

Mr Honourable President and honourable members. I will be brief.

Thank you for this panel and this opportunity. I have been encouraged by what I have heard here but want to come from a different perspective. I am grateful for the comments from the honourable member from Iran for peace.

I am speaking from a multi-faith environmental NGO in South Africa with all the major faiths involved, [a voice not often heard here, though faiths are the largest sector!]

All faiths would say that we have lost our moral compass – which sees greater inequality and environmental degradation - and we believe we won't achieve social or planetary sustainability unless we get our morals right. To get our economics right must we get our ethics right.

So we in the faith communities are calling for the application of moral principles as a foundation in all we do – principles you all know, like Justice and Equity.

But it is Justice for People **and Planet** – now and in the future. In the climate talks we are calling for **climate justice** –for people and planet.

Equity for people **and planet** – **all life on this planet which is now seriously threatened in this 6<sup>th</sup> great extinction.**

But we also call for principles not often heard – I suspect – in these corridors:

Of compassion – for one another and all life.

And of love – Love for one another and love for this incredible planet which is so beautiful and abundant and on which we are totally dependent.

So we ask we be guided by the principles of the Earth Charter, respecting and caring for the community of life – all life on.

That means that we are tolerant and inclusive, for diversity is the key to a healthy planet. So let us rejoice in our diversity of cultures, languages, faiths, and let us pass all of this on to our children.

We ask that Rio be a time when we do what is **right** – not expedient – for each other and the planet. We believe we shall then succeed.

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