief. The report focused on access to justice, education, health, and climate change. Faith for Earth contributed to the consultation meetings held last year engaging the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), the Stefanus Alliance International and the Danish Institute for Human Rights. The Expert Consultation Process on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals, was funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Office of the Special Representative on FoRB, and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Special Envoy for FoRB. The process involved more than seventy secular and faith-based experts from over thirty countries, representing a variety of different institutional, professional, religious and geographic backgrounds. As climate change is a complicated and intersectional global challenge, a special report addressing FoRB and climate change will be published soon.

[ICESCO announces US\\$200,000 prize for discovering Coronavirus cure or vaccine](#)

The Partnerships and International Cooperation Sector of the Islamic World Organization for Education, Science and Culture (ICESCO) has earmarked a prize for discovering a vaccine or treatment for Coronavirus, please [see this link](#) for more details about this award. This is a clear demonstration of the value that Faith-based institutions brings in connecting science to solving global challenges. Islam considers health as a basic human right. On hygiene the Quran says in Suret Albaqara, verse 222: *“For Allah loves those who turn to Him constantly and He loves those who keep themselves pure and clean”*. And on prevention of the spread of diseases, Prophet Mohammad said: *“If you hear that it (the plague) is in a land, do not go there, and if it breaks out in a land where you are, do not leave, fleeing from it.”*

[UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(2021-2030\) - online consultation open until 30 April 2020](#)

UNEP would like to invite you to contribute to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) development. Your support and your opinion are important to us. We have reached the second round of consultation in the development of a strategy for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. The Decade is a global effort, and therefore it is essential to capture the thoughts of everyone interested in it. This is why, at this stage, we would like to open up the process and share this final draft with you to receive further inputs. To review the draft strategy and share feedback, please register

through [this link](#). You will then be able to review either specific sections and/or give overall feedback on the draft strategy. The deadline for the submission of the comments is April 30, 2020. If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact us through this email address: restorationdecade@un.org. For additional information please also check: [New UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 - 2030](#).

[Abrahamic Traditions & Environmental Change Paper and Mapping](#)

During the Abrahamic Traditions and Environmental Change workshop [held in August 2019](#), Faith for Earth agreed with [UConn Abrahamic Programs for Academic Collaboration in the MENA Region](#) to produce a paper discussing environmental challenges in the Middle East and North Africa Region as well as conduct a mapping of activities of faith-based organizations on environmental issues in the Middle East and North Africa region. We are pleased to announce the launching of the two and you can access the [paper](#) and the [mapping](#) on our website.

[Accreditation to UN Environment Assembly](#)

A simple and online accreditation application system has been made available [New Online Accreditation System](#). Please note the [rules of procedure](#) of the [UN Environment Assembly](#), and [Guidelines](#).