



***Welcoming the African Union as a G20 member and in  
commemoration of the 2025 World Interfaith Harmony Week and  
the Golden Rule Day***

***A Conference on Africa's Faith Communities:  
Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, the African Union  
Agenda 2063, and South Africa's 2025 G20 Process***

May 13-14, 2025 Addis Ababa, Hilton Hotel

African  
Union



**G20**  
SOUTH AFRICA 2025

**TUESDAY, May 13, 2025**

**9:00-11:00 OPENING SESSION**

**Anthems of Ethiopia and the African Union (AU)**

**Opening Prayer:** Religious Leaders of the Ethiopia Interreligious Council

**The Golden Rule:** Recitation by Youth Representatives

**WELCOMING ADDRESSES**

**Teguhan Tagay Tadele (Kesis)**, Secretary General of the Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia

**Ambassador Mussie Hailu**, Regional Director of United Religions Initiative (URI) for Africa and Representative to the AU and UN Office in Africa

**Prof. W. Cole Durham, Jr., President**, G20 Interfaith Forum Association

**H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf**, Chairperson of African Union Commission

**OPENING REMARKS BY GUEST OF HONOR OF THE EVENT:**

**H.E. Taye Atske Selassie**, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

**10:30 GROUP PHOTO and Break**

**11:00-12:00 PLENARY SESSION 1. THE AFRICAN UNION AT THE G20 SUMMIT: The Role of Faith Communities in Africa to Advance G20 Purposes in Africa**

Reflections on the vital roles of faith-inspired organizations in global, national, and local affairs.

**Moderator: Rodrigo Vitorino Souza Alves**, Chair; Local Organizing Committee, G20 Interfaith Forum – IF20 Brazil 2024; Director, Brazilian Center for Studies in Law and Religion; Professor of Law, Federal University of Uberlandia

**Moderator: Prof. Maniraj Sukdaven**, Co-Chair South Africa Local Organizing Committee, G20 Interfaith Forum Association; Professor, University of Pretoria; South Africa

**Rev. Dr Stephen Okello**, AU Liaison Officer of The Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM)

**Sister Agatha O. Chikelue**, Executive Director, Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace; Chair, Religions for Peace-International Women's Coordinating Committee

**Dr. Gorden Simango**, All Africa Conference of Churches African Union  
Office & Advocacy

**Elder K. Thierry Mutombo**, President, Africa Central Area, The Church of  
Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Kenya

**Dr Francis Kuria**, Secretary General, Religions for Peace

**Mohamed Bahr**, Head of Strategic Planning, Muslim Council of Elders

## **12:00-13:00 Lunch Break**

## **13:00 – 14:30 PLENARY SESSION 2: BUILDING A LIVING PEACE**

No challenge is as sacred and as demanding as peace: peace with justice, equity, and opportunity, peace that honors elders, women, and youth, peace that builds on Africa's rich diversity, and peace that is in harmony with our planet's gifts. Peace is Africa's central challenge as it is for the African Union, as conflict and tension obstruct development and social harmony. Ancient teachings call us to bless the peacemakers and those who welcome strangers. This plenary highlights the mandate and work of religious peacebuilding, focusing on the critical roles of religious actors and of the African Union. It highlights the powerful links to the dynamics of changing climate, challenged democracies, and the promise of just and thriving societies where human rights and dignity drive policy and action.

**Moderator:** **Sister Agatha O. Chikelue**, Executive Director, Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace; Chair, Religions for Peace-International Women's Coordinating Committee; Nigeria

**Ambassador Salah Hammad**, Head of African Governance  
Architectures

**H.E. Dr. Kairedin Tezera Adera**, State Minister for Peace of the  
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

**Rev. Dr. James Movel Wuye**, Co-Executive Director, Interfaith  
Mediation Centre of Muslim-Christian Dialogue, Kaduna State, and  
Member of AU Interfaith Dialogue Steering Committee; Nigeria

**Imam Dr. Muhammad Nurayn Ashafa**, Co-Executive Director,  
Interfaith Mediation Centre of Muslim-Christian Dialogue; Nigeria

**Rev. Fr. Canice Chinyeaka Enyiaka**, Ph.D., International Program  
Development Specialist; Regional Representative for Africa, Global Peace  
Foundation International

**14:30-15:00 BREAK**

**15:00-16:00: PLENARY SESSION 3: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN A WORLD IN TURMOIL: AFRICA'S CONTRIBUTIONS, AFRICA'S NEEDS**

Africa's central role in the 2025 G20 and the focus on Jubilee 2025 as a stimulus to solidarity and concerted action opens new vistas: opportunities and demands for thought but still more action. The 2063 African Union agendas challenge G20 members as they reflect on critical demands and paths to implementation. The financial challenges facing African states including action to assure sustainable debt burdens but, still more, sustainable finance, call for action by all social sectors and prominently religious actors. Vast humanitarian needs call for new and creative responses. The legacies of the COVID-19 pandemic highlight needed action to redress raw inequities and to integrate thoughtful lessons in contemporary policy. Africa shows remarkable paths to women's leadership and needs. And the continent with the world's largest youth population highlights how vital it is to listen to and hear the voices and inspiration of young people.

**Moderator: Dr. Gorden Simango**, All Africa Conference of Churches African Union Office & Advocacy; Director of AACC Liaison Office to the African Union

**Mr. Lagizabar Bekele**, Senior Legal Officer, AU ECOSOCC; Zambia

**Father Charles Chilufya**, Director, Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network-Africa South Area; Zambia/Kenya

**Dr. Martha Njiiri**, IGAD Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, Djibouti

**Mrs. Hailey Fudu, MSc**, Secretary, Religions for Peace; South Africa

**Nicta Lubaale**, General Secretary, Organization of African Instituted Churches (Agenda 2030)

**Mr. Muhsin Kaduyu Nuwagaba**, AU Interfaith Dialogue Forum Steering Committee; Uganda

**Mohamed Bahr**, Head of Strategic Planning, Muslim Council of Elders

**16:00-16:30 BREAK**

## **16:30-18:00 CONCURRENT SESSION 1: LEADING AFRICA'S RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHALLENGES – PLENARY ROOM**

Climate change affects African communities in countless, diverse ways, and projections point to rising challenges: shifting rainfall patterns and catastrophic weather events. Beyond urgent and large humanitarian responses, creative rethinking about agricultural and other approaches are vital. AU and national leadership are vitally needed, but financial needs also loom large and must be integrated in broader, global financial structures.

**Moderator: Ms. Azmaira Alibhai**, Faith and Ecosystems Coordinator, Faith for Earth Coalition; Kenya

**Ambrose King**, Executive Director, Ethiopian World Federation, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Ms. Nikita Shiel-Rolle**, Conservation Biologist & Climate Justice Activist

**Mr. Immanuel Mwendwa Kiilu**, Thematic Facilitator, Eco-Faith working Group, Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP; Kenya

**Mr. Jasinder Gharial**, Chairman, Sikh Council of Africa; Kenya

**Mr. Hulluf Weldesilassie Kahsay**, Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the African Union, The African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL); Ethiopia

## **16:30-18:00 CONCURRENT SESSION 2: HOW FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF, HUMAN DIGNITY, AND OPPOSING CORRUPTION, HATE SPEECH, XENOPHOBIA, AND DISCRIMINATION BOLSTER AU AND G20 AGENDAS – BREAKOUT ROOM A**

Human rights and the call to honor human dignity are essential prerequisites for sustainable development and the social justice that is at the core of Brazil's 2024 G20 agenda and the AU 2063 vision. This session will highlight challenges and progress in translating common shared principles into practice.

**Moderator: Michael Swain**, Co-Chair South Africa Local Organizing Committee, G20 Interfaith Forum Association; Executive Director, Freedom of Religion South Africa; South Africa

**Fr. Dr. Louison Emerick Bissila**, Chaplain, African Union Catholic Chaplaincy; Ethiopia

**Sister Hedwig Muse**, Justice and Peace Department, Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya

**Mrs. Hailey Fudu, MSc**, Secretary, Religions for Peace – South Africa

**Dr. Solomon Belay Faris**, Representative of Baha'i International Community Addis Ababa Office; Ethiopia



**Elder Isaac K. Morrison**, Area Presidency, Africa West Area of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**Mr. Herbert Makinda**, Regional Manager, Globethics Regional Manager, Eastern Africa; Kenya

**16:30-18:00 CONCURRENT SESSION 3. HOW CAN INTERRELIGIOUS AND RELIGIOUS ACTORS LEAD AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOAL OF LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND? – BREAKOUT B**

Enormous and urgent humanitarian needs, including famine and large scale forced migration demand urgent action. Fragility cuts across many communities and demands parallel attention to both short term and longer-term needs. The session will highlight religious diagnoses of priority challenges and positive experiences that offer promise both to address needs of the most vulnerable and integrate humanitarian, development and climate action.

**Moderator: Mr Christoph Schneider Yattara**,  
Executive Director Chamber of Businesses of African Descent

**Mr. Linus Nthigai**, Executive Director, Inter-Religious Council of Kenya;  
Kenya – (TBC)

**His Grace Salika Dasa**, Global Trustee, United Religions Initiative ;  
International Society for Krishna Consciousness; Nigeria

**Prof. Haji Katnede Abdu**, Lecturer, Department of Religion and Peace  
Studies, Makerere University; Uganda

**Dr. Ibrahim Mulushewa**, Executive Director, Centre for National and  
Religion Integration Studies, Ethiopia

**Rev. Fr. Daniel Seifemichael**, Head of Foreign Affairs and Media  
Religions of Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, Ethiopia

**WEDNESDAY, May 14, 2025**

**8:30-10:00 PLENARY SESSION 4: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ON THE G20 AGENDA 2025 AND PRIORITIES FOR THE AFRICAN UNION**

The African Union, interfaith alliances and networks, and G20 actors share a deep common commitment to action on women's empowerment. This demands consistent focus on women's voices and priorities. It is linked to action to assure the welfare and development of children and youth. Protection from harm demands attention to the stubborn issues of violence against women, in times of war and conflict and peace. Women's roles in peacebuilding calls also for active engagement with women from religious communities. The incessant demands that Africa faces in 2025 must address in tandem the urgent calls of hunger, climate shocks, violence, displacement, and xenophobia, and in every case engaging women can enrich understanding and point to creative and effective action.

**Moderator: Dr. Asha Mohammed**, Head of Delegation and Permanent Representative to the African Union and International Organizations, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Ethiopia

**Sister Francisca Ngozi Uti**, Executive Director, Centre for Women Studies and Intervention; Nigeria

**Nicole Stirling**, Stirling Foundation, United States

**Samson Tesfaye**, Rotary Representative to the AU and UNECA

**Mrs. Nwabuo Ngnedjou Francoise Foute**, Coordinator of Family Health and Development Foundation; Cameroon

**Mrs. Najat Abdi Muhammad**, Executive Director, Global Women Empowerment Development, Ethiopia

**Kevin Hyland OBE, LLM**, Chief Executive, Praeveni Global; Ireland

#### **10:00-10:30 BREAK**

#### **10:30-12:00 CONCURRENT SESSION 4: TRAFFICKING and REFUGEES, Displaced Person – PLENARY ROOM**

Trafficking of people is linked both to disrupted communities and to prevailing poverty and demands coordinated attention. Common challenges facing African communities include large movements of people, with urgent needs to respond especially to the urgent needs of refugees, internally displaced people, and vulnerable groups (children and women most urgently). Coordination of humanitarian action and finance present critical issues.

**Moderator: Ahmed Zanya Bugre**, Senior Advisor at the AU Commission; Former Migrant Protection and Assistance Advisor to the Cabinet of the Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, AU; co-Founder and CEO of Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants in Malta.; Rwanda

**Kevin Hyland OBE, LLM**, Chief Executive, Praeveni Global; Ireland

**Richie Lontulungu Nsombola**, Focal Point, All Congo InterFaith Platform (ACIP); DRC – (TBC)

**Mr. Mohammed Yosuf**, Islamic Relief's Programme Development and Quality Assurance Manager, Ethiopia

**Winnie Mutevu**, Advocacy, Partnerships and Development Manager, Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART); Kenya

**Sister Agnes Njeri SSJ, Ph.D.**, Program Officer, Catholic Sisters, Africa:  
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

### **10:30-12:00 CONCURRENT SESSION 5: FOCUS ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND EDUCATION – BREAKOUT ROOM A**

Education is the leading issue looking to unlock Africa's potential and its dynamic youth and women's population. It also speaks to the urgent needs to address quality of education and inequalities and disparities, including enrollments of boys and girls. Africa's "Youthquake"—the creative and disruptive potential of large and growing child and youth populations—demands global attention. Practical implications include growing demands on education and health systems and active job markets. Religious communities carry special responsibilities for child protection and development. Engaging and listening to children and youth is a priority that must cut across all sectors of activity and communities.

**Moderators:** **Michael Ejeh Adikwu**, Team Lead, Right to Sustainable Development, Arigatou International; Kenya

**Quentin Wodon**, Director, UNESCO Int'l Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA); Ethiopia. -  
(Video)

**Rattan Kaur Channa**, Representative, Sikh Council of Africa; Kenya

**Abdiwasis Idiris Jelle**, Founder & Chairman, Somalia Youth Civic Organization; Somalia

**Mr. Melaku Hailu**, Founder and Executive Director, Model Africa Union-Ethiopia

**Yasmin Jemal**, Founder and President of Know My Generation, ACWAY Fellow; Ethiopia – (TBC)

**Mr. Humphrey Maina Macharia**, Networks and Program Coordinator, Arigatou International; Kenya

**Prof. Dr. Mohamad Jaafari**, Associate University Professor, University Sultan Moulay Slimane; Morocco

### **10:30-12:00 CONCURRENT SESSION 6: ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND SOCIAL TENSIONS – BREAKOUT ROOM B**

Survey after survey and lived experience highlight the brutality and persistence of violence and impunity, especially involving women and children. Rule of law and social action can be mobilized, with effective support from religious actors, men and women. The need to interrupt dangerous trends and implement bold programs to rebuild trust and social harmony presents urgent priorities to both the G20 and the AU, and interreligious approaches offer a rich potential that both the AU and G20 nations can build upon.



**Moderator:** **Dr. Martha Njiiri**, IGAD. IGAD Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, Djibouti

**Ms. Saydoon Nisa Sayed**, Secretary, Arigatou International-Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC); South Africa

**Sr. Rev. Maureen Ogundeph**, Community Manager, World Women Observatory - World Union of Catholic Women's Organization

**Ibrahim Ismail**, African Renaissance Initiative.

**Mrs. Najat Abdi Muhammad**, Executive Director, Global Women Empowerment Development, Ethiopia

## **12:00-13:00 LUNCH**

## **13:00-14:00 SEEKING VIEWS ON PRIORITIES AND ON TRANSLATING IDEALS INTO ACTION**

During this hour, participants will be divided into three feedback sessions with open discussion that will seek ideas and experience from conference participants on issues related to peace, sustainability, and women's issues.

### **PLENARY ROOM**

Women's Issues Moderator: **NGNEDJOU Francoise Foute NWABUFO**,  
Coordinator, Family Health and Development  
Foundation (FAHEDEF) Nkolanga'a, Yaounde  
Cameroon

### **BREAKOUT ROOM A**

Peace Issues Moderator: **Rev. Fr. Canice Chinyeaka Enyiaka**, Ph.D.,  
International Program Development  
Specialist; Regional Representative for Africa,  
Global Peace Foundation International

### **BREAKOUT ROOM B**

Sustainability Moderator: **Peter Petkoff**, Tutorial Law Fellow and  
Director, Centre for Law and Religion,  
Regent's Park College, Oxford University, UK

## **14:00-14:30 BREAK**

## **14:30-15:00 PLENARY SESSION 5: CONCLUSIONS AND PATHS FORWARD**

The concluding plenary will hear brief summaries from three feedback sessions and look ahead both to the AU's 2063 Agenda and to Africa's priority counsel to the G20. The session will draw on experience from Brazil's 2024 G20 Presidency, focus sharply on the 2025 agendas set out by South Africa, and look forward towards future G20 agendas. What insights and ideas does the conference offer for the G20 Interfaith Forum, as a distinctive religious and interreligious voice, as the 2025 G20 Summit approaches?

**Prof. W. Cole Durham, Jr.**, President, G20 Interfaith Forum Association;  
United States

**Ambassador Mussie Hailu**, Regional Director of URI for Africa and  
Representative to the African Union and UN Office in Africa; Ethiopia

**Ms. Hazel Dixon**, Desk Officer, AU Commission Citizens and Diaspora  
Organizations Directorate (CIDO); Ethiopia

**15:30 Bus visit for City Tour of Addis Ababa, including International Museum and other**

**Sites.** The tour will conclude with a dinner and cultural evening.

**Closing Dinner (location to be selected—cultural Evening)**

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH