

# 2020 G20 Interfaith Forum

13-17  
OCTOBER  
2020

## Tuesday 13 October 2020

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm *Opening plenary*

6:00 pm - 6:15 pm *Break*

6:15 pm - 8:15 pm *3 concurrent panel discussions on the role of religion in peacebuilding and conflict prevention*

*Panel Discussion 01 Countering Hate Speech and Social Media;*

*Panel Discussion 02 Religious Cultural Heritage and Human Dignity;*

*Panel Discussion 03 Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery*

## Wednesday 14 October 2020

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm *Plenary on COVID-19*

5:30 pm - 5:45 pm *Break*

5:45 pm - 7:45 pm *3 concurrent panel discussions on addressing the COVID-19 crisis:*

*Panel Discussion 04 Faith Communities in Partnerships to address COVID-19;*

*Panel Discussion 05 Responses to COVID-19: Priorities and Accountability;*

*Panel Discussion 06 Supporting Vulnerable Groups in Times of COVID-19*

## Thursday 15 October 2020

**4:00 pm - 5:30 pm** Plenary on the Empowerment of Women, Youth and Vulnerable People

**5:30 pm - 5:45 pm** Break

**5:45 pm - 7:45 pm** 3 concurrent panel discussions on education, youth and women:

*Panel Discussion 07* Education, Religious Literacy and Cultural Diversity;

*Panel Discussion 08* Refugees and Migrants with Focus on Women and Youth;

*Panel Discussion 09* Inequality: Gender, Racism and Structural Discrimination

## Saturday 17 October 2020

**4:00 pm - 5:30 pm** Plenary on the Commitment of Faith Networks to Disaster Risk Reduction

**5:30 pm - 5:45 pm** Break

**5:45 pm - 7:00 pm** Closing plenary

## Friday 16 October 2020

**4:00 pm - 5:30 pm** Plenary on Religious Action to address Threats of Climate Change

**5:30 pm - 5:45 pm** Break

**5:45 pm - 7:45 pm** 3 concurrent panel discussions on protecting the planet and on human rights issues:

*Panel Discussion 10* Rainforest and Protection of Environment;

*Panel Discussion 11* Practical Partnerships on Climate Change;

*Panel Discussion 12* The Rule of Law, Human Rights and Religious Rights

## Tuesday 13 October 2020

### 4:00PM - 6:00PM Plenary01 Opening Plenary

Master of Ceremony: Ms. Nayana Jayarajan, The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)

#### SPEAKERS:

- H.E. Abdullatif Al-Sheikh, Minister of Religious Affairs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- H.E. Faisal bin Muaammar, Secretary General of The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)
- H.E. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)
- Prof. W. Cole Durham Jr., President of the G20 Interfaith Forum Association
- H.E. Dr. Mohammad Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League and President of the Organization of Muslim Scholars
- Rev. Kosho Niwano, President-designate of Risho Kosei-kai; Co-Moderator and Executive Committee Member of Religions for Peace and member of KAICIID Board of Directors
- H.E. Sheikh Abdallah Bin Bayyah, President of the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies
- His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
- His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, Titular Bishop of the Diocese of Luperciana; President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue; member of KAICIID Board of Directors
- H.E. Sheikh Dr Shawki Ibrahim Allam, The Grand Mufti of Egypt and President of the General Secretariat for Fatwa Authorities Worldwide
- Dr. Kezevino Aram, President of Shanti Ashram and member of KAICIID Board of Directors
- Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, President of the Conference of European Rabbis
- H.E. Dr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- H.E. Dr. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group
- H.E. Anthony Abbott, former Prime Minister of Australia and Patron of the Handa Foundation and Patron of Worldwide Support for Development (representing Dr. Haruhisa Handa)

**5:40PM - 6:00PM Framing the discussion, including the rationale of the G20 Interfaith Forum and expected outcome**

**Prof. Mohammed Abu-Nimer**

Senior Advisor of The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)

**6:00PM - 6:15PM Break**

**6:15PM - 8:15PM 3 simultaneous Panel Discussions on the role of religion in peacebuilding and conflict prevention:**

## **Panel Discussion 01: Countering hate speech and the use of social media as a space for dialogue**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Hate speech distorts understandings of social forces, spreads misinformation, and aggravates prejudice and discrimination. It can affect power dynamics, creating rifts and mobilising groups in ways that divide communities. In some societies, specific understandings of freedom of expression and hate speech are the topic of debate. The misuse of religion misused to legitimate violence in many conflict settings is a related concern. Religious leaders and faith-based organizations can play roles in preventing incitement and hate speech, reducing tensions in their communities. The United Nations Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes in 2017 reflects a commitment to better engage religious institutions in countering hate speech and incitement to violence. The session will explore both actual and potential ways in which religious leaders can provide alternative narratives and engage with their respective constituencies in respectful discourse.

### **GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

- What capacities need to be developed further within religious communities and beyond, in order to identify, address, and prevent hate speech?
- What kind of partnerships best address hate speech on a policy level?
- What concrete activities of religious actors can address gaps in how hate speech is dealt with by policy makers?

## Panel Discussion 01: Countering hate speech and the use of social media as a space for dialogue

### MODERATOR:

Dr. Mustafa Ali

Secretary General of the Global Network of Religions for Children and Director of Arigatou International – Nairobi

### SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, President of Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Kamal Boraiqa Abdelsalam Hassan, member of Al-Azhar Centre for Dialogue and Supervisor at Al-Azhar Observatory for combating terrorism at Al-Azhar University, Egypt; KAICIID Fellow
- Ms. Simona Cruciani, Political Affairs Officer at the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect
- **H.E. Grand Mufti Dr. Nedžad Grabus**, Mufti of the Islamic Community in Slovenia
- Rev. Susan Hayward, Senior Advisor for Religion and Inclusive Societies at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP)
- Chief Rabbi David Rosen, International Director of Interreligious Affairs at the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and member of KAICIID Board of Directors
- Ms. Nika Saeedi, Team Leader of Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) at UNDP

## Panel Discussion 02: Religious cultural heritage, human dignity and sustainable development

### DESCRIPTION:

Religious cultural heritage is emerging as a new engagement point for reaching the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This adds an important dimension to ongoing work on protecting sacred sites. New thinking points to ways that protecting and cultivating religious cultural heritage can advance many SDGs—for example, by having significant positive impacts on sustainable growth, on key peace and justice institutions, on sustainable cities and communities, on environmental protection, and on strengthening key partnerships. This presents an opportunity to build on the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, which was spearheaded by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations last year while linking this initiative to broader efforts to connect religious cultural heritage efforts with the SDG agenda. Sacred sites serve as a meeting point for developing of dialogical civic spaces and an area for exchange in the religious and cultural spheres. At the same time, work in this area has become more complex because shared and contested sites have been weaponised as focal points of acts of religious or ethnic hatred and of state-sponsored geopolitical

agendas. Further, sacred places have multiple identities as sites both of living religious activity and of cultural heritage and memory. This raises a number of challenges of how to manage a complex custodianship relationships of religious associations and heritage authorities without infringing upon religious autonomy and freedom of religion or belief on the one hand and wider civic and cultural expectations on the other. This session will build on the important work and leadership of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and other stakeholders to suggest important ways that the safeguarding of sacred sites and religious cultural heritage can help further broader initiatives to advance sustainable development goals.

## Panel Discussion 02: Religious cultural heritage, human dignity and sustainable development

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- How can the preservation of religious cultural heritage best contribute to the building of dialogical and inclusive civic spaces while addressing valid stakeholder concerns?
- How can religious cultural heritage initiatives best further the Sustainable Development Goals agenda and how are the responsibilities of concerned stakeholders altered as a result?
- What are the potential trajectories for making the UNAOC Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites as an opportunity to consolidate the emerging efforts of other international and national initiatives for preservation of religious cultural heritage and for linking them with concrete policy action points to sustainable development?
- What is the position of international human rights mechanisms on places of worship?
- How can religious cultural heritage initiatives best further the Sustainable Development Goals agenda and how can the human rights responsibilities of concerned stakeholders be implemented?

### MODERATOR:

Prof. Peter Petkoff

Director of the Religion, Law and International Relations Programme, Centre for Religion and Culture at Regent's Park College, University of Oxford, UK

### SPEAKERS:

- H.R.H. Amb. Princess Haifa al-Mogrin, Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Chair of the G20 Development Working Group
- Msgr. David-Maria A. Jaeger OFM, Prelate Auditor of the Court of the Roman Rota
- Ms. Ana Jimenez, Political Advisor at United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)
- Prof. Paul Morris, UNESCO Chair in Interreligious Understanding and Relations at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand
- Dr. Tugba Tanyeri-Erdemir, Non-Resident Research Associate at Department of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh, USA
- Dr. Michael Wiener, Human Rights Officer at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights



## Panel Discussion 03: Human trafficking and modern slavery

### DESCRIPTION:

The horrors of human trafficking and different forms of modern slavery cause deep suffering to many who have little capacity to defend themselves. International law, police action and national efforts address some facets of the complex phenomenon but far more needs to be done. Strong religious voices give a high priority to this topic. An array of religious initiatives addresses the issues, but coordination among them and with secular actors is generally poor. The commitment to SDG target 8.7, to eradicate modern slavery, frames this round table which looks at strengthening both moral leadership and practical means to bring these scourges to an end so that relevant corporations, organizations and individuals exercise their due diligence to slavery-proof their supply chains.

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- What are next steps as religious actors press to end modern slavery? Can best practices be expanded?
- What partnerships can be reinforced to bolster action including with business and public authorities?
- How can G20 work with religious organizations to reflect the issue's priority and urgency?

## Panel Discussion 03: Human trafficking and modern slavery

### MODERATOR:

Dr. S. Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana  
Research Affiliate at Georgetown Institute for  
Women, Peace and Security and Adjunct  
Professor at Georgetown University, USA

### SPEAKERS:

- H.E. Amb. Ramón Blecua, Ambassador at Large for Mediation and Intercultural Dialogue of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain
- Mr. Hani Dawah, Deputy for Media to the Senior Advisor of the Mufti of Egypt; member at the Executive Committee at Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation among Religious Institutions in the Arab World and KAICIID Fellow
- Rev. Richard Sudworth, Secretary for Inter Religious Affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury and National Inter Religious Affairs Advisor and member of KAICIID Board of Directors
- Mr. Kevin Hyland, former first independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner of the United Kingdom
- Don. DDr. Michael H. Weninger, Member of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue at Vatican

## 4:00PM - 5:30PM Plenary02 Plenary on COVID-19

Keynote speaker: **H.E. Dr. Hassan Nadhem**, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities in Iraq

### DESCRIPTION:

As the world struggles with the COVID-19 pandemic, faith-based organizations and religious actors' rapid, yet informed responses have been crucial to support the collective efforts. Reaching out in support of those in need, comforting those who are suffering, feeding those who are hungry, praying for those who are struggling, promoting good health practices together with health authorities, and advocating for help for the most vulnerable are some examples of such activity. At the same time, responding to hate speech, stigmatization, and the other negative dynamics that hinder interreligious relations and social cohesion in the time of a pandemic remains a crucial task in which religious actors have unique leverage. This plenary is dedicated to COVID-19 and the challenges it brings to interreligious relations and social cohesion, bearing in mind the roles of religious and interreligious actors in responding to such challenges.

### MODERATOR:

Ms. Kirsten Laursen Muth  
CEO of the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI)

### SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Mohammed Al-Abdulaali, Assistant Minister of Health and Spokesperson of the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Dr. Hanan H. Balkhy, Assistant Director General of Antimicrobial Resistance at World Health Organization (WHO)
- Elder David A. Bednar, Quorum of Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Ms. Nihal Saad, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative at United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)
- Rabbi David Saperstein, President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism
- Ms. Alissa Wahid, National Director of Gusdurian Network of Indonesia (GNI); KAICIID Fellow
- Fr. Augusto Zampini Davies, Adjunct Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD) of the Holy See

5:30PM - 5:45PM Break

**5:45PM - 7:45PM 3 simultaneous Round Tables on addressing the COVID-19 crisis:**

## **Panel Discussion 04: Faith communities in partnerships to address COVID-19 pandemic**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, faith communities have played crucial roles, both in partnerships to address public health challenges and to keep societies functioning during lockdowns and quarantines. Innovations including use of technologies may have lasting effects beyond COVID-19. From health messages and online shopping to telemedicine, from remote work and video conference calls to distance learning, the COVID-19 crisis is accelerating trends of the last decade. Religious leaders can contribute to the urgent challenges of taking lessons learned to build trustworthy information systems. In a post-COVID-19 world, how can health systems and technology more broadly reinforce human-centred and inclusive approaches?

### **GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

- What challenges for long-term thinking does experience from the COVID-19 crisis suggest for global health policy and how can religious actors best be involved?
- What specific opportunities do new technologies offer where religious actors can contribute to social cohesion and inclusion among their constituencies?
- How can religious leaders, policy makers, and civil society activists contribute to social cohesion across borders?

## Panel Discussion 04: Faith communities in partnerships to address COVID-19 pandemic

### MODERATOR:

Rev. Prof. Dr. James Christie  
Ambassador-at-Large of the Canadian  
Multifaith Federation and Professor of Whole  
World Ecumenism and Dialogue at the  
University of Winnipeg's Global College,  
Canada

### SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Nezar Bahabri, Director of the Internal Medicine Department at Dr. Soliman Fakeeh Hospital (DSFH), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Mr. Jean-Francois de Lavison, President and Founder of AHIMSA Fund
- Ms. Sarah Hess, Technical Officer on High Impact Events Preparedness at WHO
- Rabbi Naomi Kalish, Harold and Carole Wolfe Director of the Center for Pastoral Education; KAICIID Fellow
- Mr. Kevin O'Brien, Executive Director of the Handa Foundation
- Prof. Marco Ventura, Full Professor of Law and Religion at the University of Siena, Italy, and Director of the Center for Religious Studies at Fondazione Bruno Kessler of Trento

## Panel Discussion 05: Religious actors and multilateral responses to the COVID-19 crisis: Priorities and accountability

### DESCRIPTION:

The inequalities that the COVID-19 crisis reveals demand urgent action by world leaders. Multilateral responses that G20 leaders are considering must focus squarely on vulnerable communities, assuring that resources are used to further recovery and rebuilding and take fully into account priority needs. The essential spirit of solidarity and equity that is a foundation for the G20 ethos is echoed by religious communities across the world during the crisis, both in remarkable mobilization of resources to serve communities and in interreligious action grounded in commitment to human rights and human dignity. Religious communities have distinctive capacities to identify, serve, and direct attention to areas of need. Cooperating in efforts to assure integrity and efficiency in relief measures (both debt relief and social protection programs) is a demanding but fitting role for faith communities in this time of crisis, with the ethical teachings and pragmatic experience of different religious traditions invaluable contributors to these objectives. The measures taken in the months ahead to respond to urgent, critical needs must be undertaken with a view towards the future, building effective cooperative arrangements involving multisector actors, including religious communities, that reflect commitment to addressing inequalities, directing resources towards the most vulnerable, and assuring fully transparent and robust accountability mechanisms for use of public funds.

## Panel Discussion 05: Religious actors and multilateral responses to the COVID-19 crisis: Priorities and accountability

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- Can we highlight examples of how faith communities have lived principles of solidarity during the COVID-19 crisis and what lessons emerge?
- What mechanisms can best assure the inclusion of religious actors in multilateral responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to prepare for future complex global emergencies?
- What practical mechanisms exist or can be designed to link positive values in religious teachings to the ethical imperative to focus on vulnerable communities?
- How can partnerships engaging religious actors and policy makers promote robust transparency accountability mechanisms specifically addressed to pandemic relief measures?
- Looking to the long-term, how within the G20 framework can religious communities form part of strategies that build national integrity systems and implement anti-corruption strategies?

### MODERATOR:

Prof. Katherine Marshall

Vice President of the G20 Interfaith Association; Senior Fellow of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University, USA; Executive Director of World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD)

### SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Tamader Al-Rammah, Member of the United Nations Committee of Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Former Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Mr. Somboon (Moo) Chungprampree, Executive Secretary of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB)
- H.E. The Most Reverend Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Sokoto, Nigeria
- Prof. Jonatas Machado, Professor of International Public Law and European Union Law at University of Coimbra, Portugal
- Ms. Ruth Messinger, Global Ambassador of the American Jewish World Service (AJWS)
- Prof. Juan G. Navarro Floria, Professor of Law at Pontificia Universidad Católica, Argentina
- Dr. Canon Sarah Snyder, Archbishop of Canterbury's Special Advisor for Reconciliation and Director of the Rose Castle Foundation, UK

## Panel Discussion 06: Supporting vulnerable groups in times of COVID-19

### DESCRIPTION:

Vulnerability as a central focus for the Forum reflects concern for segments of populations suffer particularly acute effects of disasters and social challenges. In the context of COVID-19 emergency, women, children, the elderly, the disabled, and some minority communities experience distinctive and severe challenges. Their vulnerability is closely connected to economic, emotional, social, or health disparities. Religious communities and actors have strong ethical teachings that focus on vulnerable people and during the crisis many have responded with vigour and creativity. This panel will focus on lessons learned and possible implications for rebuilding in the post-COVID era.

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- What creative strategies and approaches have worked for religious leaders to support vulnerable groups during COVID-19?
- How can this time of crisis rethink the perception of vulnerable people and change the discourse around them?
- How can religious leaders find common ground with policymakers to support vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 crisis?



## Panel Discussion 06: Supporting vulnerable groups in times of COVID-19

### MODERATOR:

Mr. James Patton

President/CEO of the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy (ICRD)

### SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Mohammed Elsanousi, Executive Director of the Network for Traditional and Religious Peacemakers
- H.E. Amb. Teresa Indjein, Director General for International Cultural Relations of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria
- Rev. Victor Kazanjian, Executive Director of United Religions Initiative (URI)
- Ms. Sara Rahim, Head of Programme at A Common Word Among the Youth (ACWAY) and Youth Representative to the United Nations for Parliament of the World's Religions
- Dr. Mohammad Sammak, Secretary-General of the National Committee for Christian-Muslim Dialogue in Lebanon and member of KAICIID Board of Directors
- Prof. Mariz Tadros, Director of the Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development (CREID) and Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK
- Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe, Director of Arigatou International in Geneva

## 4:00PM - 5:30PM Plenary03 Plenary on empowerment of women, youth and vulnerable people

Keynote speaker: **H.E. Rev. Kjell Magne Bondevik**, former Prime Minister of Norway and Founder and Executive Chair of the Oslo Center

### DESCRIPTION:

This plenary focuses on the role and potential of religious actors and communities to contribute to the creation of structures which more effectively contribute to the empowerment of marginalised and vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth. It will also explore how religious communities are collaborating with political decision-makers to develop and implement policies that promote equality of opportunity, especially for underserved groups. Equal opportunities for all will allow for a thriving global society. However, persistent social and economic inequalities between men and women continue to shape the reality in education, economic independence, health provision and security. Religious communities and institutions are influential partners when it comes to shaping these areas and have, in some cases, a long history to draw upon.

### MODERATOR:

Dr. Agnes Abuom

Moderator of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches

### SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Hala Al-Tuwaijri, Secretary General of the Family Affairs Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Head of the Women's Empowerment Team at G20 Riyadh
- Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, Secretary-General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement
- Prof. Ursula Basset, Professor at Pontificia Universidad Católica, Argentina
- Chief Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister, Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community in Vienna, Austria
- Dr. Azza Karam, Secretary General of Religions for Peace
- H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Envoy for Financing for Development
- H.E. Under-Secretary-General Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
- H.E. Aminata Toure, former Prime Minister of Senegal

5:30PM - 5:45PM Break

**5:45PM - 7:45PM 3 simultaneous Round Tables on education, youth and women:**

## **Panel Discussion 07: Education that supports peace, religious literacy, and cultural diversity**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The values focus of education, that includes inclusion and religious literacy, takes on increasing importance in the COVID-19 era. A priority is to address school systems that present manipulative discourses and narratives portraying religions, cultures, cosmogonies and/or worldviews as antagonistic and irreconcilable. Religious inclusiveness and non-discrimination in education are priorities for policy makers as well as religious communities. Promoting critical thinking and positive images of the “other” in school curricula is a key tool for conflict prevention and promoting social cohesion.

### **GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

- What are the priorities and needs in education policy that promise to encourage inclusion and religious and cultural diversity?
- What are examples of inclusive approaches engaging religious and community leaders in developing curricula and building capacity of teachers?
- What approaches can help improve social integration, intercommunal harmony, and respect for religious and cultural differences in schools that can be scaled-up to the policy level?
- What are priorities for G20 leaders for education as part of recovery from the COVID-19 crises?

## Panel Discussion 07: Education that supports peace, religious literacy, and cultural diversity

### MODERATOR:

Prof. Patrice Brodeur  
Senior Advisor at The International Dialogue  
Centre (KAICIID)

### SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Mohammad Abdelfadeel, Lecturer at the University of al-Azhar, Egypt; KAICIID Fellow
- Dr. Fahad bin Sultan Al-Sultan, Executive Director of Salam for Cultural Communication in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Prof. Thomas Banchoff, Vice President for Global Engagement at Georgetown University, USA
- Rev. Prof. Fadi Daou, Chairperson and CEO of Adyan Foundation
- Amb. David Fernandez Puyana, Permanent Observer at the United Nations University for Peace (UPEACE) to the United Nations in Geneva
- Dr. Scherto Gill, Research Fellow at the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace and Visiting Fellow at the School of Education, University of Sussex, UK
- Dr. Samia Huq, Associate Professor and Interim Dean School of Humanities and Social Science at BRACU University, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Prof. Priyankar Upadhaya, UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding at Banaras Hindu University, India

## Panel Discussion 08: Addressing needs of refugees and migrants and advancing solutions, with a focus on women and youth

### DESCRIPTION:

Never in history has the world seen more people displaced than today. Two far-ranging global compacts, one for refugees and one for migrants, reflect commitments by states to action that promotes more inclusive and humane policies and active efforts to seek resolution to conflicts that drive forced migration. Trends, however, point towards weakening responsibilities towards people seeking refuge and urgently needed support for humanitarian needs. Religious actors are central to this agenda-setting process that makes it possible to address the needs of refugees and migrants and facilitate holistic responses to a central challenge of our times. Religious actors can provide practical and spiritual support and guidance on the path towards solutions.

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- In what way can religious actors and communities influence policy towards refugees and migrants to counter the trend towards weakening responsibility?
- How can religious communities best be involved in efforts to empower refugees and migrants as active members of host country communities and integration in third countries?
- What approaches have worked that build trust between the local host community and refugees?
- What roles can religious leaders and institutions in addressing tensions affecting refugees and migrants?

## Panel Discussion 08: Addressing needs of refugees and migrants and advancing solutions, with a focus on women and youth

### MODERATOR:

Dr. Aleksandra Djuric  
Milovanovic  
Project Manager of Network for Dialogue;  
KAICIID Fellow

### SPEAKERS:

- Sheikh Mohamad Abou Zeid, Senior Judge at the Family Court of Saida in Lebanon
- Ms. Anoud AlOfaysan, Alumna of Salam for Cultural Communication in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Dr. Pritpal Kaur Ahluwalia, Education Director of the Sikh Coalition and Co-President of Religions for Peace
- Ms. Esther Lehmann-Sow, Global Director Faith & Development at World Vision International
- Prof. Paolo Naso, Professor of Political Science and the Sociology of Religion at Università La Sapienza, Rome, Italy



## Panel Discussion 08: Inequality: gender, racism, and structural discrimination

### DESCRIPTION:

Inequality, of opportunity and of perceptions of what is fair and what is not, are central issues that global policy makers need to address. That includes religious leaders and communities, both as prophetic voices seeking action and accountability, and in addressing inequalities within their own communities. This panel discussion frames the issues around human dignity and notions of fairness, including obstacles and opportunities for economic and social participation. How do differing traditions reflect and apply cultural and religious norms? How can religious communities contribute to healing with respect to patterns of racial discrimination and reversing structural injustice? With respect to gender, women's equality is a central issue, from wage gaps, exclusion from political processes, and undue burdens of caring. How can religious communities contribute more to empowering women, especially when traditional cultural norms often perpetuate inequality including in many religious institutions and practices.

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- How can religious communities contribute to solving problems of racial injustice?
- How might purposeful approaches including inclusive dialogue processes empower women from all strata of societies to play more active and leading roles in interreligious relationships?
- What are the consequences of structural inequality on social cohesion?
- How have religious communities contributed to support vulnerable women?

## Panel Discussion 08: Inequality: gender, racism, and structural discrimination

### MODERATOR:

Dr. Nawal Alhawsawi

Marriage and family therapist and mental health counsellor; KAICIID Fellow

### SPEAKERS:

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- H.E. Adama Dieng, former UN Special Adviser of the Secretary-General of the Prevention of Genocide
- Dr. Ganoune Diop, Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Maryland, USA
- Ms. Audrey Kitagawa, Chair of the Board of the Parliament of the World's Religions
- Imam Yahya Pallavicini, President of the Comunità Religiosa Islamica Italiana (COREIS) in Italy
- Ms. Asha Ramgobin, Director of Human Rights Development Initiative, South Africa
- Ms. Lisa Winther, Senior Human Rights Advisor at the Stefanusalliansen, Norway
- Mr. Peter Prove, Director of International Affairs at World Council of Churches



## 4:00PM - 5:30PM **Plenary04 Plenary on religious action to address threats of climate change**

Keynote speakers: **H.E. Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen A. AlFadley**, Minister of Agriculture and Environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
**H.E. Aksel Jakobsen**, State Secretary and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway

### DESCRIPTION:

As climate change becomes more severe, it is increasingly seen as a moral and existential issue. Different faith groups around the world have strongly advocated in favour of tougher measures to safeguard the planet. They have entered into robust partnerships among and beyond religious communities to protect rainforests, conserve natural resources and safeguard ecosystems threatened by climate change. The problems of our planet and the consequences of climate change are not only problems of science and technology, they are also of moral, ethical and spiritual nature - about how we live our lives, use and distribute resources, and how much everyone is willing to contribute. This plenary session provides an insight into existing and new initiatives of religious actors in their response to climate change and the ways in which they can support policy makers to push forward the environmental agenda.

### MODERATOR:

Ms. Bani Dugal  
Chairperson of the UN Task Force on Engagement with Faith-based Organizations

### SPEAKERS:

- His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel Adamakis of France, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and member of KAICIID Board of Directors
- Dr. Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary-General of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance
- Dr. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, Regional Director for Africa at the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of GreenFaith
- H.E. Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President in the European Commission with the portfolio of Promoting the European Way of Life
- Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, President of Green Cross Netherlands

5:30PM - 5:45PM **Break**

**5:45PM - 7:45PM 3 simultaneous Round Tables on protecting the planet and on human rights issues:**

## **Panel Discussion 10: Ecological challenges: rainforest protection and purposeful action to protect the environment**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Environmental degradation, corrupt practices, encroachment on indigenous lands and rainforests, and other human rights violations present grave challenges around the globe. Most faith and indigenous communities embrace an ethical and spiritual responsibility to protect the environment including rainforests. Their advocacy and promotion of sustainable management should be heard and heeded. Faith and indigenous communities drive urgent actions in many places that promise to restore degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation. Their commitments point to sustainable solutions in line with international standards and local development priorities in the effected environments. The panel discussion will build on the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative launched in June 2017 at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway and on other faith-initiated efforts along similar lines.

### **GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

- How can religious actors involved in dialogue, negotiations, and civil activism show a constructive path forward to protect our environment?
- How can faith leaders and policy makers better collaborate to protect rainforests and address the common shortfalls of its sustainable management?
- What approaches can be taken to ensure that appropriate reforming subsidies and policies are invested to halt deforestation and/or support primary forest countries' efforts to meet their environment sustainability goals?

## Panel Discussion 10: Ecological challenges: rainforest protection and purposeful action to protect the environment

### MODERATOR:

Prof. Lara Hanna-Wakim

Vice-Director of the Higher Center for Research, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Lebanon, and Regional Coordinator of Faith for Earth Initiative (UNEP)

### SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Iyad Abumoghli, Director of the Faith for Earth Initiative and Principial Policy Advisor at United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Prof. Pablo Canziani, Professor of Environmental Science at the National Technological University, Regional College Buenos Aires, Argentina, and member of the Commission "Justice and Peace" of the Catholic Church in Argentina
- Rt. Rev. Yoshinobu Miyake, Chair of the Board at the International Shinto Studies Association
- Ms. Marylita Poma, Communications Officer at Interfaith Rainforest Initiative in Peru
- Dr. Hayu Prabowo, Director of Siaga Bumi; Chair of the Council of Ulama's environment and natural resources body; representative of Religions for Peace
- Mr. Elias Szczytnicki, Secretary General and Regional Director of Religions for Peace, Latin American and the Caribbean
- Sri Swami Svatmananda, Director of Sacred Divine Wisdom; KAICIID Fellow

## Panel Discussion 11: Practical partnerships to address climate change and its consequences

### DESCRIPTION:

Religious communities are responding to calls for action to address moral challenges from the local to the global level. To advance global commitments to protect our planet, new coalitions need to be formed and strengthened to facilitate practical partnerships among faith leaders, indigenous communities, and other sectors (such as government, business and civil society). Enhancing partnerships and access to financial and technical support is essential for many communities to realize their priorities and invest in appropriate responses.

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- In what way are faith leaders and religious communities uniquely positioned to address the issues of climate change?
- What are examples of successful coalitions among faith-based organizations and secular organizations?
- How can place-based analyses of religious actors' support decision making in specific locations or regions, and involve the dynamics of both human and environmental systems?

## Panel Discussion 11: Practical partnerships to address climate change and its consequences

### MODERATOR:

Dr. Brian J. Adams

Director of the Centre for Interfaith and Cultural Dialogue at Griffith University, Australia

### SPEAKERS:

- Chief Rabbi Itzhak Dayan, Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community (CIG) in Geneva
- Prof. Auwal Farouk Abdussalam, Associate Professor at the Department of Geography at the Kaduna State University, Nigeria; KAICIID Fellow
- Ms. Kiran Bali, MBE, JP, Chair of the URI Global Council of Trustees
- Dr. Thomas Lawo, Senior Advisor for Religion and Sustainable Development at the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and Acting Head of Secretariat Coordinator of the International Partnership for Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD) in Bonn, Germany
- H.G. Bishop Anba Marcos, The Coptic Orthodox Bishop for the Diocese of Shoubra El Kheima; on behalf of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria
- Dr. Amanah Nurish, member of the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS); KAICIID Fellow

## Panel Discussion 12: The rule of law, human rights and religious rights

### DESCRIPTION:

The rule of law, human rights, and religion are conceptually interlinked. Efforts to promote social justice, freedom of religion, and religious pluralism require that we develop strategic thought and leadership approaches that take into account the complex ways in which religious liberty rights interact with other fundamental rights enshrined in the International Convention on Human Rights. Laws and policies need to reflect the understanding that the right of free exercise of religion protects all religious beliefs and communities, including the non-religious ones; this requires respect for religious plurality and equality principles, and has to be balanced against other liberty and equality rights where they are in conflict.

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- How can religious teachings contribute to promote human rights and enhance rule of law?
- How can law protect religious values and beliefs, as well as religious diversity and pluralism?
- When can government legitimately interfere with religion or religious issues and to what extent?

### MODERATOR:

Amb. Alvaro Albacete

Deputy Secretary General at The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)

### SPEAKERS:

- Mr. Claudio Gregorio Epelman, Executive Director of the Latin American Jewish Congress
- Dr. Elizabeta Kitanovic, Executive Secretary for Human Rights at the Conference of European Churches
- Prof. Susanna Mancini, Professor at the Department of Legal Studies at the University of Bologna, Italy
- Prof. Javier Martinez-Torron, Professor at Complutense University and Royal Academy of Jurisprudence and Legislation, Section on Law and Religion and Canon Law, Spain
- **Prof. Michael O'Flaherty**, Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- Dr. Abdi Zenebe, Senior Advisor to the Minister at the Ministry of Peace in Ethiopia

## 4:00PM - 5:30PM **Plenary05 Plenary on Commitment of faith networks to disaster-risk reduction**

Keynote Speaker: His Holiness Catholicos Aram I Keshishian, Patriarch of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia

### DESCRIPTION:

Religious communities and leaders are essential and influential responders when their communities face upheaval and natural disasters, including health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. With their moral authority and familiarity with their communities, they are able to provide early warnings, alleviate human suffering, build up resilience and provide leadership when it comes to making important changes to people's behaviour and attitudes. In 2020, religious actors have played an important role in preserving human dignity, raising morale and building practical partnerships with local authorities to effectively address the COVID-19 pandemic. This plenary will reflect on the needs and achievements of religious actors in disaster response and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will also explore the partnerships within and among faith networks as well as with policy makers on every level which support and empower them to act most effectively.

### MODERATOR:

H.E. Dr. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid  
Former member of the Shura Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and former Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and former United Nations Under-Secretary General

### SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Amal Al Habdan, Board Member of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Sister Sharon Eubank, LDS Charities and Relief Society Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- H.E. Dr. Bandar M. H. Hajjar, President of the Islamic Development Bank Group
- Mr. Andrew Morley, President and CEO of World Vision International
- The Rt Hon Baroness Emma Nicholson of Winterbourne, House of Lords, UK
- Mr. Fadlullah Wilmot, Regional Program Manager for the Middle East and Africa for Muslim Aid

5:30PM - 5:45PM **Break**

## 5:45PM - 6:45PM Plenary06 Closing plenary: The Way Forward

### MODERATOR:

Prof. Mohammed Abu-Nimer

Senior Advisor of The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)

Prof. Katherine Marshall,

Vice President of the G20 Interfaith Association; Senior Fellow of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University, USA; Executive Director of World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD)

### SPEAKERS:

- H.E. Faisal bin Muaammar, Secretary General of The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)
- Dr. Abdullah Alhomaïd, Secretary General of the National Committee for Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue (NCIRD) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Prof. Alberto Melloni, Professor and UNESCO Chair in Religious Pluralism and Peace at the University of Bologna, Italy
- H.E. Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, Archbishop of Bologna





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