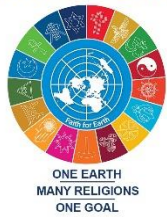


FAITH FOR EARTH



Faith for Earth Updates April 11, 2019



Dear Brothers and Sisters;

With sincere apologies for the delay, I am pleased to share herewith the summary report of the Faith for Earth Dialogue including the minutes of the sessions, lists of attendees, speakers and sessions.

To access photos and videos of each of the speakers, please visit <http://tiny.cc/z70t4y>. There are three video recordings of the third session of day three which will be uploaded today.

I will be sharing soon a synthesis report highlighting issues discussed and recommendations made.

You can access the UN Environment Resolutions on this link

<http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/ministerial-declaration-resolutions-and-decisions-unea-4>

You can access the list of all participants of the Assembly here <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27849/List%20of%20Participants%20UNEA%204%20%282019%29.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>

Best wishes

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FAITH FOR EARTH DIALOGUE UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY 4



Information Summary Report
March 11 -15, 2019

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Introduction:

The Faith for Earth Dialogue was held during the period 11-15 March 2019 as part of the events of the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly. The Dialogue was organized

Prior to the UN Environment Assembly, concerted efforts by the Initiative and faith-based organizations have resulted in increasing the number of Accredited organizations by 400% to reach a total number of 39 accredited faith-based organizations.

More than 135 faith leaders and representatives of 56 faith-based organizations registered to attend the Assembly. During the Assembly, more than 220 individuals have signed the attendance sheets at least once. Overall participants represented faith-based organizations, UN participants, member states and other major groups. List of Participants is in in Annex I.

The Faith for Earth Dialogue was organized through 11 sessions during the five day period involving 63 speakers representing 12 faiths and congregations from all continents of the world.

Objectives of the Dialogue:

The overall aim of the Faith for Earth Dialogue was to provide faith leaders and faith-based organizations an opportunity to present their positions, experiences and interfaith engagement. Furthermore, the Dialogue has provided the participants with an opportunity to reflect on the UN system activities and on how it can integrate the initiative into its Programme of work and partner with FBOs. Discussions also included ways of coordinating current and future efforts.

More specific objectives included:

- x Share experiences and information between inter-faith groups involved in environmental work in various faiths and organizations (best practices, challenges, lessons learned and gaps to address in the future)
- x Discuss coordination mechanisms and approaches between the Faith for Earth Initiative and faith-based organizations and faith leaders towards creating a Faith for Earth Coalition.
- x Ensure the role of environmental religious activities is strengthened among different
- x Discuss and present Faith-based perspectives on the theme of UNEA 4 on innovative solutions to tackle environmental issues and consumption and production
- x Mobilize the Faith for Earth community action and leadership
- x Network with UNEA participants for Policy dialogue and knowledge sharing
- x Promote sustainable living in partnership with faith-based organizations
- x Discuss greening faith-based assets and investments

The Agenda of the Dialogue is attached as Annex II.

Background on Faith for Earth Initiative:

Accelerating Agenda 2030 and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals are becoming increasingly essential to overcome the complex and existential environmental challenges that are exacerbated by conflicts, migration, population growth and urbanization, among others. The Global faith and interfaith community has always contributed to easing human sufferings and providing the much-needed support at the local level, be it part of its charity work or main institutional objectives. Faith-based organizations are rooted in the social values of the specific faith. Faith, religious and cultural values are cornerstones in the spiritual community, but they have been often ignored or side-lined in the wake of the different industrial revolutions.

Countries cannot work alone, and even if they do, will not be able to achieve the global sustainability agenda. Therefore, international collective actions are much more needed in the shape of cooperation, alliances and exchange of knowledge and experiences, but also joint implementation at all levels.

In 2017, UN Environment has scaled up its engagement with faith-based organizations and launched its corporate strategy to engage with the faith and religious communities. The Faith for Earth Initiative was launched as the implementation arm of the strategy with a mission to empower and engage with faith-based organizations as partners, at all levels, toward the main overarching goals of the Initiative are 1) empowering leadership, 2) mobilizing faith-based investments and 3) providing the faith-science evidence. These goals will be supported by a system of knowledge management encouraging south-south cooperation.

Our approach stems from the intrinsic linkages between faith concepts of stewardship and duty of care and ecological sustainability that improves the socio-economic conditions of all, leaving no one behind. Religion and culture through environmental sustainability can significantly address climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, desertification, and unsustainable land and water use, by fostering a fundamental change in the attitude of most people. They can do so through their institutions and communities, and through cooperation with other cultures.

The Sustainable Development Goals stress the importance of Environmental Care in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The Faith for Earth Initiative sets targets for South-South and Triangular Cooperation that target both technology and capacity-building in which all countries have committed to achieve.

The Faith for Earth Dialogue

The Faith for Earth Dialogue was a golden opportunity to bring together faith leaders, faith-based organizations, UN agencies, member states and other stakeholders to discuss interfaith collaborations and the role of different faith institutions in contributing to the theme of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly: Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production.

Faith-based organizations have expressed keen interest to participate in the policy discussions around the UNEA resolutions, but also present their knowledge and experiences

to a wider spectrum of interested parties. It was obvious that a side event discussing linkages between faith and the environment would do injustice to the faith community that is very active at global, regional and local levels. Therefore, the door was open to all interested organizations to organize their dialogue events focussing on their contribution to the theme of the Assembly. The schedule of the different sessions of the dialogue, along with the focus of each session is found in Annex II. While the following represent a summary of the concept of each of the sessions:

1- Eco-just Churches and Communities: Models for Living with Justice and Sustainability

Tackling the climate and larger ecological crisis demands deep-seated changes in the way we consume and produce. Churches and faith-based communities are stepping up to this challenge. The event will discuss a roadmap for churches, congregations and communities to live sustainably and build economies of life in local contexts. It will showcase concrete examples of how faith-based communities are practising and applying life-giving agriculture and forestry, climate-friendly energy and transport solutions, sustainable consumption and creative alternative economic models.

2- Advancing climate justice with faith -based renewable energy projects

In order to cope with poverty and the adverse impacts of climate change, populations in rural Africa need to be empowered. This is especially true for poor and vulnerable women and girls. This session explores how decentralised renewable energy projects conceptualized, implemented and run by faith-based actors in rural Africa can be a means to greater empowerment to achieve climate justice for vulnerable groups as well as an innovation in rural areas with this actor set-up for the sustainable consumption and production of energy. This takes the discussion on empowerment of vulnerable groups beyond the usual aspect of adaptation as this approach empowers vulnerable groups to become proactive agents of change in climate mitigation efforts. Empowered rural populations are able to implement sound natural resources management. This will be exemplified by the practical case of a IDUPHUV HPS Program in rural Kenya that is moving beyond adaptation into building innovative sustainable business models.

3- Lifestyle Changes based on Values and Ethics ±The Role of Faith in promoting Sustainable Consumption and Innovative Technology

To create lasting changes in lifestyle and awareness for the future of our planet has proven not to be easy. The panelists from faith-based communities will elaborate in detail on innovative solutions for environmental challenges and that sustainable consumption/production is doable, urgent and the right way forward. At the beginning of such transition stands the empowerment of the individual - we must change and become an example of good action and governance. Therefore, representatives from major religions have joined hands to strengthen the momentum for the transformation of society. They will share their insights from their communities on environmental challenges related to poverty and natural resources management, including sustainable food systems, food security and halting biodiversity loss. For us to tackle issues of sustainable consumption we need to get to the root causes of what has led us to the type of lifestyle that we lead today. We need to re-examine our behavior

and start to define success differently from what it is now. The approaches to remedy the situation must be in tandem with human behavior. It is time to start questioning our current actions that have brought us to where we find ourselves and how to minimize wastage and consumerism.

4- Inter-faith partnership for sustainable environment and development in Nigeria

The Strength in Diversity Development Centre (SDDC) is an Inter-religious and intercultural dialogue centre working on strengthening diversity for sustainable development in Nigeria with focus on religious understanding and dialogue, peace building and conflict transformation, good governance and empowerment. The Centre, in the past 5 years has provided greater initiative to engender peace and development in Nigeria. This session sought to widen their scope of work, share perspectives and experiences, failures and successes on these projects. Furthermore, the Centre sought partnership, supports and networking.

5- The Islamic Perspective of Environmental Protection and Promoting Interfaith Actions

Show casing and strengthening the role of Islam in contributing to the theme of the assembly on sustainable consumption and production and innovation by going from theory to best practices on Faith-based actions in Environmental protection and SD in the Islamic World. Enhancing the level of understanding of the Islamic Text instructions (Koran and Sunna) on Earth Care and Human Responsibility.

6- Faith -Based Initiatives for Addressing Environmental Challenges

Around the world, hundreds of millions of people either have faith as an integral part of their lives or are affiliated with a religious group. Globally, faith and religious identities continue to be a major driver of behaviour amongst many people. As faith and religion constitute a key part of human identity and cultural values in most parts of the world, any serious efforts on development ought to incorporate faith. To this end, the UN Environment Programme has launched the Faith for Earth Initiative. The Initiative is a platform for Faith Leaders and Faith-based organizations to share experiences on how the environment is an integral part of different faiths and how issues ranging from climate change to sustainable lifestyles impact us all. A primary goal would be to increase the number of international and local faith-based organizations integrating environmental sustainability in general, and particularly ideas and solutions on sustainable consumption.

7- Innovative Approaches to Interfaith Action

Policies and resolutions are very necessary as institutional contribution to environmental governance involving member states and stakeholders. However, practical innovations and innovative approaches are very much needed to show case that solving environmental issues can be done and achieved through global and local innovations. This session will shed the light on different innovations to tackle environmental issues related to water scarcity, eco-tourism, recycling, fashion industry and others.

8- From Trash to Treasures: Community -Driven Approaches to Sustainable Consumption

Community-building around recycling centers creates environmentally-minded global citizens willing to act to protect the planet through individual behavior changes while at the same time helping to clean up the environment. Utilizing plastic textile technologies and life-cycle-based approaches like ones like 7] X & KDa¶M Technology to offer the know-how on plastic waste between entrepreneur and faith base organizations, transforming plastic bottles into clothing and other products for consumer usage.

9- The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative: An Historic Convergence of Religious /HDGHUV DQG ,QGLJHQRXV 3HR SOHV WR 3URWHFW WKH 3O

Religious and faith-based actors are emerging as a force to be reckoned with in the domain of environmental issues, mobilizing broad coalitions and alliances around specific environmental policy issues. To date, however, the issue of forest protection has not been a focus for faith-based/interfaith leaders and activists. The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative (IRI) was launched last year by UN Environment in partnership with major interfaith groups, supported by the government of Norway, to fill this gap. It is an international, multi-faith alliance that aims to bring moral urgency and spiritual resources to global efforts to end tropical deforestation and a platform for faith-based leaders and communities to work hand-in-hand with indigenous peoples, governments, civil society and business on actions that protect rainforests and safeguard those that serve as their guardians. It was launched in recognition of the fact that the spiritual resources, moral guidance and authority, and unparalleled LQIOXHGFH RI WKH ZRUOG¶V UHOLJLRXV OHDGHUV DQG ID WR SURWHFW WKH SODQHW¶V UHPDLQLQJ UDLQIRUHVWV

10- Faith, Global Ethics and Climate Commitments: The Fifth Directive of the 3DUOLDPHQW¶V *OREDO (WKLF IXQG HG LQLWLDWLYH DQG Project

The session focused on the FRQWLQXLW\ WKDW H[LVWV EHWZHHQ IDLV HWKLFV´RU YDOXHV VKDUHG DFURVV Nature of a WLRQV WKH commitment, and the ways that concrete action is a direct expression of commitment. We will bring together research, reflection and story in addition to information on current environmental programs to demonstrate this continuity and its importance. In WKH FHQWHQDU\ 3DUOLDPHQW RI WKH :RUOG¶V 5HOLJL

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_14222

