



**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**

Welcome

National Anthem

Interfaith Opening

Welcome, Government of South Africa

**Nokuzola Tolashe**, Minister of Social Development

Welcome: IF20 Local and International Organizing Committees:

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

**W. Cole Durham**, G20 Interfaith Forum President (Video message)

**Katherine Marshall** G20 Interfaith Forum Vice President, Georgetown University, United States

**Adama Dieng**, Special Adviser, The Muslim Council of Elders, Senegal

Keynote Address:

**Archbishop Thabo Makgoba**, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town

Religious Leader reflections on G20 leading issues and priority challenges:

**Gorden Simango**, Director, Liaison Office, All Africa Conference of Churches, Zimbabwe

**His Virtue Sheikh-ul-islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh**, 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 also chairperson of the National Church Leaders' Consultation.

**Bani Dugal**, Principal Representative, Baha'i International Community, United States

**Elder Thierry K. Mutombo**, General Authority, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Democratic Republic of the Congo

G20 Interfaith history, context, and leading issues:

**Katherine Marshall**, G20 Interfaith Forum Vice President, Georgetown University, United States

South African and African Interfaith history:

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

From Rio de Janeiro to Johannesburg:

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

**H.E. Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira**, President, Pan-African Parliament, Zimbabwe

Call to action

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

Video messages from leading religious leaders

**11:00-11:30 Break and Group Photo**

**11:30-11:40 Spotlight:**

**11:40-13:00 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 also chairperson of the National Church Leaders' Consultation.

**Elder Adeyinka A. Ojdiran**, 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 Director, African Renaissance Forum, South Africa

**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

**Professor Elelwani Ramugondo**, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Town, South Africa

**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 Sustainable 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**, Professor Universitári, Universidade Federal do 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)

Message: **Audrey Kitagawa** (video), 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

**Michael Swain**, Executive Director, Freedom of Religion SA, United Kingdom

**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 Thierry K. Mutombo**, General Authority, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Democratic Republic of the Congo

**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

**9:00-9:15 Summary of Day 1: Katherine Marshall**

**9:15-11:00 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 in 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

Siviwe Gwarube, Minister, Basic Education, South Africa

**11:00-11:15 Spotlight: “Jewish-Muslim Religious Fraternity Project” is supposed to slot in here. It is listed on the master spreadsheet.**

**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

**11:15-11:45 Break**

**11:45-13:15 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, Global Peace Foundation, Nigeria  
**Commissioner Rajendran Govender** – Commissioner, Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Rights Commission; Board Member – Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB).

**Discussion Launchers**

**Matius Ho**, Executive Director, Leimena Institute, Indonesia  
**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, 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

**Carike 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

## **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 Director, African Renaissance Forum, South Africa

**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

### **13:15-14:15 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

**H.E. Metropolitan Emmanuel**, Executive Committee Member, Religions for Peace, Turkey  
(Video)

**Speakers:**

**H.E. Miguel Angelo Moratinos**, United Nations High Representative, Alliance of Civilizations

**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, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

[South African Leader]

**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

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

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

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

**Rawaad Mahyub**, Director, A Common Word Among Young (ACWAY), United Kingdom

## **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

### **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(s)**

**Peter Petkoff**, Director, Religion, Law and International Relations Programme, Regent's Park College Oxford, United Kingdom  
**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  
**Dr. Thabo Manetsi**, Chief Executive Officer, National Heritage Council, South Africa

### **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

**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

**Rev Dr James Movel Wuye**, Co-Founder, 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, Prevent 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

**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 West*

*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:**

**Şafak 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

**Alana Pugh-Jones Baranov**, Country Director, HIAS South Africa, South Africa

**E2 The Fight Against Human Trafficking: Looking to 2030**

*Breakout Room 2 – Ballroom East*

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**, Senior Coordinator and AU Liaison, Global Circle for Reparations and Racial Healing, Ethiopia

**Discussion Launchers**

**Kevin Hyland OBE**, CEO, Prevent Global

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

**Delene Mark**, CEO, Anglican Church of Southern Africa - HOPE Africa, South Africa

**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

**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

**E3. A Historical Reflection: A New Book on the G20 Interfaith Experience**

*Breakout Room 3 – Bartholomew Diaz 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

**E4 Unassigned**

**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:**

**Rev. Fred Nyabera**, Executive Director - End Child Poverty, Arigatou International, Kenya

**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 (CYNESA); 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 West*

Debt/global governance

**Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi**, Executive Director, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, USA  
Breakout Room 2 - *Ballroom East*

Education

**Prof. Maniraj Sukdaven**, Professor, University of Pretoria, South Africa  
Breakout Room 3 - *Bartholomew Diaz Room*

**Breakout Room 4 - Unassigned**

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 Africa

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

**Archbishop Makgoba**, South African Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa

## **12:00 Lunch**

## **Departures**