

FAITH FOR EARTH



Faith for Earth Updates
on 12 May 2020



While we are unable to conduct joint activities that require physical presence, we have been busy with our partners planning many digital events that are important for our continuing fight for a better and healthy earth.

World Environment Day - 5 June 2020: Time for Nature

It's time to reimagine our relationship with nature. **Hosted by Colombia**, in partnership with Germany, the theme for this year's **World Environment Day**, on 5 June is biodiversity, "Time for Nature", an urgent call to combat accelerating species loss and degradation of our natural world at the hands of human activity. It will take not just one, nor just a village or neighbourhood but an entire global community. It's time to raise our voices and tell our global leaders that we need nature at the heart of decision making.

Mindful of the need to respect public health protocols due to COVID-19, celebrations and activities are taking place online. We may be physically-distanced, but we can stay socially-connected and make digital discussions more important than ever. Take the **Quiz** to test your knowledge about biodiversity, and access a **practical guide** for individuals, cities, governments, **faith communities**, schools & universities, businesses and civil society. You can also create your own materials by downloading the campaign **visual guidelines**. Please **register your faith-based activities** to show the world your active involvement and to be featured in the global report. Stay updated and **subscribe** to World Environment Day newsletters. **Stay tuned for our Faith stories.**

The Relevance of Peace in the Post-Pandemic Era

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought human beings closer to each other, despite social distancing and other negative effects of the virus. It has made us realize, even more so now, the importance of education, healthcare, climate action and peace. It is time to emphasize the critical importance and enhanced relevance of peace building, conflict resolution and the nuclear disarmament movement in the post-pandemic era. How much responsibility rests with governments, the private sector and civil society, especially young people, to bring about peace in the world? What is our vision for the post-COVID-19 world?

Organized by **Green Hope Foundation**, a Canada-based youth sustainability organization with chapters in 15 countries and accredited to UNEA, the **Relevance of Peace in the Post-Pandemic Era** webinar will be held on **15 May 2020 at 10am to 11:30am EST**. Faith for Earth will be joining a group of eminent speakers

from the Parliament of the World's Religions, United Religions Initiative, the Global Security Institute, and the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. Come and **join us** on this [Zoom Link](#).

Faith-based Approach to Address Biodiversity and Climate Crisis

Nature is in crisis, threatened by biodiversity and habitat loss, global heating and toxic pollution. Failure to act is failing humanity. Addressing the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and protecting ourselves against future global threats requires global stewardship of nature and biodiversity; and a clear commitment to “building back better”, creating green jobs and facilitating the transition to carbon neutral economies. Humanity depends on action now for a resilient and sustainable future.

Organized by [the Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar \(AYCMTA\)](#), the webinar will be held on Monday, May 18, 2020 - 15:00-16:00 Qatar Time. Young leaders will be discussing with Faith for Earth and Bahu Trust the engagement of faith communities and how Faith-based organizations can help the transition to a more sustainable post-COVID-19 world. **To participate**, please [visit the event page](#) and click on the zoom link.

Everything is Connected – Laudato Si Week 16-24 May 2020

As UN International partners with the [Dicastery for Integral Human Development](#) and the [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#) Africa, Faith for Earth will be conducting several activities to celebrate the [Laudato Si Week](#). We will announce these events as they mature and ready to share. Today, we are announcing [Laudato Si Exhibition](#) being organized in partnership between Faith for Earth and the [General Office for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation \(JPIC\) Franciscan Africa](#). The event will include, in addition to a photo exhibition and a webinar, a divestment announcement of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and the launch of a song by the Waka Waka band. To participate and learn more visit this [event page](#).

Living Earth Community: Multiple Ways of Being and Knowing

[The Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology](#) has published their latest [newsletter](#). One highlight of the newsletter is the announcement of the publication of a free open source online book titled [Living Earth Community: Multiple Ways of Being and Knowing](#) (Open Access Publishers, 2020). Edited by Sam Mickey, Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, this book is the fruit of a [conference at Oak Spring Garden Foundation](#) held October 26-29, 2018. Living Earth Community is a celebration of the diversity of ways in which humans can relate to the world around them, and an invitation to its readers to partake in planetary coexistence. From May 11 – July 1, a [series of videos will be released](#) that highlight different chapters of the book. You can watch these videos [here](#).

Accredited Major Groups Preparations for the United Nations Environment Assembly UNEA 5

The Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) accredited to UNEP, **including accredited Faith-based organizations**, will hold a **one day online consultation on June 7, 2020**, organized in close cooperation of the Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment (ForUM Norway), and the Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC). The consultation is sponsored by the Norwegian Ministry of Development and Environment. Participation to all sessions of the consultation is open to all accredited organizations, some sessions are open to the general public. **Please reserve this day in your calendars** and participate in the event. ForUM Norway will send out more information, including registration modalities, background information, how to connect, draft agenda etc. during the next couple of days.

The MGS consultation will be followed by so called “Global Townhalls” **on June 8 to 10**, with five themes including investing in nature, transformational change, marine litter, global food systems, and youth voices. These themes are related to the overall theme of UNEA 5 “Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”. On **June 9 and 10**, the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP (CPR) and the UNEA Bureau will meet for a retreat. Prior to that, on June 9, there will be a joint virtual session of representatives of MGS and the UNEA and CPR Bureaus, allowing for Major Groups to share the outcomes of the consultations on June 7 with member states.

Accreditation to UN Environment Assembly

You can apply for accreditation using the [New Online Accreditation System](#) and gain a consultative status within the [rules of procedure](#) of the [UN Environment Assembly](#), please refer to the criteria for accreditation as derived from Rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure and submit your request accordingly. [Guidelines here.](#)