

FAITH FOR EARTH



Faith for Earth Updates on 4 June 2020



When we launched the Faith for Earth Initiative in 2017 our mission has been engaging faith leaders and faith-based organizations at all levels. It is with a heart full of joy that on 5 June, on the occasion of the World Environment Day, the first national-level chapter of Faith for Earth will be launched in India led by our capable and energetic team of the India Country Office. The launch of the India Strategy and Action Plan will be made live in a webinar organized by the India Country Office and our partners United Religions Initiative. To participate, please visit [this page](#) for further information. The event **on 5 June at 5 pm New Delhi time** will be broadcasted on [UN India Facebook Page](#), [Sanskar Channel](#), [Religion World](#) and [URI Facebook Pages](#). Our plans include launching two more national chapters in 2020. So stay tuned.

Faith for Earth Climate Change and Environmental Justice – Commemorating World Environment Day

KAICIID International Dialogue Center, the Coalition of Faith-Based Organizations, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Faith for Earth will be organizing a high level webinar on Faith for Earth Climate Change and Environmental Justice on **4 June at 09:00 am EST**. Speakers will include **Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs** - Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, **Jorge Eduardo Rios** - Chief of the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime at UNODC, **Professor Roberto Manuel Carlés** - President of the International Association of Penal Law, Society of Social Defense, **Kiran Bali** - Global Chair of the United Religions Initiative, and **Harald Egerer** - Executive Secretary of the Carpathian Convention and Head of UNEP's Vienna liaison office. The event will be moderated by **Michael Platzer** - Co-Chair of the Coalition of Faith-based Organizations for Justice. To participate visit [this webpage](#) or KAICIID's [Knowledge Center](#).

Leaning into the Wind and Seeking Future

Creative partnerships and collaboration start with an idea. Working with Michael Reid Trice, the master mind behind [Religica](#) and Director of the [Center for Religious Wisdom and World Affairs](#) at Seattle University, is a real joy. Faith for Earth collaboration on education and religion has been fruitful and resulted in conducting a number of podcasts with world thought leaders on religion and ecology. The first two of these podcasts were with none other than Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim. Mary Evelyn's brilliant podcast focused on "Seeking the Future & the Creative Power of Grief" while John told the "Story of Leaning into the Wind". Both podcasts, and many others to follow are hosted at [Religica's podcast page](#), but also available across different social media engines. These links are below:

Mary Evelyn Tucker (*Seeking the Future & the Creative Power of Grief*): [Apple](#) – [Spotify](#) – [Youtube](#) – [Soundtrack](#)

John Grim (*The Story of Leaning into the Wind*): [Apple](#) - [Spotify](#) – [Youtube](#) – [Soundtrack](#)

Stay tuned for other brilliant podcasts.

[Laudato Si's Special Anniversary Year](#)

Faith for Earth took a very active part in the celebrations of the 5th anniversary of Laudato Si and its week long activities. The Dicastery for Integral Human Development at the Vatican has also launched the Laudato Si' Special Anniversary Year, which can hopefully flow into a Holy Decade for Earth with the Multi-Year LS Action Plans. You can access Laudato Si (May the Lord be praised for everything) Special Anniversary Year plans in English, Spanish, Italian and French on the following links:

[English](#), [Spanish](#), [Italian](#), and [French](#).

[A Thematic Guide Through the Process Leading to UNEA 5](#)

The main title for the fifth UN Environment Assembly, scheduled to take place in February 2021, is “Strengthening Actions for Nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”. How is this to be understood, and which sub-themes are of importance to the member states of the UN Environment Assembly? The Bureau of UNEA 5, working with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the CPR in Nairobi and UNEP’s secretariat have been hard at work on these issues resulting in a growing number of documents and identified themes. At first hand, it may prove difficult to find access to all these documents and themes including to navigate through the different points and arguments. To help ease access and understanding to all this, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future, having worked closely with UNEP, presents here a synthesised guide through all themes and documents. The guide is available in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Russian (to be available soon).

Please find it attached and under the following links:

English: <https://bit.ly/2zyPpYS>

French: <https://bit.ly/2ZPL3ai>

Spanish: <https://bit.ly/2yGU5ez>

On 8 – 10 June 2020, 6 virtual Global Townhalls, **open to everybody interested**, will take place to prepare for UNEA-5, under the following sub-themes: 1) Working with the Environment to Protect People in a Post-COVID world; 2) Healthy ecosystems for healthy people: Limiting the impact and future emergence of zoonotic diseases; 3) Adapt to thrive: Transformational change for nature and business; 4) Turning the Tide on Marine Plastics: How UNEA 5 can be a turning point; 5) Connecting people and nature: Transforming the global food systems; and 6) Youth voices for nature: Environmental governance in the time of COVID-19.

You can register via this link: <https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/>.

UNEP's Response to COVID 19

While Faith for Earth continues collating [Faith-Based actions](#) to COVID19, UNEP has been working on a global strategy and approach to the Pandemic. This [webpage](#) includes a strategy entitled “Working with the environment to protect people: UNEP’s Covid-19 response”, as well as detailed individual fact sheets that explore each focus area. UNEP [aggregates](#) all UNEP-related content with regard to COVID-19, including stories, events, press releases and relevant reports.

Returning to work in the context of COVID-19 – A Webinar Recording by WHO and ILO

Our colleagues at WHO and ILO have organized a very rich webinar discussing guidelines and consideration for governments, institutions and individuals to return back to work. To learn access the recording of these presentations, please [visit this website](#).

Announced earlier, but taking place this week

The Role of Faith-Based Organizations in The Green Recovery

On the eve of World Environment Day, UNEP's Faith for Earth Initiative and WWF will convene global faith leaders to explore the role of faith groups in advocating for a green recovery in a post-COVID world. This online discussion on **4th June at 10am - 11.15am EST**, will look at the role of faith in supporting a green economy, ensuring financial investments from faith groups are aligned with their values, and charting a new course for nature. To listen to the discussions between the [Partnership for Action on Green Economy](#), along High Level Speakers from [WWF](#), [FaithInvest](#), [Tzu Chi Foundation](#) and many other FBOs please join us [HERE](#).

The Living Chapel

Join us on **5 June in the launch of [The Living Chapel](#) at 17:00 Pm** Rome time. We will be live from the Vatican botanical garden witnessing the amazing Living Chapel in display and literally listen to the symphony of the trees composed by the Australian-Canadian music composer Julian Darius Revie with the support of over 100 students, inspired by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Pope Francis’s 2015 encyclical Laudato Si’. Julian is an Associate Director of Music at Saint Thomas More, the Catholic Chapel at Yale University. The Living Chapel is a temporary home to thousands of saplings of dozens of tree species from Central and Southern Europe, representing an authentic example of biodiversity. A collection of ancient ‘forgotten’ fruit trees native to Italy’s Umbria region is planted in recycled oil barrels surrounding the garden, representing invaluable biodiversity and cultural heritage. To know more and participate in the launch please [visit HERE](#).

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.](#)

[Previous Updates can be found HERE.](#)