



Faith for Earth Coalition

Achievement Report 2025

Message from the Director of the Coalition

As we close another year for the Faith for Earth Coalition, this Achievement Report is not only our final celebration—it is a testament to a legacy. After eight transformative years, I speak with deep gratitude, humility, and pride in what we created together.

When we launched the Faith for Earth Initiative in 2017, later evolving into the Coalition, our vision was clear: to harness the moral authority and mobilise the power of faith to address the triple environmental planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

Faith for Earth went beyond what had ever been attempted. We introduced concepts never before placed on the multilateral agenda: Beyond Formal Law, highlighting the values and traditions that guide behaviour where legislation cannot; the Science, Policy, and Spirituality Nexus, uniting worlds too often kept apart; and Faith and Sustainable Living as a guiding practice for communities worldwide. Alongside these, we elevated moral responsibility as central to environmental action.

Together, we co-created historic moments—the first Faith Pavilions at COPs, our presence at Stockholm+50 and UNEA, and countless other milestones where faith perspectives shaped global policy. We built bridges among dozens of religions, linked spiritual wisdom with scientific evidence, and brought faith voices to the heart of environmental governance.

We witnessed temples, mosques, churches, and synagogues stand as champions of sustainability. Faith leaders and communities took their place at the forefront of climate justice—in sacred spaces, on the streets, in the courts, and in negotiations. What began as an initiative became a movement. What was once an experiment is now a legacy.

The Coalition was never just a project. It has been a living movement of values and ethics for our common home. While its formal structure concludes, its spirit will endure through the thousands inspired, educated, and empowered on this journey.

To our partners—faith and interfaith leaders, organisations, youth, women, scholars, and activists - thank you for believing in this vision. Your commitment made all this possible.

The road ahead remains urgent. Let us carry forward the principle that protecting our planet is not merely a political priority but a profound moral and spiritual responsibility.

Dr. Iyad Abumoghli, Director,
Faith for Earth Coalition

Our priorities



This year, the various Councils and Interfaith Working Groups set a foundation to mainstream faith-based engagement across UNEP, independent of the intervention of the Faith for Earth Coalition. As they did so, they counted on partners cooperation to continue mobilising support, action, and leading by example.

The Faith for Earth Coalition continued to work towards the interconnected environmental crisis in close coordination with the Interfaith Thematic Working Groups and Councils, with a focus on interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Our work focuses on:

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

Faith for Earth offers its platform as a mechanism to convene and support the continuous engagement of faith actors under the Religion and Ecology Movement, and towards enhancing intergovernmental environmental processes. This approach for institutional engagement leverages good practices by faith leaders, faith institutions, organisations, and networks, including the youth, seeking to drive ambitious environmental policy and action.

Download
Faith for Earth: Achievement Report

- 2018/19
- 2020
- 2021/22
- 2023
- 2024

This programmatic report provides an insight on the Faith for Earth's activities, partnerships, and publications for the year 2025.

An Interagency Approach: Interreligious Engagement



[The UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development \(UN IATF-R\)](#) brings together 27 UN entities to strengthen collaboration with diverse faith partners, advancing knowledge exchange, capacity building, and joint advocacy for sustainable development.



[The Inter-agency Platform on Culture for Sustainable Development \(IPCSD\)](#) is dedicated to strengthening advocacy efforts on the role of culture in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Faith for Earth has engaged with the IPCSD's Strategic Goals, by contributing to the [Culture for Climate Action](#) thematic group, in collaboration with UNESCO and UNFCCC, focusing on sustainable consumption and production patterns and civil society-led action.

The UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the world's highest-level decision-making body on environmental matters, bringing together 193 UN Member States, along with international organisations, and civil society, to address global environmental challenges.

Major Groups and Stakeholders are essential for engaging civil society in the Assembly's preparation and proceedings. Through civil society engagement, UNEP can ensure "transparency and inclusiveness in the intergovernmental decision-making process."

The upcoming seventh session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA7), will convene stakeholders to advance environmental governance under the theme "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet" (8 - 12 December 2025) and Global Youth Environment Assembly (GYEA) from 29 - 30 November 2025 and 7 December 2025.

The Faith for Earth Coalition hosts the Faith for Earth Dialogue as a space to mobilise the efforts of the network and advocate for ambitious environmental policies at world's highest-level decision-making body for matters related to the environment. This year, Members of the Steering Committee of Accredited Faith-based Organisations to UNEA, an informal network tasked with convening the group of 90+ FBOs, are leading the way in its preparations.

Ahead of UNEA7, plans include webinars and workshops on:

- Leaving No One Behind Intergenerational and Interfaith Dialogue Advancing Sustainable Solutions for People and the Planet on 2 June, a joint webinar between three councils of the Faith for Earth Coalition, including the Youth Council, Women's Council, and the Steering Committee of Accredited Faith-Based Organisations. The session included discussions on the role of different generations, gender issues, and participation at UNEA7.
- Shaping the Future Together in the Road to UNEA7 on 16 September to identify key areas of engagement and interventions at UNEA7.
- Planning for the Global Youth Environment Assembly (GYEA) facilitated by the Eco-faith Working Group of CYMG to UNEP.

Accreditation to UNEA

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



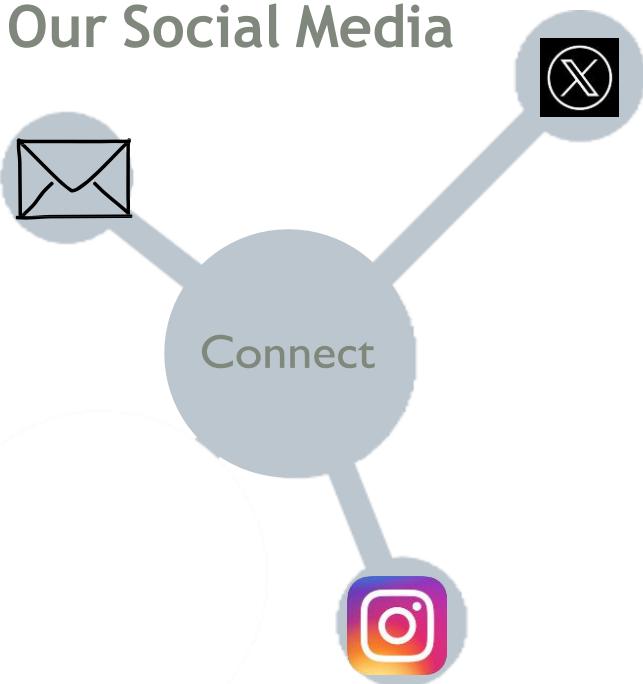
Seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)

Partnership Development

The following meetings were held, and strategies were launched as an extended effort of the Coalition's commitment to global development issues, including the institutional engagement of faith actors:

- **Introductory Meeting with the OAIC:** On 28 January, the OAIC explored faith leaders' role in environmental action and proposed collaboration with UNEP's Faith for Earth Coalition. Discussions focused on advocacy and capacity-building. Thereafter on 8 September, the OAIC met with the Gender Safeguards Unit of UNEP to discuss the Women to Women Dialogue Project.
- **Swedish Mission Council (SMC) Advocacy Network Session:** on 4 February, the Coalition spoke about "Building strong networks for advocacy as faith-based organizations" drawing on its experience and expertise.
- **Sunway Charter - Faith in Action: Addressing Planetary Health Challenges through Spiritual Leadership:** On 28 May, Dr. Iyad supported the launch of a unified commitment to healing our planet by integrating faith-inspired ecological stewardship, ethical responsibility, and community-led action.
- **G20 Interfaith Forum:** On 10-14 August, Ms. Azmaira Alibhai spoke about "The Impact of Theology and Advocacy in Action: The Examples of Laudato Si', Al Mizan" at a side-event. Here, partnership between the two movements was emphasised including placing climate justice at the forefront of activities.
- **4th International Conference on Multidisciplinary Studies (ICOMSI) 2025:** On 16 October, Dr. Iyad Abumoghli, was invited by Sebelas Maret University (Indonesia) to deliver a keynote address under the theme Human Security and Shifting the Needle of Environmental Action highlighting the interconnection between human security and the environment, the challenges and opportunities of this nexus, and the role of faith-based organisations in strengthening community resilience and advancing environmental security. This engagement reinforced UNEP's leadership in bridging sustainability, faith, and academic discourse at global platforms. Watch his intervention.
- Supporting faith-based programming in Malaysia and Pakistan in collaboration with local partners.

Our Social Media



What do we share through the Faith for Earth Newsletter and other social media platforms?

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

World Environment Day

Faith communities and indigenous peoples are often frontline defenders of their local environments. They are stewards of the natural resources. Their values for stewardship and solidarity can play a pivotal role in reshaping attitudes toward consumption and waste.

Mobilising these communities through values-driven action can catalyse lasting change. Efforts must prioritise justice, ensuring that solutions uplift marginalised groups and promote equitable access to clean environments. This World Environment, the Network shared vibrant stories of their pollution action:

- [Multi-level Solutions by Faiths to End Global Plastic Pollution on 3 June;](#)
- [Environmental Consultation in Zambia by the Council World Mission from June 2 to 6; and](#)
- [Much more, available on this webpage.](#)

World Environment Day 2025 set the stage for the Network to mobilise groups ahead of the final sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastics, including in the Marine Environment (INC). See the Section in this Achievement Report on Faith & Pollution Action.

Be part of the World Environment Day
(5 June, annual)

- Share the annual theme with your faith network, organisation, and community;
- Make a commitment as an individual, community, business, organisation; and
- Share communication assets, including the practical guide, Trello boards, and join official online commemoration events.



Promoting Capacity Building

Online Courses with the International Dialogue Center (KAICIID)

The Faith for Earth Coalition has supported KAICIID and its partners in developing several e-learning courses on faith and the environment, including:

- ['Faith, Environment and Climate Change'](#) A free e-learning course with eight modules, designed to help faith leaders, religious groups, and faith-based organisations engage with environmental issues using various methodologies, models, and tools.
- ['Engaging Faith Actors to Support the Implementation Process of the Sustainable Development Goals'](#) A free e-learning course designed to help religious leaders and faith-based organisations to better understand and engage with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- ['Engaging Faith Actors to Strengthen Cities' Resilience to Climate Change and Disasters'](#) A free e-learning course designed to introduce partners to the level of collaboration and coordination with government officials in building more resilient cities and cohesive communities.

Share your Project

[Faith Action on the UN Sustainable Development](#)

[Goals](#) is an open repository for the excellent projects, initiatives, and partnerships by faith actors worldwide.



[View Thematic Periodicals](#)

Note: the Faith Action on the UN SDG Database will not be updated after June 2025.

Faith Leaders' Calls to Action for the Earth

Faith leaders play a key role in guiding their communities to recognise environmental care as both a moral and spiritual responsibility. By drawing on sacred texts, they can inspire a sense of duty to protect the Earth, promoting sustainability and advocating for justice, compassion, and respect for the natural world.



This year, [UNEP's Faith for Earth Coalition joined the world](#) in mourning the passing of the late Pope Francis and in celebrating his profound legacy. His visionary leadership on integral ecology, exemplified through [Laudato Si': Care for Our Common Home](#) and [Laudate Deum](#), galvanised global efforts to embrace our moral and spiritual responsibility as stewards of the Earth.

His teachings have not only inspired multifaith environmental action but were also instrumental in shaping the development and launch of [Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth](#). His legacy will continue to guide and uplift generations to come in the pursuit of justice, peace, and care for our common home. View tributes from [Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the UN](#) and [Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP](#).

Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth

The Covenant draws upon Islamic teachings to highlight humanity's responsibility as stewards of the Earth, promoting sustainability and ecological justice. Launched at [an inter-ministerial press conference at UNEA6](#), Al-Mizan is now [available in 9 languages](#).

In June, earthrise (Al-Jazeera) published [The movement to mobilise Muslim guardians of the Earth](#).

In October, The International Network for Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM) under the esteemed patronage of Prince Hassan Bin Talal, emphasised the significance of Al-Mizan, encouraging collaborative efforts among Islamic organisations and government representatives from 18 Islamic countries present at the Assembly. The Al-Mizan Park, a living laboratory for students and researchers, fostering innovation and collaboration in water resource management, was launched.

Sustainable Lifestyles

Religion, values, and ethics shape lifestyles - from what believers eat, wear, and how they interact with one another. By promoting principles like environmental stewardship, compassion, and ethical responsibility to name a few, people of faith can play a key role in fostering sustainable lifestyles.

In 2025, the Coalition supported the Youth Council in sharing ["A Roadmap for People and the Planet: Driving Values-based Actions Across the Faith Actors Network"](#).

Faith-based organisations and actors can use this roadmap in the following ways:

- **Strategic Planning:** Integrate the roadmap into institutional plans, policies, and educational curricula.
- **Advocacy and Dialogue:** Engage in national and international platforms (e.g., COP, UNEA) to influence policy with spiritual perspectives on sustainability.
- **Community Mobilisation:** Act as trusted messengers within communities, driving sustainable habits and responsible consumption.

“Combining spiritual beliefs with pro-environmental actions can yield a powerful framework for addressing current environmental challenges. Religious communities can inspire meaningful change by leading by example and ensuring the well-being of all life on Earth”.

- Dr. Iyad Abumoghli

This work also included:

- Faith, Values & Culture Reducing Textile Waste organised on the International Day for Zero Waste 2025.
- Mindfulness, Spirituality and Planetary Health Workshop
- From Crisis to Compassion: A Dharmic Response to Our Planetary Emergency: Organised at the UN Geneva Office
- A Campaign led by the Youth Council under the project **Observances of Faith for People and the Planet** focusing on: Lent, the Day of Vesak, and the Islamic New Year.

Faith & Climate Action

Faith plays a vital role in addressing the climate crisis, inspiring collective action for sustainability. In 2025, Faith for Earth has published a Catalogue on Faith & Climate Action demonstrating our approach to this area of work over the years. Read the [Catalogue](#).

- **Exploring Faith-based Community Climate Action:** Dr. Iyad Abumoghli (UNEP Faith for Earth) and Reba Elliott (Laudato Si' Movement), with moderation by Brian Roewe (EarthBeat) highlighted how religious leaders and organizations are advancing environmental stewardship, from renewable energy and fossil fuel divestment to grassroots sustainability efforts.
- **PaRD 10-Year Jubilee Publication:** Faith for Earth contributed to the PaRD 10-Year Jubilee publication, which will be launched in 2026 to celebrate a decade of interfaith collaboration for sustainable development. UNEP was invited to showcase one promising activity from 2023 onwards that demonstrated meaningful impact through partnerships within the PaRD network.
- **Divine Responsibility: Faith Communities Addressing the Climate Security Crisis:** Ms. Azmaira Alibhai was featured in the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers Podcast Series on Sacred Earth: Faith, Climate, and the Power of Listening.
- **Jesuits for Climate Justice: Faith in Action at COP30:** Ahead of COP30, Ms. Azmaira Alibhai participated in this Campaign in response to the outcomes of the 4th Universal Apostolic Preference Survey, the 10th anniversary of the Laudato Si' encyclical and the Paris Agreement, under the “Faith and Ecology” podcast.
- **R&D 3.2 Religious Engagement in Global Affairs:** Dr. Iyad Abumoghli published an article on Religious Engagement in Global Affairs: A New Interreligious Dynamic for the Good of Humanity.
- **AACC Continental Capacity Strengthening Meeting on Ecological and Economic Justice Advocacy:** Ms. Azmaira Alibhai led a session on "The Role of Faith Actors in Multilateral Engagement for Earth Welfare" as part of the Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ) bringing together delegates from across the continent to explore faith-led engagement on ecological and economic justice.

The Interfaith Working Group on Climate Change is a collaborative platform where faith leaders, activists, and organisations unite to address the urgent climate crisis.

The Working Group's activities are self-defined and together, combine spiritual guidance with environmental advocacy to promote sustainable solutions. They amplify the moral imperative for climate action under our work on Faith and Climate Action.

Faith & Nature Action

Faith and nature are deeply connected, as spirituality often inspires a sense of responsibility towards the environment. Faith for Earth has actively engaged in this area through initiatives such as:

- The Nature Faith, Climate Change, and Human Rights Challenges on 20 – 21 March
- Commemorating the International Day for Biological Diversity observed on 22 May with videos of community-based resilience and support from the Interfaith Women's Council:
 - Dr Kuzipa Nalwamba
 - Rev. Dr. Anne Burghardt
 - Rev. Dr. Rachel Mash
- Plural Values and Shared Futures Indigenous and Faith Contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) on the International Day of Indigenous Peoples and in support of the IPBES Values Assessment.

Faith Groups at Intergovernmental Meetings

- Faith groups mobilised in support of the ocean at the Ocean Conference (UNOC) 2025 in Nice, France, convening a webinar Sacred Oceans, Shared Future where Dr. Iyad Abumoghli made remarks on the importance of conserving this critical ecosystem.

The Faith & Nature Hub

WWF's Beliefs & Values Programme has been a trusted partner of the Faith for Earth Coalition, which engages with religious and spiritual organisations and communities around the world to support faith & conservation partnerships.

The Faith & Nature Hub offers resources on our flagship project Faith-led Ecosystem Restoration. The Hub also has pages on Green Pilgrimage, Sacred Species, Forest Protection, Faith, Food & Farming, and many more.

They are also creating a dedicated Faith for Earth Coalition page highlighting our work and many of our resources.

The Interfaith Working Group on Nature supports a united effort from diverse faith traditions to protect and restore nature, highlighting the deep connections between spirituality, biodiversity, and environmental sustainability.

Our work on Faith and Nature Action supports groups working to address ecosystem restoration (UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 - 2030), and biodiversity loss and species conservation (Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework) complementing efforts to strengthen civil society engagement.



Faith groups present the "Turning the Tide" multi-faith declaration to UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen during the UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice.



Faith & Pollution Action

Faith groups are implementing responsible waste management practices in their houses of worship, institutional premises and places of gathering; advocating for social justice, particularly as they affect the vulnerable and most affected groups by the pollution and waste crisis; and have shown their support an international framework to address all forms of pollution, including plastic pollution.

Crucial in tackling the pollution and waste crisis demonstrated in Faith for Earth's publication, '[Faith-based Action Towards a Pollution-free Planet](#)', faith groups are drawing on spiritual values that emphasise the protection of the earth, and taking action to protect ecosystems and communities.

The second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC5.2), in Geneva, Switzerland adjourned without consensus on a text of the instrument.

The Interfaith Working Group on Pollution mobilised the network around the following advocacy tools with a view to continue their collaboration:

- [Faith-based Advocacy ahead of INC-5.1](#): Resulting from a call from the INC Secretariat to mobilise the support of faith groups for the intergovernmental process webinar focused on the INC process, highlighting the impactful role of FBOs in advocating for ethical stewardship, and joining civil society groups on the human rights implications of plastic pollution, offering a vital platform to unite in promoting a just and sustainable future.
- [INC5.2 and the Power of Faith Communities](#): The Working Group shared more about the negotiation process, status, and uplifted powerful examples of faith-based action around the world.
- The Working Group published:
 - [A Multifaith Statement](#)
 - 60-second explainer videos:
 - [Video 1 – Context and History](#)
 - [Video 2 – The Current Situation](#)
 - [Video 3 – What if we adopt the plastic treaty? What if we don't?](#)
 - [National Policymaker Letter Template](#) | and [Local Policymaker Letter Template](#)

Members of the Interfaith Working Group on Pollution 2025 are: Green Anglicans, Tearfund, SGI Gokkai, Islamic Foundation for Ecology & Environmental Sciences (IFEES), Quakers UN Office (QUNO), Islamic Help, Bahu Trust (Facilitator), Centre for Earth Ethics (CEE), and the Human Dignity and Environmental Care Foundation (HUCEFO).

FAITH-BASED ACTION TOWARDS A POLLUTION-FREE PLANET

Catalogue

Version November 2024



Faith Based Action Towards a Pollution Free Planet: Catalogue

The Interfaith Working Group on Pollution enables interfaith engagement to address the pollution and waste crisis. Through moral and ethical perspectives, faith-based organisations encourage sustainable practices and values-based environmental advocacy, captured under our work on [Faith and Pollution Action](#).

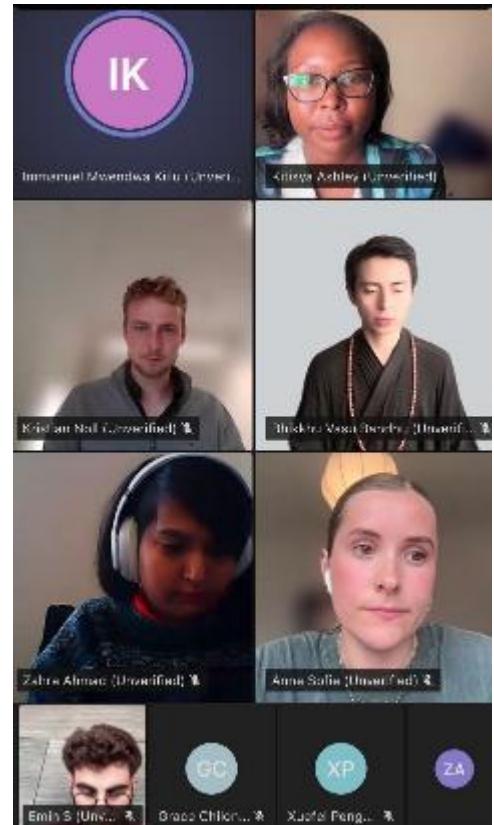
Youth Engagement

In 2025, the Faith for Earth Coalition Youth Council (2024 - 2026), comprising 35 Members representing over 16 different faith traditions, was led by Mr. Kristian Noll (Chair), with Ms. Zahra Ahmad and Bhikkhu Vasu Bandhu (Co-chairs), and facilitated in close collaboration with the Children and Youth Major Group (CYMG) to UNEP Eco-Faith Working Group.

- In January, the Youth Council participated in a consultation to develop UNEPs **Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2026-2029**. The Consultation informed the drafting of the full Strategy, which will subsequently undergo review and consideration through established the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) processes. Ultimately, the Strategy will be presented for adoption at the UN Environment Assembly in December 2025.
- **Youth Interfaith Summit Series - Faith in International Climate Policy:** Faith for Earth shared their experiences working with youth in environmental policy.
- **Youth Expert and Advocate Meeting on Transforming Global Governance for the Planetary Emergency** in April
- **Engaging Young Activists in Planetary Health: A Perspective of Faith and Spirituality-Inspired Environmental Advocacy:** Members of the Youth Council organised an interfaith youth event at the ECOSOC Meeting in April.
- **Common Horizons - Interreligious Pathways to Social Cohesion and Climate Justice in Europe:** Anne-Sofie represented the Youth Council and shared key areas for collaboration in April.
- **Faith, Futures & Frontlines: Commonwealth Youth Arts & Advocacy for Climate Justice** in June.
- **Faith in the Future Youth, AI & Digital Skills for Climate Action** on International Youth Day.

Observances of Faith for People and the Planet is a campaign by the Faith for Earth Youth Council seeking to uncover the ways faith and spiritual observances can further highlight ecological elements of the observance, holiday or celebration occurring annually.

This project seeks to bring youth movements and communities together to commemorate their faiths and the earth through art, culture, music, prayer, and colour.



The Youth Council met monthly to network, find opportunities to collaborate with one another, galvanise support for their projects and campaigns, and lay a standard for interfaith youth engagement in global environmental governance relying on the principles of faiths.



OBSERVANCES OF FAITH FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

A conversation on environmental practices at annual festivals, observances and celebrations by the world's religions.

The Language of Our Generational Challenge (LOOGC) is a visionary project by the Youth Council to enhance interreligious and intercultural dialogue through storytelling as a means of sharing faith-inspired visions for a just and sustainable world.

This project walks us through the lives of Faith for Earth Youth (denoting young people of faith engaged in environmental advocacy globally) as they navigate their work within their institutions. This digital storymap uplifts the inspiration of young people of diverse religious and spiritual backgrounds to support one another, turning vision to action.

By shifting the language of our generation from fear to hope, this project aims to ease climate anxiety and empower young people to reimagine a better future together, drawing on their faiths and religious institutions as a source of inspiration, guidance, and strength for meaningful collective environmental action.

A commitment to Young Professionals

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



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

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

- The work of the Councils: Faith for Earth Youth Council, the Interfaith Women's Council, The Steering Committee of Accredited Faith-based Organisations to UNEA;
- Supported the coordination of the portfolio of work on Faith and Climate Action, Faith and Nature Action; Faith and Pollution Action; sustainable consumption and production; culture and sustainable development;
- Joined efforts towards the planning of the World Environment Day, International Day of Indigenous Peoples, and more; and
- Kept the Network informed about the work of the Coalition.

We would like to recognise the invaluable contributions of the following colleagues who joined our journey in 2025:



Ting Chen



Marit van den
Wittenboer



Marguerite
Bernard



Miguel Ortiz-
Cañavate
Campbell



Yizhen Wang



Xuefei Peng



Charlotte
Evans



Camilia
Prevelato

Gender & the Environment



The Interfaith Women's Council, a platform for advancing women of faith's leadership on global environmental issues, is relaunching in 2025 with a newly recruited council. This initiative aims to amplify voices at the intersection of gender, religion, and environmental governance.

Women of Faith Leading Change

Going Further, Faster, Together For Climate and Gender Justice: Members of the Women, Faith and Climate Network convened a Side Event at the UN Commission on the Status of Women with Ireland, Zimbabwe and UNEP Faith for Earth to discuss mobilising communities globally in inclusive climate action underscoring the principles of justice and equity.

Inclusive Faith-based Environmental Action: The Interfaith Women Council

In this overview of the role of women faith leaders in the climate movement, inclusive leadership, open dialogue, and community-based action are described as critical elements to the Faith for Earth Network and the Religion and Ecology Movement generally.

Inclusive Faith-based Environmental Action: The Interfaith Women Council

Overview

Version: September 2025

Faith for Earth Coalition

United Nations Environment Programme



The Future of the Faith for Earth Coalition

The Faith for Earth Coalition, launched as a flagship initiative, has exemplified UNEP's catalytic approach to environmental action through stakeholder engagement. Over the years, the Coalition has united diverse faith-based organisations (FBOs), high-level faith leaders, youth, women's groups, indigenous representatives, and policymakers around a shared mission to address the triple planetary environmental crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

Through knowledge-sharing, policy advocacy, and innovative partnerships, the Coalition has demonstrated the unique and transformative role of faith-based actors in advancing environmental stewardship, shaping values, and influencing behaviour change at scale.

As UNEP transitions from maintaining a dedicated unit for the Coalition to adopting a more mainstreamed and integrated approach, the focus will shift to empowering FBOs to independently sustain, localise, and expand the Coalition's achievements. This evolution reflects UNEP's broader strategic vision: to develop initiatives that are impactful, scalable, and adaptable, while harnessing the power of cultural, spiritual, and behavioural levers for systems-level change.

Through this transition, UNEP aims to:

- **Empower Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs):** FBOs will be equipped to carry forward the Coalition's mission using the robust frameworks, interfaith networks, and knowledge products developed to date. Integrating behavioural science tools, such as norm activation, habit formation, spiritual resonance, and moral framing, into religious practices and communications will support sustainable, values-driven behaviour change at community and institutional levels. FBOs will serve as trusted messengers to translate global goals into culturally relevant local action.
- **Embed Faith Engagement Across UNEP Programmes:** Faith-based actors will remain essential contributors to UNEP's strategies, particularly in climate action, nature protection, pollution reduction, and sustainable consumption and production. Faith engagement will increasingly be integrated across thematic areas, wherever and whenever possible, with attention to intergenerational, gender-sensitive, and regionally diverse participation, thereby reinforcing social norms that support environmental responsibility.
- **Provide Strategic and Thematic Support:** As operational responsibilities are transitioned, UNEP will maintain a strategic advisory role, offering technical support, access to global policy platforms, and connections to multilateral environmental agreements. UNEP will continue to ensure, upon request, that faith-led initiatives are aligned with evidence-based practices and global frameworks, supporting FBOs creating emotionally resonant narratives and rituals of accountability that inspire action.
- **Catalyse New Opportunities for Collaboration:** Building on the demonstrated impact of the Faith for Earth Coalition, UNEP will continue to act as a connector and catalyst, convening faith leaders, policymakers, behavioural scientists, and sustainability innovators to co-create solutions to emerging environmental challenges through its United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) served by the civil society unit and the accreditation process.

UNEP's transition out of the operational management of the Faith for Earth Coalition marks not an end but a **strategic pivot**, one that aligns with its mission to catalyse transformational change through empowered partnerships. By encouraging embedding behavioural science within spiritual and cultural frameworks, UNEP ensures that the legacy of the Coalition endures as a decentralised, self-sustaining, and adaptive movement, rooted in local realities but globally connected.