



2018

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTER-
AGENCY TASK FORCE ON ENGAGING FAITH-BASED
ACTORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**ENGAGING WITH RELIGION AND FAITH-BASED ACTORS ON
AGENDA 2030/THE SDGs**



This Annual Report documents the activities, initiatives and efforts undertaken by diverse UN system entities, members of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development. None of the opinions expressed here reflect those of the United Nations system, its member entities, Governing Board(s) or territory/territories.

© 2018 - The UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Engaging Faith-Based Actors for Sustainable Development/UN Task Force on Religion

CONTENTS

Introduction.....	4
Foreword - Exerprts from Letter to the UN Secretary General by multi-Faith Advisory Council	<u>5</u>
Joint Activities of the UN Task Force Members in 2018	6
References and Additional Resources.....	
IATF Chair: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	7
United Nations Office of the Secretary General’s Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect (OGPRtoP)	11
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	13
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	15
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)	16
United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI).....	232
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).....	24
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).....	
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	26
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)	32
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)	32
World Bank (WB).....	36
World Food Programme (WFP).....	37
Annex I: Mission, Objectives, Activities of the IATF	38
Annex II: UN-System Wide Criteria of Engagement with Faith-Based Actors	39
Annex III: Terms of Reference for Multi-Faith Advisory Council of the UN Task Force on Religion and Development.....	42
Annex IV: Members of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council.....	43
Annex V: Report of the Kofi Annan Annual Faith Briefings.....	45

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the engagement with faith-based actors and faith-related activities by the UN system members of the *United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development* (short: UN Task Force on Religion/IATF-Religion) covering 2018.

The UN Task Force on Religion and Development consists of the following members:

1. Chair/Convenor: UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
2. OGPRtoP (UN Office of the Secretary General's Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect)
3. UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)
4. UNAOC (United Nations Alliance of Civilizations)
5. UN CTC (United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee)
6. UN DESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs)
7. UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)
8. UNDPI (United Nations Department of Public Information)
9. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
10. UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme)
11. UN Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)
12. UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
13. UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
14. UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Right (UNOHCHR)
15. UNV (United Nations Volunteers)
16. UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women)
17. World Bank Group (WB)
18. WFP (World Food Programme)
19. WHO (World Health Organization)

FOREWORD - EXCERPT FROM A LETTER TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL, FROM THE FAITH ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE UN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON RELIGION

When the UN Task Force members approached our respective institutions, based on our own suggestions, to form an Advisory Council, 30 of us were quick to come together with an unequivocal commitment to support the United Nations system, in its efforts to uphold human rights and safeguard human dignity. This commitment is mirrored in, and through, the Sustainable Development Goals.

Below is an excerpt from a letter we sent to the UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres, on December 2017.

“The United Nations Interagency Task Force ...is the only UN inter-agency mechanism to support the UN system in its attempts to deliver critical work with sensitivity to, and an appreciation of, the role(s) of religion.

We represent diverse religious traditions, regional and thematic competencies, a gender balance, and a track record of sustained service to our respective communities, countries and the United Nations. Between us, we work in almost all corners of the world, on each and every SDG area. Each of us is a legally registered entity in different countries, most hold consultative status with ECOSOC, and each of our organisations maintains and operates according to a strict regimen of accountability and transparency.

We convened for the first time on September 21, 2018, alongside the UN General Assembly. On that date, we also co-hosted, together with the UN Task Force, the “Kofi Annan UNGA Faith Briefings” for Member States and UN system entities. We intend the Briefings to be a space in which we can reflect critically on, and showcase the partnerships between, faith actors and the UN system, i.e. an embodiment of SDG 17.

As representatives of various faith-based and faith-inspired entities working on human rights, sustainable development and peace and security, we are proud to work with the UN Interagency Task Force as to support the UN system, and to do so through the secretariat of the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion. We offer our collective wisdom, presence, and experiences, such that we may uphold and advance, together, the values, principles and commitments to human rights, peace and security and sustainable development, as agreed to by the Member States of the United Nations... We do so with a determination to continue to work together to serve, to amplify and uplift faith-inspired civil society advocacy and partnerships for the SDGs”.

A full list of our organisations, and the Report of the Kofi Annan Faith Briefings, are attached to this Annual Report of the UN Interagency Task Force.

SIGNED [on behalf of all of the Faith Advisory Council Members]:

Chair: Ms Tarja Kantola, Chair, Finn Church Aid,

Chair: Mr. Faisal Bin Muammar, Secretary General, KAICIID (King Abdullah Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue)

Vice Chair: Ms. Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswathi, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance

Vice Chair: Mr. Jonathan Duffy, President, ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency)

JOINT ACTIVITIES OF THE UN TASK FORCE MEMBERS IN 2018

The UN Task Force on Religion's members have continued to jointly engage on key areas of advocacy, capacity building and knowledge management. The work with the over 500+ faith-based NGO partners which the diverse UN system offices have continued at national, regional and global levels. What will be shared here is a synopsis of the key highlights of these joint activities which took place at the global level, with a focus on UN headquarters in New York given the majority of Task Force UN members' location.

Advocacy Highlights

In January of 2018, the Task Force, co-led by the UN Office for Genocide Prevention and the United Nations Population Fund/UNFPA, together with the World Council of Churches, the ACT Alliance and the United Methodist Commission for Justice and Peace, co-hosted the **4th Annual Symposium on Religion and International Affairs**.

In March, the UN Task Force, co-led by UNFPA and UN Women, with Islamic Relief, the World Council of Churches, and ACT Alliance, co-hosted and co-organised several side events during the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

In April, the UN Task Force, led by UNFPA, hosted a **Strategic Planning Retreat** with 17 UN system entities and 40 top FBO partners representing all major world religions. The Retreat outcomes included a call for the formation of the Advisory Council, and agreed to joint advocacy events each year, featuring partnerships around gender justice, environment, peacebuilding, and migration.

In June, the UN Task Force, with UNFPA's leadership, collaborated with the European Union's DEVCO, to host a Special Event – a Debate - during the [European Development Days](#). [The Debate was entitled “What’s Religion Got To Do with It?”](#) The Debate was attended by hundreds of EDD participants.

In July, the UN Task Force, led by UNFPA, co-hosted, with the Mission of Ireland to the UN and the [Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities/JLI LFC](#), a side event at the High Level Political Forum, on the Role of FBOs in Realising Agenda 2030. The discussions, which involved both religious leaders, as well as CEOs of faith-based and faith-inspired developmental entities, such as - highlighted evidence of the value-added of partnering with faith communities on the SDG themes under discussion.

In September, the UN Task Force, co-led by 5 UN system entities, convened and launched its first **Multi-Faith Advisory Council**. The Advisory Council is composed of the Chief Executive Officers of 28 faith-based NGOs (FBOs) common partners to most of the UN system. The Faith Advisory Council is formed to advise the UN system entities on engaging with religious actors to realize Agenda 2030 and seek to endorse the UN's multilateral support for all human rights. The Council member organisations represent a balanced representation between religions, regions, gender and thematic areas.

As their first joint initiative, the Council Members launched the Annual [UNGA Kofi Annan Faith Briefings](#). These Briefings convene the UN system’s faith-based and faith-inspired partners on a yearly basis to brief the UN system and Member States on progress on Agenda 2030, as well as key concerns and areas of work of religious actors linked to the UN’s mandates around human rights, peace and security and sustainable development¹.

In November, the UN Interagency Task Force was represented and spoke at the Parliament of World Religions in Toronto, by a diverse group of its members, including UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women.

Capacity Building Highlights

The Task Force on Religion provided two Strategic Learning Exchanges (SLEs) on Religion, Development and Diplomacy. Each of these SLEs relies on a peer-to-peer learning methodology, is co-convened by the UN Task Force with its FBO, governmental and intergovernmental partners, and relies on actual evidence-based discussions informed by case studies submitted by both the UN and the FBOs. A regional SLE was provided in Jordan, in March, for the Arab states, and was attended by 65 participants from religious institutions, Ministries of Religious Affairs, religious NGOs, and 7 UN system entities. The Amman SLE was co-hosted by the [Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation \(JHCO\)](#), and co-convened with the [International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development \(PaRD\)](#), together with several FBOs, including [World Vision International](#) and [ACT Alliance](#).

A second global Strategic Learning Exchange was provided in NY in November. This had 80 participants (with 10 UN offices including UN Women which was co-convenor). Cosponsors of this SLE included the Jewish Theological Seminary’s Milstein Center, Princeton University’s Office of Religion and Public Life, the World Council of Churches, Islamic Relief-USA, World Vision International, and the Transatlantic Partnership Network on Religion and Diplomacy (TPNRD).

The Task Force, with UNFPA’s support, hosted an annual meeting of the Transatlantic Partnership Network on Religion and Diplomacy (TPNRD), also in November, with EU Ambassadors’ and focal points on religion in respective European Ministries of Foreign Affairs. TPNRD is hosted by/in Cambridge University in this meeting formally launched its Academic Council, which brings together some of the intellectual hubs on religion and diplomacy from North America and western Europe.

Resources/Publications

- ❖ IATF Report 2013-2015: [Highlights of FBO Engagement by United Nations Entities 2013-2015](#) (UN IATF, 2015)
- ❖ [Realizing the Faith Dividend: Religion, Gender, Peace and Security in Agenda 2030](#) (UNFPA, 2016)

¹ The faith Advisory Council List of Members is attached as an Annex to this Annual Report

- ❖ [United Nations Inter-agency Consultation on Engagement with Faith-based Organizations: Proceedings Report](#) (UNFPA, 9 July 2008)
- ❖ [Global Forum of Faith-based Organisations for Population and Development](#) (UNFPA, 2009)

Latest relevant Report of the Secretary-General:

- ❖ [Promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace](#) (A/73/251, September 2018)



Source: UNFPA

IATF-RELIGION AND DEVELOPMENT CHAIR: THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

Together with and also on behalf of the UN Task Force, UNFPA convenes consultations with faith-based actors, Member States, and secular civil society partners, during key intergovernmental fora (e.g. World Interfaith Harmony Week, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Commission on Population and Development, the High Level Political Forum and the General Assembly).

For this 2017 Report, UNFPA has chosen to focus on one highlight from the global level, and mention a few key highlights from different countries.

Highlights

Global Advocacy

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/云报告?reportId=5_14350

