



Faith for Earth Updates June 28, 2018



Dear representatives of Faith-Based Organizations,

UN Environment has launched the Faith for Earth Initiative in August 2017 to strategically engage with faith-based organizations, toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and fulfilling Agenda 2030. The Initiative focuses on mobilizing the potential of faith-based organizations at the local, regional and global levels. A global corporate strategy has been launched with three main goals:

1. Inspiring and empowering faith-based leaders and organizations for a sustainable impact

*Religious and spiritual leaders have an enormous powerful impact on local communities as their statements touch on the beliefs of their followers often extracting examples from sacred books. **Our aim is to engage faith leaders and their institutions to tackle environmental issues we mutually prioritize.***

2. Greening faith-based assets and investments

*Religious institutions hold enormous financial assets making them the fourth largest group of investors in the world. These assets are used to build schools, hospitals, and infrastructure as well as support the poorest and most marginalized. In order to meet the SDGs, innovative financing mechanisms are required, which can be extended to include faith based financing and investment be scaled up to contribute towards a sustainable future. **Our aim is to see more faith based investments and assets integrating environmental considerations and investing in greener and more environmentally sustainable investments.***

3. Making knowledge and the scientific evidence available for more powerful spiritual messages

Faith-based organizations, do not always have easy access to the global knowledge and scientific evidence that UN Environment could provide. While these organizations may rely on indigenous knowledge and traditional cultural practices, other knowledge that is backed by the scientific evidence is needed to strengthen the relationship between

*environmental stewardship and duty of care, as well as with ethical behavior and sustainable citizenship. **Our aim is to create a broader mass of faith based institutions that have the relevant scientific knowledge available on areas where they see questions arising or a reluctance to take action.***

Hence, as part of our strategy, we have created a network as a global platform of faith-based organizations to share knowledge, experiences and inform about initiatives at local regional and global levels. For this purpose, we would like to add you to our mailing list to keep you abreast of activities and happenings. A website for the Faith for Earth Initiative is being designed as part of the UN Environment main website.

Kindly inform us if you do not wish to be part of this list.

Warm wishes of peace and prosperity.

Dr. Iyad Abumoghli

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