



G20

SOUTH AFRICA 2025



G20 INTERFAITH FORUM



The G20 Interfaith Forum

Ubuntu in Action: Focus on Vulnerable Communities

Cape Town, South Africa
August 10-14, 2025

Sunday, August 10

ACWAY G20 Interfaith Youth Forum 2025 during the day

17:00 - 20:30 Registration

18:30 - 20:30 Reception, hosted by IF20, for all registered attendees and invited guests from South Africa

Monday, August 11

8:00 - 9:00 Registration

9:00 - 11:00 Opening (MC's) *Judith Mahlangu and Sandile Hlayisi*

Welcome by **Prof. Luka David Mosoma**, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of South Africa; Former Chairperson, CRL Rights Commission, South Africa

National Anthem

Interfaith Prayers

President Derrick Sibisi (African Religions and Spirituality)

The Revelation Spiritual Home

Mr Mlingani Poswayo (Bahai)

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahà'i South Africa

Mr Cecil Platjie (Bhuddist)

Soka Gakkai International

Dr. Nioma Venter (Christian)

General Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church

Moulana Abdul Khaliq Allie (Islam)

United Ulama Council of South Africa

Rabbi Pini Hecht (Jewish)
Rabbi of Marias Congregation
Guru Krishna (Hindu)
Aim Spiritual Center
Advocate Sipho Mantula (Rastafari)
Rastafari Culture and Spirituality
Shree Jagdev Gianjii (Sikh)
Sikh Gurudwara of SA in Cape Town

Introduction of the Minister of Social Development: **Prof. Maniraj Sukdaven**, Professor,
University of Pretoria, South Africa

Nokuzola Tolashe, Minister of Social Development

Introduction: IF20 Local and International Organizing Committees:

W. Cole Durham, G20 Interfaith Forum President (Video message)
Katherine Marshall, G20 Interfaith Forum Vice President, Georgetown University, United States
Address by **H.E. Adama Dieng**, Special Adviser, The Muslim Council of Elders representing
H.E. Judge Mohamed Abdel-Salam, Secretary General, Muslim Council of Elders, Egypt.

Introduction to keynote address: **Katherine Marshall**

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town

Religious Leaders' actions on G20 leading issues and priority challenges:

Gorden Simango, Director, Liaison Office, All Africa Conference of Churches, Zimbabwe
His Virtue Sheikh-ul-islam Allahshukur Pashazade, Chairman, Caucasus Muslims Board, Azerbaijan
Wendy Kahn, National Director, South African Jewish Board of Deputies, South Africa
Bishop Sipuka, President of the South African Council of Churches (SACC); and chairperson of the National Church Leaders' Consultation.
Bani Dugal, Principal Representative, Baha'i International Community, United States
Elder Thierry K. Mutombo, General Authority Seventy, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Call to action

Michael-Daniel Bam, Cape Town Junior Executive Mayor and Founder of Michael Daniel Bam Foundation

11:00-11:30 Break and Group Photo

11:30-13:00 Plenary (i): Action Imperatives and Realities of Finance and Debt

Africa's most urgent priorities, including financial sustainability, debt action, and climate finance, are the focus of this first plenary, which highlights interfaith recommendations on the G20's responsibilities for the global financial architecture. Priorities for food security, migration and refugees, disaster preparedness, and education and health are intricately linked to this framework, including action by multilateral banks and private actors. The G20 Interfaith Forum's primary goal

and priority is action to support the world's most vulnerable communities, an imperative shared by diverse religious communities around the world in their teachings and practice. South Africa's G20 agenda, the global agendas for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Africa 2063 (African Union) echo this critical attention to action to address issues of poverty and hunger, inequalities that hinder the flourishing of women and families, and national development strategies.

Moderators:

Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, Board Chair, United World Colleges, Kenya

Panel Participants

Father Charles B. Chilufya, Director, Jesuit Conference of Africa – Justice and Ecology, Zambia

Bishop Sipuka, President of the South African Council of Churches (SACC); and chairperson of the National Church Leaders' Consultation.

Elder Adeyinka A. Ojedian, General Authority, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Nigeria

Dr. Esben Lunde Larsen, Senior One Health Specialist, The Pandemic Fund- The World Bank, Denmark

Eric LeCompte, Executive Director, Jubilee USA Network, United States

Lord Revd. Dr. Russell Rook OBE, House of Lords; Good Faith Partnership, United Kingdom

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-14:10 Spotlight: Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool

14:10-15:15 Plenary (ii). Action on Hunger and Poverty

Concrete actions to address poverty and hunger are priorities for the G20, building on the launch of the Global Alliance against Hunger in November 2024. This session will outline the shared and distinctive teachings of different religious traditions on hunger and its links to poverty, and the widely diverse programs that serve those in need. It will highlight the vital roles of religious leaders, communities, and actors within the Global Alliance as well as links among poverty, health, and agriculture. South Africa's engagement of religious communities illuminates the links between teachings, ethical commitment, and practical action on the ground.

Moderators:

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, Resident Coordinator, United Nations, Zambia

Speakers:

Luka David Mosoma, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of South Africa; Former Chairperson, CRL Rights Commission, South Africa

Rev. Dr. David Beckmann – Coordinator, Circle of Protection, United States

Rev. Nicta Lubaale, General Secretary, Organization of African Instituted Churches, Uganda

Julian May, Professor, Director of the Centre of Excellence in Food Security at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa

Andrea Kaufmann, Director of Faith and External Engagement, World Vision International, United States

Imboni Dr Uzwi-Lezwe Radebe, The Revelation Spiritual Home, South Africa

Michael Karabo Dube, Chief Executive and Founder, Invest Rural Platforms (Pty) Ltd, South Africa

Chilufya Chileshe, Chief Operating Officer, SDG2 Advocacy Hub, Zambia

15:15-15:45 Break

15:45-17:00 Concurrent Sessions A

A1 Fighting Hunger as a Critical Element in Addressing Poverty
Breakout Room 1 – Plenary 1

Global commitments to revitalize action to end hunger, both where famine looms and for broader threats to vulnerable communities (children especially), must include religious actors as integral, essential partners. This session will highlight national and faith commitments under the Global Alliance against Hunger, assessing the state of knowledge on how best to end hunger and link it to broader development and humanitarian strategies, with examples of best practice at national and community levels.

Moderator(s)

Dr. Renier Koegelenberg, Director, CDDC Trust/EFSA Institute, South Africa

Dr. Sylvia Pheto, Commissioner, IF20 LOC, South Africa

Discussion launchers:

Khushwant Singh, Head of Secretariat, International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD), Germany

Pastor Jan Pretorius, Head of Operations, Mahlasedi Foundation; Head of Operations, South African Community of Faith-based Fraternals and Federations (SACOFF), South Africa

Andrea Kaufmann, Director of Faith and External Engagement, World Vision International, United States

Sr. Juunza C. Mwangani, Projects Manager, Diocese of Monze, Zambia

Elder Denelson Silva, General Authority, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Brazil

A2 2025 as a Jubilee Year: Principles of Equity in the Architecture of Finance
Breakout Room 2 – Plenary 2

Action to address solidarity, equality, and sustainability (South Africa's G20 themes) demand political will, resources, and creative partnerships. The Catholic Church's urgent call to unity and action during the Jubilee year 2025 highlights the links among the three imperatives. The session will focus on alliances and action that the call has engaged, with a focus on how calls for resources relate to priorities for the G20 Summit and community. The discussion will draw on examples linked to disaster preparedness, action on just energy transitions, and humanitarian response.

Moderator(s)

Eric LeCompte, Executive Director, Jubilee USA Network, United States

Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli, President/CEO, ONE Campaign, United States

Discussion launchers:

Mohammed Ameen Hassen, Head of Shari'ah Banking, Standard Bank Group, South Africa
Dr. Molefe Tsele, Chaplain General, ANC Chaplaincy, South Africa
H.E. Dr. Omar Habtoor Al Darei, Chairman of the General Authority of Islamic Affairs,
Endowments and Zakat in UAE
Bishop Sylvester Anthony John David, O.M.I
Rampeoane Hlobo, S.J., Director, Jesuit Justice & Ecology Network in Africa (JENA), South
Africa

A3 Interreligious action in Africa: South Africa and AU Priorities
Breakout Room 3 – Bartholomew Diaz Room

Africa and South Africa offer extraordinary experience with interfaith cooperation in many fields, including working for peace, responding to health crises (HIV/AIDS, Ebola, COVID-19), and leading on empowerment of women. The African Union (AU), now a G20 member, aims to highlight the roles of religious communities in continental strategies. This session will highlight pertinent experience of religious and multireligious organizations as well as the challenges they confront.

Moderator(s)

Hazel Maureen D. Dixon, Regional Desk Officer, African Union Commission, Sierra Leone
Dr. Tahirih Matthee, Educator, African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum, South Africa

Discussion launchers

H.E. Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira, President, Pan African Parliament, Zimbabwe
Ambassador Amr Aljowaily, Director Citizens and Diaspora Director (CIDO), African Union
Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Ambassador Michael P. Murphy, KM, Ambassador and Permanent Representative,
Sovereign Order of Malta, United States
Musimbi Kanyoro, Board Chair, United World Colleges, Kenya

**A4 Challenges of Inequality: How Inequality is Understood, Challenges of Colonial and
Political legacies**
Breakout Room 4 – Vasco Da Gama Room

Equality is at the center of South Africa's G20 agenda, both within communities and among nations. This session will explore religious approaches to equality as a global issue (within the SDG context, for example), academic debates, and policy approaches and examples. South Africa's journey up to and following the 1994 watershed events will provide a framework for the discussion.

Moderator(s):

Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, General Secretary, ACT Alliance, Switzerland
Luka David Mosoma, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of South Africa; Former
Chairperson, CRL Rights Commission, South Africa

Discussion launchers:

Dr. Mehmet Akkan Suver, President, Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research
Foundation, Turkey

Prof. Mathole Motshekga, Executive Founder, Kara Heritage Institute; President, South African Interfaith Council; Former Member, South African Parliament; Former Premier, Gauteng Province; Chair, African Renaissance Forum; Former Member, Pan-African Parliament

Imam Dr. Talib Shareef, President, The International Coalition for Peace and Reconciliation, USA

A5 Solidarity and Interfaith in the G20 Context: Focus on Women and Youth
Breakout Room 5 – Prince Edward Island and Schappen Island Room

The engagement of different religious approaches and actors during preparations for the 2025 G20 Interfaith Forum suggested important lessons for interreligious cooperation at global, national, and local levels. This session will focus on inclusion of too often unheard voices, notably women and young people.

Moderator(s)

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

Abbey Ngoepe

Discussion Launchers

Rev. Dr. Nioma Venter, Secretary General, General Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church, South Africa

Dr. Precious Moloi-Motsepe, University of Cape Town

Sr. Agnes Njeri, Program Officer, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Kenya

Sr. Dr. Teresiah Muthoni, Legal Advisor/Officer, Archdiocese of Nairobi/Hilton Foundation, Kenya

Dr. Pearl Kupe, International President, Global Forum of Women Entrepreneurs, Botswana

Raquel Bennet, Fellow, A Common Word Among the Youth (ACWAY), Brazil

Jessica Roland, Senior Specialist for Inclusive Peace, The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, United States

A6 The AI Revolution: Ethics and Action
Breakout Room 6 – Seal Island and Robben Island Room

Religious communities are affected in different ways by the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence (AI) and different communities engage in analysis and dialogue about its implications and response.

Moderator(s)

Rachel Miner, Founder and CEO, Bellwether International, United States

Golan Ben-Oni, Global CIO, IDT, United States

Discussion Launchers

Fr. Hugh O'Connor, Secretary General, Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, South Africa

Liliya Khasanova, Executive Director, A Common Word Among the Youth (ACWAY), Russia

Mark Gaffley, Director of Legal and Operations, Global Center on AI Governance, South Africa

Prof. Fadi Daou, Executive Director, Globethics, France

Sean Cleary, Executive Vice-Chair, FutureWorld Foundation, South Africa

17:15 - 17:45 Break

17:45-19:00 Concurrent Sessions B

B1 Health for All: Religious Communities and the Challenges of Rebuilding from COVID-19
Breakout Room 1 – Ballroom West

Health for all, well linked to environmental challenges, is a leading global priority, and is a priority for urgent action for South Africa and the entire African continent. This session will review the continuing legacies of the COVID-19 and other pandemics, with special attention to the Pandemic Fund. The discussion will focus on the rebuilding of trust in public health systems and on the interlinkages among different sectors where the health of people and planet are concerned.

Moderator

Dr. Esben Lunde Larsen, Senior One Health Specialist, The Pandemic Fund – The World Bank, Denmark

Discussion launchers:

Dr. Pakishe Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health, South Africa (invited)

Dr. Deus Bazira, Director and Associate Professor, Georgetown University Global Health Institute & Center for Global Health Practice and Impact, United States

Doug Fountain, Executive Director, Christian Connections for International Health, United States

Peter Yeboah, Executive Director, Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG), Ghana

Jeffrey O'Malley, Senior Advisor for HIV and Health Group, UNDP, Canada

Khushwant Singh, Head of Secretariat, International Partnership on Religion and Development (PaRD), Germany

B2 Religious Action on Corruption
Breakout Room 2 – Ballroom East

The G20 focuses sharply on issues of resources and, at this pivotal moment, the need to mobilize and promote careful use of resources is of paramount importance. Ethical dimensions point to significant actual and potential roles of religious actors. This session will draw on the experience of religious communities in different world regions in contributing to national and global efforts to address corruption and nepotism.

Moderator(s)

Luka David Mosoma, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of South Africa; Former Chairperson, CRL Rights Commission, South Africa

Rodrigo Alves, Professor, The Brazilian Center of Studies in Law and Religion, Federal University of Uberlandia, Brazil

Discussion Launchers

Elias Szczytnicki, Regional Secretary General, Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean, Argentina

Dr. Shimmy C. Kotu, Chairman, Anti Regulation of Religion Summit, South Africa

Dr. Ivo Pereira da Silva, Associate Professor at the Federal University of Pará (UFPA)

B3 Positives and Negatives of Modern Communications: Addressing Disinformation and Related Social Tensions

Breakout Room 3 – Bartholomew Diaz Room

Social media is revolutionizing community relations, including within and among religious communities. This session will explore its power for good, reinforcing knowledge and social cohesion, but also the potential disinformation and divisiveness. How are religious communities affected? What actions are being taken or could be taken to enhance media understanding and literacy and to counter the ill effects of other negative manifestations? Where are there tensions on how the problem is defined, recognized, and responded to, and how are these tensions specific to religious communities?

Moderator(s)

Ambassador (Rabbi) David Saperstein, Senior Adviser on Strategy and Policy, Union for Reform Judaism, United States

Sara Gon, Director, Free Speech Union of South Africa, South Africa

Discussion Launchers:

Dr. Andre Oboler, CEO, Online Hate Prevention Institute, Australia

Liesl Pretorius, Head of Legal, Freedom of Religion South Africa, South Africa

Lynn Swain, CEO, Symbiota Leadership Institute, South Africa

Yashika Singh, Head of Religion Genre Content Hub Video Entertainment, SA Broadcastin Corporation-TV Division, South Africa (Manager, Religion Department for SABC Television)

Sibu Szymanowska, Co-Founder, The Hybrid Tours, United States

Rosalind I J Hackett, Chancellor's Professor Emeritus, Professor Emeritus, Department of Religious Studies University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA/ Extraordinary Professor, Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice, University of the Western Cape, South Africa

B4 Addressing Ethnic Tensions, Discrimination, and Racism: Positive Strategies and Challenges Ahead

Breakout Room 4 – Vasco Da Gama Room

Racism links to many dimensions of inequality and discrimination, including religious, ethnic, gender, and class. This session will explore specific challenges at these intersections, with a focus on action needed to propel commitments and promises into effective strategies and programs.

Moderator(s)

Prof. Nayla Tabbara, President, Adyan Foundation, Lebanon

Professor Tshepo Madlingozi, Commissioner, South African Human Rights Commission, South Africa (possible co-moderator)

Video Message: Audrey Kitagawa, President and Founder, International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation

Discussion launchers:

Prof. Fadi Daou, Executive Director, Globethics, France

Izzy Ben-Ebrahim, KAICIID Fellow Alumnus, KAICIID, South Africa

Farid Esack (nominee from Tabbara)

Commissioner Ras Sipho Mantula, Advocate, Thabo Mbeki School of Public and International Affairs at Unisa, and a Commissioner at Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities, South Africa

Professor Tshepo Madlingozi, Commissioner, South African Human Rights Commission, South Africa

B5 Taking Stock: How the G20 Agendas relate to Religious Freedom
Breakout Room 5 – Prince Edward Island and Schappen Island Room

Moderators

Professor Hannah Smith, J.D., Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, United States

Michael Swain, Executive Director, Freedom of Religion SA, South Africa

Discussion Launchers:

Sr. Hedwig Muse, Legal Officer and Program Manager for Catholic Care of Children and Human Rights, Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya, Kenya

Thembi Tulwana, Secretary General, Inkululeko Yesizwe Association, South Africa

Moulana A. K. Allie, President, United Ulama Council of South Africa

Juan G. Navarro Floria, Vice President, Consejo Argentino para la Libertad Religiosa (CALIR)

Elder Adilson de Paula Parrella, General Authority Seventy, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Brazil

Rev. Bert Pretorius, President, SACOFF, South Africa

B6 Strategies for Action: Linking Religious Communities and Global Agendas
Breakout Room 6 – Seal Island and Robben Island Room

This session will highlight strategic approaches and reviews of institutions that are engaged in support for the SDG framework, including finance for development and humanitarian action. What are the main priorities and how is religious engagement understood? What are prominent examples of success? It offers an opportunity for organizations (intergovernmental, nongovernment, and philanthropic) that work with religious organizations to highlight their strategies and experiences, inter alia, the World Economic Forum, PaRD, KAICIID, Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities, World Bank, African Development Bank, Joint Learning Initiative.

Moderator(s)

Maurice Bloem, President/CEO, Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI), Netherlands

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, UN Resident Coordinator, United Nations, Zambia

Presenters:

H.E. Amb. Antonio Almeida-Ribeiro, (Video) KAICIID
Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, General Secretary, ACT Alliance, Switzerland
Maria Lucia Uribe Torres, Executive Director, Arigatou International Geneva, Colombia
Ravan Hasanov, CEO, Baku International Multiculturalism Center, Azerbaijan
Martine Miller, President, International Center for Religion & Diplomacy, USA

Tuesday, August 12

9:00-9:45 Summary of Day 1: Katherine Marshall

From Rio de Janeiro to Johannesburg:

Rodrigo Alves, Professor, The Brazilian Center of Studies in Law and Religion; Federal University of Uberlandia, Brazil

South African and African Interfaith history:

Dr. Renier Koegelenberg, Director, CDDC Trust/EFSA Institute, South Africa

Video messages from leading religious leaders

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople

Ela Gandhi, South African activist and former politician

Sulak Sivaraksa, Thai social activist, professor, writer and the founder and director of the Thai NGO "Sathirakoses-Nagapradeepa Foundation"

G20 Interfaith history, context, and leading issues:

Katherine Marshall

9:45-11:30 Plenary (iii) Education: Leading Human Development Imperatives

This plenary session will focus on education and, more broadly, translating the oft-stated priority of “youth” into effective action. What role does education play with regard to values and social cohesion? How can religion respond to global education challenges, including access, quality, and links to life skills? The discussion aims to link the goals of quality education for all to the challenges of social cohesion and assuring diversity and equality among different communities. What are the roles of religious communities within education programs? The session will highlight examples of programs tailored to these objectives, such as Indonesia’s Cross Cultural Religious Literacy (CCRL) program, Ethics Education, as pioneered by Arigatou International, and South African examples. The challenges of intergroup tensions and efforts to address them, including youth perspectives, will be highlighted.

Moderator(s)

Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi, Executive Director, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, United States

Prof. Maniraj Sukdaven, Professor, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Keynote: **Prof. Dr. Abdul Mu’ti**, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Indonesia

Speakers

Matius Ho, Executive Director, Leimena Institute, Indonesia

Maria Lucia Uribe Torres, Executive Director, Arigatou International Geneva, Colombia

Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi, Chairman and Board of Directors, Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, Under Secretary, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Qatar

Prof. Muhammed Haron, Head of Office of Deputy Minister of Social Development, Ministry of Social Development, South Africa

Rev. Prof. Peter Mageto, Vice Chancellor/CEO, Africa University, Kenya

Prof. Jonathan Jansen, Distinguished Professor of Education, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Mr. Ruslanbek Davletov, The Advisor to the President of Uzbekistan on The Representative Bodies, Non-Governmental Organizations, Religion and Youth Affairs.

11:30-11:45 Spotlight: “Jewish-Muslim Religious Fraternity Project”

Rabbi Dr. Yakov Nagen, Executive Director, Ohr Torah Interfaith Center, Israel

Rabbi Dr. Aharon Areil Lavi, Managing Director, Ohr Torah Interfaith Center, Israel

Imam Dr. Talib Shareef, President, International Coalition for Peace and Reconciliation, United States

Imam Rashad Abdul-Rahmaan, Director, International Coalition for Peace and Reconciliation

11:45-12:00 Break

12:00-13:30 Concurrent Sessions C

C1 Education for Solidarity: Cross-cultural Religious Literacy and Addressing Religious Tensions, Violence, and Harmony

Breakout Room 1 – Ballroom West

With evidence across many different societies of rising social tensions linked to religious as well as ethnic identities, action to address understanding among different religious communities, and between religions and secular components of societies (sometimes termed “religious literacy”), has assumed increasing importance. This working session will center on specific examples from South Africa, South-East Asia, and other approaches, with a view to enrich IF20 action proposals to G20 leaders.

Moderator(s)

Rev. Fr. Canice Chinyeaka Enyiaka, Ph.D., Director, African Peace Initiative and Engagement, Global Peace Foundation International, Washington DC

Commissioner Rajendran Govender, Commissioner of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Rights Commission

Discussion Launchers

Matius Ho, Executive Director, Leimena Institute, Indonesia

Mr. Muzzafar Kamilov, advisor to the president of Uzbekistan for religious affairs

Prof. Muhammed Haron, Head of Office of Deputy Minister of Social Development, Ministry of Social Development, South Africa

Ravan Hasanov, CEO, Baku International Multiculturalism Center, Azerbaijan
Prof. Dr. M. Amin Abdullah, Steering Council Member, Pancasila Ideology Development Agency, Indonesia
Aarifa Hunter, Governance Coordinator, Equal Education, South Africa

C2 Focus on Challenges for Africa

Breakout Room 2 – Ballroom East

The right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB), central to human rights, is linked to peace and to social cohesion. This session will highlight progress and challenges, with a focus on the African context.

Moderator(s)

Michael Swain, Executive Director, Freedom of Religion SA (FOR SA), South Africa
Asher Maoz, Founding Dean - Head, Committee on Int'l Academic Relations, Tel-Aviv University & The Peres Academic Center, Israel

Discussion Launchers

Professor Mark Hill, KC Distinguished Global Professor, University of Notre Dame London Law Programme, United Kingdom
Prof Rassie Malherbe, Acting Convenor, South African Council for Religious Rights And Freedoms, South African Council For Religious Rights And Freedoms, South Africa
Pastor Giet Khosa, General Secretary, International Federation of Christian Churches – IFCC, South Africa
Bert Pretorius, President, SACOFF, South Africa
Francis Nyakoojo, Head - Access to Justice, Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity, Uganda
Elder Adilson de Paula Parrella, General Authority Seventy, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

C3 Addressing Youth and Mental Health

Breakout Room 3 – Bartholomew Diaz Room

Africa's demography (notably its youth bulge) will shape global development in the coming decades, highlighting the critical importance of engaging young people in the design of policies and programs today. Among challenges cited often are employment, quality education, and attention to numerous challenges to mental health. This session will present and explore analytic work and policy proposals linked to these challenges.

Moderator(s)

Andrea Kaufman, Director, Faith & External Engagement, World Vision International, USA
Angela Nielsen Redding, Executive Director, Radiance Foundation, USA

Discussion Launchers

Sandile Hlayisi, Church of Scientology, Scientology Volunteer Ministers, South Africa

Doug Fountain, Executive Director, Christian Connections for International Health, USA

Rogelio P. Lelis, Jr., Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Technical Advisor -
ACWAY, Iraq

C4 Health Challenges in Practice**Breakout Room 4 – Vasco Da Gama Room**

Global health challenges are closely linked to challenges of equity, and nowhere is this more apparent than in neglected diseases and situations. This session will explore experience and priorities for health challenges that confront marginalized communities, especially but not exclusively in Africa.

Moderator(s)

Martin Egbert, Advisory Board Member, Ponseti International Association at the University of Iowa, USA

Karen Mara Moss, Executive Director, Steps Charity, South Africa

Discussion Launchers:

Santhosh George, Director, CURE International India, India

Atula Jamir Santhosh, National Program Manager, CURE International India, India

Sr. Zelna Oosthuizen, President of LCCLSA and Unit Leader of Congregation in South Africa,
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, South Africa

Sara Rahim, Program Manager, SHRM Foundation, USA

C5 Ethical issues for Artificial Intelligence: The Practice**Breakout Room 5 – Prince Edward Island and Schappen Island Room**

Challenges linked to technology and especially the fast-developing systems of Artificial Intelligence (AI) present distinctive challenges for religious communities. These communities can also, with practical experience and pertinent ethical teachings, contribute to the active global and local debates on the topic. This session will build on ongoing work and dialogue with a view to highlighting the links between AI's potential and its dangers and the G20 and IF20 priorities, especially for the most vulnerable communities.

Moderator(s):

Manisha Jain, Distinguished Engineer, Microsoft, USA

Carlike Noeth, Southern Africa Regional Manager, Globethics, South Africa

Discussion Launchers:

Medlir Mema, Head - AI Governance Programme, Global Governance Institute, USA

Dr Andre Oboler, CEO, Online Hate Prevention Institute, Australia

Golan Benoni, Global CIO, IDT, USA

Rabbi Dr. Aharon Ariel Lavi, Managing Director, the Ohr Torah Interfaith Center, Israel

C6 Religion and Civility: Lessons from Ubuntu
Breakout Room 6 – Seal Island and Robben Island Room

This session, developed and led by the G20 Interfaith Local Organizing Committee, will highlight both the underlying concepts and ways in which they translate into practice.

Moderator(s)

Prof. Mathole Motshekga, Executive Founder, Kara Heritage Institute; President, South African Interfaith Council; Former Member, South African Parliament; Former Premier, Gauteng Province; Chair, African Renaissance Forum; Former Member, Pan-African Parliament

Avhasei Fredah Mulovhedzi, Secretary General, Southern African Interfaith Council, South Africa

Discussion Launchers

Dr. Jane Mufamadi, Chief Executive Officer, Freedom Park, South Africa

President Bhekinhlanhla Sibisi, President, AAFIS

Rev. Adv. Thandi Nhlengetwa, Advocate of the High Court South Africa, Unity Center of Love and Light, Africa

Rev. Prof. Peter Mageto, Vice Chancellor/CEO, Africa University, Kenya
Nhlanhla Ndiovu

13:30-14:15 Lunch

15:00 Service Project

The afternoon will be spent on a project or projects with a service focus in selected areas around Cape Town. In focusing on food delivery, the visits offer ways to learn about the challenges of hunger and poverty in the region.

16:30 Break

18:00 – 21:00 Cultural Evening

Wednesday, August 13

9:00-9:15 Summary of Previous Day. Katherine Marshall

9:15-10:45 Plenary (iv) Sustainability: Religious responsibilities and Action

Climate change is a leading issue for the G20, with sustainability a central priority for South Africa's G20 agenda. The priority issues of financing action to mitigate and alleviate climate change are a continuing G20 focus. Of immediate and priority importance for Africa are effective responses to natural disasters, notably those linked to climate change, and thus disaster prevention, response, and recovery. This plenary will focus on climate imperatives, with a focus on actual and potential roles of religious actors. The wisdom and issues facing traditional communities will be one focus. The challenges of sustainability also involve conflicts and population movements, thus refugees and migration (and associated social tensions) and the growing links of these developments to climate change. The session will link issues of disruption of societies to challenges for religious freedom.

Moderator(s)

Sam Worthington, Senior Fellow, Forus, USA

Keynote:

Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay, General Secretary, World Council of Churches, Switzerland

Speakers:

Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, FMA, Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Vatican City, Italy

Somboon Chungprampree, Executive Secretary, International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB), Thailand

Elder Isaac K. Morrison, General Authority Seventy, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

10:45-11:15 Break

11:15-12:45 Concurrent sessions D

D1. Crossing Bridges Among Sectors and Institutions

Breakout Room 1 – Ballroom West

Partnerships and intersections among different siloed approaches demand creative new approaches. The integrated thinking and cooperative action that characterize many religious communities and especially interreligious approaches offer inspiration extending far beyond purely religious approaches. This session will elaborate challenges and look to concrete examples in the effort to facilitate and promote innovative cross boundary work on priority G20 challenges. It will also focus on the specific approaches and contributions of leading religiously linked non-government organizations, both international and Africa-based.

Moderator(s)

Katherine Marshall, Vice President, G20 Interfaith Forum Association, USA

Discussion launchers

Rev. Susan Hayward, Research Fellow, Berkley Center Georgetown, USA

Prof Jose Casanova, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, Theology and Religious Studies,
Georgetown University, USA

Bani Dugal, Principal Representative, Baha'i International Community, USA

Amb. Salah Hammad Head of the AGA-APSA Secretariat, African Union Commission,
Ethiopia

Sean Cleary, Executive Vice-Chair, Future World Foundation, South Africa

Dr. Brian Adams, Chair, ACWAY (A Common World Among the Youth), USA

D2. Peacebuilding: Global and African Challenges

Breakout Room 2 – Ballroom East

“Blessed are the peacemakers...” The global challenges of building peace are nowhere more poignant than in many regions of Africa, and nowhere else is the creative and determined efforts of religious actors working for peace more in evidence. This session will link the challenges of peacebuilding and some lessons from lived experience to the G20’s priority issues.

Moderator(s)

Fr. Boniface Neibo, Deputy Director, Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP),
Nigeria

Martine Miller, President, International Center for Religion & Diplomacy, USA

Discussion Launchers

Nirina Kiplagat, Governance and Peace-building Coordinator, Regional Service Centre for
Africa, Ethiopia

Maria K Daka, Member, ACWAY, Zambia

Nureldin Mohamed Hamed Satti, Former Sudanese Ambassador to the United States,
Kenya

Dr./Amb/ His Majesty King Bongwe II, Africa President, International Association of World
Peace Advocates, South Africa

Mohammed Edris Mohammed, Minister of Peace of Ethiopia, Republic of Ethiopia

Prof. Tim Murithi, Honorary Research Associate. IDCPPA

D3. Roles of Cultural Heritage and Protection of Sacred Sites

Breakout Room 3 – Bartholomew Diaz Room

Cultural identities take material form in different locations. Many actions reflecting alliances among religious and interfaith organizations to protect sacred sites offer inspiring examples. This session will address emerging issues involving security, strategies for more effective protections of both tangible and intangible heritage, and sacred sites.

Moderator

Dean Liprini, CEO, Sacred Sites Foundation of Southern Africa, South Africa

Discussion launchers

President Bhekinhlanhla Sibisi, President, AAFIS, South Africa

Slindo Shamase, Head of Department: Heritage and Knowledge, Freedom Park Heritage and Museum, South Africa

Mr. Amos Mulaudzi, Coordinator: Education and Advocacy, National Heritage Council, South Africa

Rabbi Dr. Yakov Nagen, Executive Director, Ohr Torah Interfaith Center, Israel

Sheikh Ghassan Manasra, International Director, Abrahamic Reunion, Israel

D4. Distinctive Wisdom, Special Challenges facing Traditional Communities

Breakout Room 4 – Vasco Da Gama Room

Traditional communities pride themselves on their insight into the tight bonds between human life and the natural environment. Yet forces that accelerate deforestation, lands degradation, and displacement, and pressures for mining, especially of critical minerals, threaten both the environment and traditional ways of life. This session looks to challenges, wisdom, and solidarity in the quest for solutions.

Moderator(s)

Prof. Maniraj Sukdaven, Professor, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Discussion Launchers:

Makoena Masha, Director, Baha'i Faith, South Africa

Thembi Tulwana, Secretary General, Inkululeko Yesizwe Association, South Africa

Mamsi Sebolai, Kara Heritage Institute, South Africa

D5. The Impact of Theology and Advocacy in Action: The Examples of Laudato Si', Al Mizan

Breakout Room 5 – Prince Edward Island and Schappen Island Room

This session will begin with the theological underpinning for taking action to promote climate progress by faith communities with a particular focus on the Laudato Si movement, the Al Mizan, and the actions taken by religious leaders and actors to address climate change through UN COP meetings and innumerable other contexts. The session will focus on how faith actors and faith leaders can work to ensure no one is left behind through their advocacy work on tackling the triple planetary crisis—climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The session will address the relationship between climate change and conflict by amplifying the voices of African communities currently embroiled in climate-connected conflict. The session will place a particular emphasis on how women and youth faith actors can impact the intricate balance of climate and politics to build peace. The session will also consider the role and responsibility of religious communities to help youth to be stronger and more resilient in the face of climate change, natural disasters, and accompanying conflicts.

Moderator(s)

Prof. Husna Ahmad OBE., CEO, Global One 2015

Discussion Launchers:

Azmaira Alibhai, Faith & Ecosystems Coordinator, UNEP, Kenya
Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi, Executive Director, Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
Mushra Hartley, Global Operations Manager, International Emissions Trading Association (IETA), South Africa
Merylene Chitharai, Youth Coordinator & Professional Architectural Technologist, Religions for Peace South Africa & African Council of Religious Leaders, South Africa
Grace Chilongo, Director, Youth Empowerment and Environmental Management (YEEM); URI Representative
H.E. Sheikh Al-Mahfoudh Bin Bayyah, Secretary General, Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace, UAW

D6 Women's Roles in Building Peace and Sustainable Communities: Religious Dimensions

Breakout Room 6 – Seal Island and Robben Island Room

Women's absence from formal peace processes across the world is notorious and widely bemoaned; it accentuates a pattern that renders the creative and important work of women working from and within religious communities especially invisible. This session will explore the nature of the challenge and highlight exemplary peacebuilding work at community and global levels that involve women's distinctive peacebuilding approaches.

Moderator(s)

Lee-Shae Salma Scharnick-Udemans, Senior Researcher, Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
Anne Simmons-Benton, Co-head of US Delegation, W20, USA

Discussion Launchers:

James Patton, Lead Integrity, USA
Dr. Sohaira Siddiqui, Executive Director and Professor, Al-Mujadilah Mosque and Center for Women (Executive Director) and Georgetown University (Professor), Qatar
Sister Enelless Chimbali, Senior Program Officer, All Africa Conference Sister to Sister-AACSS, Malawi
Prof. Nayla Tabbara, President, Aydan Foundation, Lebanon
Sarah Oliver, URI Global Learning and Action Coordinator, United Religions Initiative / CTII, South Africa
Ms. Babalwa Ngcongolo, Charter for Compassion and Cape Town Interfaith Initiative, South Africa

12:45-13:45 Lunch

13:45-13:55 Spotlight: Peace and Justice

Imam Dr Muhammad N Ashafa, Peace activist, Interfaith Mediation Centre, Nigeria

13:55-15:15 Plenary (v) Leave No One Behind: Vulnerable Communities at the Center

This plenary draws together recommended IF20 strategies that at their heart center on equity, humanity, and interreligious solidarity. Its focus is on action proposals addressed both to the G20 and to religious and interreligious communities. The plight of refugees and especially vulnerable children and women are a focus, as are security and violence, within the home and community and beyond. How should concerns about the vulnerable be addressed in the context of human trafficking and modern slavery?

Moderator(s)

Timothy P. Stratford, General Counsel, G20 Interfaith Forum Association, USA
Moeletsi Mbeki, Chairman, The South African Institute of International Affairs, South Africa

Speakers

Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli, President/CEO, ONE Campaign, USA
Adama Dieng, Special Adviser, The Muslim Council of Elders, Senegal
Prof Jose Casanova, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, Theology and Religious Studies, USA
Kevin Hyland OBE, CEO, Praeveni Global, Ireland
Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, UN Resident Coordinator, United Nations, Lesotho
Elder Vaiangina Sikahema, General Authority, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, USA

15:15-15:45 Break**15:45-17:15 Concurrent sessions E****E1 Focus on Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced People: Faith, Rights, and Protection**

Breakout Room 1 – Ballroom

Critical challenges of human displacement, especially linked to conflicts but increasingly to the effects of changing climate conditions, present policy and humanitarian demands that from many perspectives require new global, national, and local responses. Generosity in welcoming refugees, displaced people, and voluntary migrants can sadly give way to xenophobia and social tensions. The rich religious traditions of welcoming the stranger support both urgent responses and mechanisms to build on narratives and policies that are responsive to contemporary challenges but also prepare the way for what are widely understood as rising future levels of human movement and intersocietal engagement. Plural societies are an inevitability, and religious communities need to lead in the underlying societal understanding and response to current and future needs.

Moderator(s)

Christina Tobias-Nahi, Director of Public Affairs, Research & Advocacy, Islamic Relief USA, USA
Dr. Jane Mufamadi, Chief Executive Officer, Freedom Park, South Africa

Discussion launchers:

Safak Pavey, Special Adviser, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Switzerland
Gareth Stead, Head: Nation Building, Every Nation Churches (Southern Africa), South Africa
Lance Thomas, Manager, University of Pretoria, Faculty of Theology and Religion, South Africa
Elissa McConkie Gifford, Director of Global Field Operations for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, USA
Sr. Kayula Lesa, Director, Talitha Kum Zambia (TAKUZA), Zambia
Peter-John Pearson, Director, Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office, South Africa
Alana Pugh-Jones Baranov, Country Director, HIAS South Africa, South Africa

E2. Unassigned

E3. The Fight Against Human Trafficking: Looking to 2030

Breakout Room 3 – Bartholomew Diaz Room

The G20 Interfaith Forum has focused on the tragedy of human trafficking and human slavery over several years and is developing specific proposals that build on action related to religious communities to strengthen global and local responses and to fight impunity. This session will highlight areas of progress and significant gaps where action is called for, setting global priorities within the context of religious and interreligious leadership.

Moderator(s)

Frederick W. Axelgard, Director, G20 Interfaith Forum Association, USA

Dr. Ahmed Zanya Bugre, Coordinator for the Global Circle for Reparations and Healing and AU Liaison, Ethiopia

Discussion Launchers

Kevin Hyland OBE, CEO, Praeveni Global, Ireland

Michel Veuthey, Ambassador to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Sovereign Order of Malta, Switzerland

Canon Delene Mark, CEO of HOPE Africa, Anglican Church of Southern Africa, South Africa

Dr. Rev. Cecilia Popina Mohlala, National Coordinator, Talitha Kum South Africa, South Africa

Sr. Diana Kanyere (LCBL), National Coordinator, Talitha Kum Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe

Ambassador (Rabbi) David Saperstein, Senior Advisor on Strategy and Policy, Union for Reform Judaism, USA

Khanyisile Motsa, Director & Founder, Berea Hillbrow Home of Hope for Girls, South Africa

Lisa Churcher, Global Program Manager, Human Trafficking Institute, South Africa

Serofo Motshekga, Founder, Director for Youth and Children's Affairs, Kara Development Ministries, South Africa

Hira Aftab, Founder of Our World Too, ACWAY Executive Committee member

E4. A Historical Reflection: A New Book on the G20 Interfaith Experience

Breakout Room 4 – Vasco Da Gama Room

The G20 Interfaith Journey since 2014 has been shaped by the dynamics of each host country and by the evolving network of networks, as well as by global events and crises. This session will focus on the newly published book that provides a critical examination of the evolving role of the G20 Interfaith Forum.

Moderator(s)

Dr. Marianna Richardson, Director of Communications, G20 Interfaith Forum Association, USA

Discussion Launchers:

Dr. Sherrie M. Steiner, Associate Professor of Sociology, Purdue University Fort Wayne, USA

Rt Rev. Yoshinobu Miyake, Chair of the Board, International Shinto Studies Association, Japan

Dr. Brian Adams, Chair, ACWAY (A Common World Among the Youth), USA

E5 Child Rights and Dignity: A Religious Imperative

Breakout Room 5 – Prince Edward Island and Schappen Island Room

Focusing on children, including their situation within families and communities, is a leading priority of religious communities. Children's rights are also a central priority for the United Nations. Looking to action to assure the welfare of children highlights the importance of child protection. Internet and social media present both new opportunities and new perils for children. This session will explore innovative religiously-inspired responses to the linked challenges of child protection and promotion of thriving in families and communities.

Moderator(s)

Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, Secretary-general, Global Network of Religions for Children and Director, Arigatou International Kenya

Discussion Launchers:

Nobukhosi Zulu-Taruza, Law and Policy Specialist, Independent Consultant, South Africa

Avhasei Fredah Mulovhedzi, Secretary General Of Southern African Interfaith Council, Southern African Interfaith Council, South Africa

Mawlānā Uwais MA Dockrat, Markaz Manār al-Fikr, South Africa

E6 Ubuntu Meets Talanoa: A Conversation about the Most Vulnerable Populations Affected by Climate Change and Learning from Different Examples of Traditional, Cultural, and Indigenous Practice

Breakout Room 6 – Seal Island and Robben Island Room

Ubuntu and Talanoa originate from different geographical and cultural contexts, but they share some key principles that can be seen as converging or meeting in spirit: Interconnectedness and shared humanity; a focus on community and collective understanding; and a respect for Indigenous knowledge and worldviews. This conversation about the most vulnerable populations affected by climate change recognizes that individuals are part of the whole and reflects upon how the values from our faith traditions can inform policy and action on climate change. This session will include ideas and examples of leadership from traditional and indigenous communities and will include a particular focus on the Southern African experience.

Moderator(s)

Romanna Remor, Roble del Sur Foundation, Brazil

Dr./Amb/ His Majesty King Bongwe II, Africa President, International Association of World Peace Advocates, South Africa

Discussion Launchers:

David N. Munene, Board Chair, Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI); Programs Manager, Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNEA); Kenya

Dr. Melanie Barbato, Coordinator Mission and Interfaith Centre, Pasifika Communities University, Fiji

President Bhekinhlanhla Sibisi, President, AAFIS, South Africa

Francesca de Gasparis, Executive Director, South Africa Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI)

Dinner: on own

Thursday, August 14

8:30-8:40 Summary of previous day, **Katherine Marshall, Vice President, G20 Interfaith Forum Association**

8:40-9:30 Five Fishbowl Sessions: Open discussion on the Event's Five Core Topics

This session will focus on the work of interactive breakout sessions, drawing also on the IF20 preparatory work and recommendations. The approach will be interactive, seeking input from participants that highlight priorities and work to make proposed recommendations more relevant and concrete

Moderators:

Food

Dr Renier Koegelenberg, Director, CDDC Trust/ EFSA Institute, South Africa

Breakout Room 1 - *Ballroom*

Education

Prof. Maniraj Sukdaven, Professor, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Breakout Room 3 - *Bartholomew Diaz Room*

Debt/global governance

Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi, Executive Director, Network for Religious and Traditional

Peacemakers, USA

Breakout Room 4 – *Vasco Da Gama Room*

Disaster Preparedness

Whitney Clayton, G20 Interfaith Forum Association, USA

Breakout Room 5 – *Prince Edward Island and Schappen Island Room*

Vulnerable communities

Christina Tobias-Nahi, Director of Public Affairs, Research & Advocacy, Islamic Relief USA

Breakout Room 6 – *Seal Island and Robben Island Room*

9:30-9:45 Break

9:45-10:45 Interactive Session: Elders and Youth

This interactive session will pair young and older leaders in a series of lightning discussions that challenge each other's approaches and look to future interactions and inspiration.

Moderator(s)

Rev MP Moerane, Gauteng Coordinator, South African Inter-Faith Council, South Africa
Liliia Khasanova, Executive Director, A Common Word Among the Youth (ACWAY), USA

10:45-12:00 Closing Plenary: Conclusions and Paths Forward

This session will highlight contributions to the 2025 G20 Interfaith process and summarize next steps, notably leading to the November G20 Social Summit. Updates from different sessions will be distilled and plans going forward presented. South Africa's G20 leaders will highlight the plans for the Social Summit and Leader Summit in November and their reflections on the Cape Town Forum. The session will look forward to the 2026 G20.

Speakers:

Local Organizing committee

Luka David Mosoma, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of South Africa; Former Chairperson, CRL Rights Commission, South Afr

Government of South Africa

Mr. Ganief Ebrahim Hendricks, Deputy Minister of Social Development

G20 Interfaith Forum:

Katherine Marshall, Vice President, G20 Interfaith Forum Association, USA

Whitney Clayton, Executive Director, G20 Interfaith Forum Association, USA

12:00 Lunch

Departures