

Skálholt III Recommendations

Ministers, faith-based actors, academics and UN staff gathered virtually and together in Skálholt, Iceland in October 2021 and have agreed to the following:

1. Reiterating the declaration "[Our Sacred Commitment](#)" which emanated from the Faith for Nature Conference in Skálholt in 2020;
2. Considering the urgency of addressing climate change based on the stark evidence provided by the sixth assessment of the IPCC 6, and its intersection with nature degradation, biodiversity loss and pollution;
3. Welcoming important initiatives including the [Faith and Science appeal for COP 26](#), the divestment movement spearheaded by faith institutions, previous faith declarations and the approaches to nature grounded in spiritual beliefs, including Laudato Si and the Al-Mizan draft by Islamic institutions, resulting in mobilization of faith communities;
4. Recognizing Faith-based organizations as central actors, interlocutors, and contributors (among Major Groups and Stakeholders) to environmental governance;
5. Recognizing that belief systems, including faith-inspired ethics and values, are instrumental in enacting essential behavioural change towards efforts to address environmental challenges. There is thus a clear need to further integrate spiritual perspectives and ethics into global environmental governance;
6. Affirming that faith communities are building awareness of the interdependence of all life and taking action to preserve the environment for the sake of present and future generations;
7. Reiterating that youth movements are embracing spirituality and faith as an avenue to environmental change, the Climate Youth Summit represents a great platform for knowledge sharing and networking. Youth movements hold immense sway over the future of the environment, making their involvement in the faith-environment nexus especially significant;
8. Acknowledging that human rights, gender equity, traditional knowledge and Indigenous rights must be prioritized as a matter of justice and a key area of concern within faith activities;
9. Acknowledging that the academic sector is promoting the value of faith efforts in environmental preservation, protection and restoration. This reflects a conviction that religion and science are unified in reinforcing systems of knowledge and practice which, together, can help transform humanity's relationship with the environment;
10. Acknowledging the role of religious actors in encouraging Member States to apply ethical and principle-based action in the face of global environmental degradation, bolstered by support from and collaboration with eminent leaders, youth groups and scientifically guided institutions;
11. Recognizing the need for Member States to adopt a resolution focused on the potential of faith-based engagement to advance environmental governance, facilitating the meaningful contribution of faith actors to sustainable development, including economic, social and environmental;
12. Building on the successes of the Faith for Earth Initiative, UNEP has played a key role in empowering faith communities to engage in multilateral dialogue to build momentum and catalyze change;
13. Calls for the adoption of a global resolution, integrating the contributions of faith actors to environmental governance and establishing a global Faith for Earth Coalition within UNEP and providing the needed capacity and financial resources to achieve its goals.

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