

Shaping World Peace and Sustainable Development through Interfaith Harmony

G20 Interfaith Forum:
Philosopher Saint Shri Dnyaneshwara World Peace Dome
September 5-7, Pune, India



Program for the Forum:

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

17:00 - 20:30 WELCOME RECEPTION

Host: Hon'ble Dr. Gautam Bapat | Program Director; School-of-Business, MITWPU, Pune

Hon'ble Shri. Rahul Karad | Managing Trustee & Executive President, MAEER's MIT and Executive President, MIT World Peace University & Chief Initiator - NLC, BCS, NTC.

Hon'ble W. Cole Durham, Jr. | President, G20 Interfaith Forum

Hon'ble King Husein | Chairman & CEO, Span Construction & Engineering, Inc. USA

Hon'ble Shri. Vikram Kumar (IAS) | Pune Municipal Commissioner

Hon'ble Dr. Rajesh Deshmukh (IAS) | District Collector, Pune, Bharat
UNESCO Chair Holder

Hon'ble Rev. Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad | Founder & Chief Patron, MAEER's MIT, Pune & President, MIT World Peace University, Pune, Bharat

Divine Blessing Ceremony:

Hon'ble Acharya Lokesh Muni | Founder, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, New Delhi (Jainism)

Hon'ble Dr. Izaac Malekar | Head Priest (Rabbi) and Honorary Secretary of the Judah Hyam Synagogue (A Jewish Temple), New Delhi

Hon'ble Dame. Dr. Prof. Meher Master Moos | Eminent Parsi Scholar & President, Zoroastrian College, Sanjan, Gujarat, India

Hon'ble Sayed Aziz Nizami | Sajjada Nashin and in charge of Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia (R.A), New Delhi

Hon'ble Rahul Bhante Bodhi | Maha Thero (Senior Buddhist Monk), Mumbai, India

Cultural program followed by networking dinner

Departure to hotels

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

PLENARY SESSIONS

8:30 - 9:30 PROCESSION AND OPENING CEREMONIES

Ringling of the World Peace Bell
Lighting of the Lamp (invited 9 delegates)
Playing the Shankh Dhvani (conch shell live)
Introduction by the Anchor – **Hon'ble Dr. Gautam Bapat** | Program Director, School of Business, MITWPU, Pune
National Anthem (audio)
World Peace Prayer (audio)
World Peace Meditation by **Hon'ble Prof. Milind Patre** | Associate Dean, Faculty of Peace Studies, MITWPU, Pune
Playing Theme Video on G20 Interfaith Conference
Felicitation of the Chief Guest and Distinguished Guests on the dais

9:30 - 10:15 SETTING THE CONTEXT - THE G20 INTERFAITH JOURNEY

Hon'ble W. Cole Durham, Jr. | President, G20 Interfaith Forum
Hon'ble Katherine Marshal | Professor and Senior Fellow; Executive Director, World Faiths Development Dialogue at Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University, USA
Hon'ble Hon'ble Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri | President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Civil 20 Troika; C20

10:15 - 10:45 WELCOME REMARKS

Hon'ble Shri. Rahul Karad | Managing Trustee & Executive President, MAEER's MIT and Executive President, MIT World Peace University & Chief Initiator - NLC, BCS, NTC
Hon'ble Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi | Former Minister of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India
Hon'ble Dr. Dalbir Singh, Chairman | One Globe Forum, and National Secretary, Indian National Congress

10:45 - 11:30 OPENING PLENARY: INTERFAITH VOICES AT THE G20 TABLE

His Grace Archbishop Felix Machado | Archbishop of Vasai; Secretary General, Catholic Bishops Conference of India
Hon'ble Sheikh Ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade | Spiritual Leader of Muslims in Azerbaijan and the Caucasus
Hon'ble Mrs. Marzia Dalal | Bahá'í Community, Pune

Rev. Hon'ble Prof Dr. Vishwanath Karad | Founder & Chief Patron,
MAEER's MIT, Pune & President, MIT World Peace University, Pune,
Bharat

11:30 - 12:00 GROUP PHOTO

12:00 - 13:30

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Each concurrent session will commence with the speakers ringing the world peace bell followed by welcome and felicitations by host and playing of a short introductory film. There will be a short question and answer session at the end.

1A: RELIGION, ETHICS & TECHNOLOGY

Mahatma Gandhi Hall

Moderator - Dr. Marianna Richardson | Director of Communications,
G20 Interfaith Forum Association

Dr. Arash Fazli | Professor and Head; the Baha'i Chair for Studies in
Development at Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore

Manisha Jain | Senior Partner, Architect Azure Machine Learning
Platform, Microsoft

Mahant Yogi Amarnath ji | Renowned Scholar & Sadhak & Himalayan
Yogi

Dr. Deepak M Ranade | Neurosurgeon, Author of Speaking Tree, Column
in TOI, Pune

Dr. A K Merchant | General Secretary, Temple of Understanding India
Foundation, New Delhi

- The impact of technological changes propelled by the COVID-19 crisis, as well as challenges posed by the rapid advance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and social media, pose a multitude of ethical and practical challenges.
- Religious voices bring important insights and implementation capacity to challenges involving the way that technological forces shape society.
- Technology changes the way people do things and changes that connection, often cutting off or harming spiritual relationships to self, planet, and others.
- Faith leaders must help bridge the gap between faith and technology through education, advocating for better analysis, better ethics, and a more values and needs- based approach to tech development in addition to reliance on profit motives.

1B: BENEFITING FROM RELIGION IN THE WORKPLACE

Gautam Buddha Hall

Moderator: Brian Grim | President, Religious Freedom and Business Foundation

Sukie Gandhi | Manager, Technical Consulting, and Executive Vice President of Salesforce's "Faithforce Global Equality Group."

Prof. Kiran Yadav | Vice President, India chapter of the International Institute for Peace through Tourism (IIPT India)

Mr. Harshal Jawale | Vice President, Zensar Technologies, Pune, India

Dr. Prashant Pansare | Founder & Global CEO, Inteliment Group, Pune, India

Dr. Brian Grim will be leading a panel at the G20 Interfaith Forum that describes how business is a powerful force for interfaith understanding and peace. Indeed, the technological and scientific advances tied to business that put India on the moon are an example of how development and business can bring people together when they see success as a benefit to everyone. Business can make significant contributions to advancing interfaith understanding and peace both through both core business and outreach activities. Case studies from the UN Global Compact Business for Peace platform and the Religious Freedom and Business Foundation fall into four areas:

- Using Marketing Expertise to Bridge Borders
- Incentivizing Innovation
- Incubating and Catalyzing Social Entrepreneurship
- Supporting Workforce Diversity

The session will discuss case studies of various ways that workforce diversity builds peace, drawing in the experience of Salesforce's Sukie Gandhi, Executive Vice President of Salesforce's "Faithforce Global Equality Group." Another case study will draw on the experience of Kiran Yadav, Vice President of the India chapter of the International Institute for Peace through Tourism (IIPT India). Discussion will focus on ways that the world's largest industry—travel and tourism—can become the world's first global peace industry.

1C: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Nelson Mandela Hall

Moderator: Audrey Kitagawa | President/Founder, The International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation, President of the Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family

Bani Dugal | Principal Representative of The Bahá'í International Community to the UN)

Zahra Al Hilaly | ACWAY

Denisse Molina | Journalist, Thailand

Justice (Retd) Roshan Dalvi | Former Justice, Bombay High Court

Dr. Sudeshna Mukherjee | Asst Prof, Centre for Women's Studies, Bangalore University, Bangalore

Ms. Nasrin Ejner | Corporate Consultant ICE Consultants, Pune

Prof. Swati Karad-Chate | Trustee | Secretary-General | Executive Director, MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions | Pune | Maharashtra | India

As a priority focus for both IF20 and G20 agendas, it is important to highlight innovative solutions, areas of debate, and translation of principles of women's empowerment into action.

- Religion and gender empowerment have not always had a happy relationship, and work must continue to be done to create meeting platforms, dialogue between religious and secular voices, and contexts where the role of women can be enhanced.
- Education is central to women's empowerment at all levels, and contexts for expanding women's opportunities should be identified and actualized.
- Data conclusively demonstrates that inclusion of women is vital to finding optimal solutions to virtually every social challenge. Action requires not only focus on but inclusion of women, young women, and girls in national and international mechanisms designed to address major global and local problems. In particular, women need to be given a more prominent role in conflict resolution settings.
- Particular attention needs to be paid to protecting women in private as well as public spaces.

1D: SOCIAL COHESION

Joseph Smith Hall

Moderator: Prof. W. Cole Durham Jr. | President, G20 Interfaith Forum Association

Asher Maoz | Dean, Peres Academic Center Law School

Elias Szczytnicki | Secretary General of the Latin American and Caribbean Council of Religious Leaders (LACCRL) and the Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Office of Religions for Peace

Prof. Javier Martinez-Torron - Professor of Law, Complutense University (Madrid, Spain)

Kimberlie Orr | International Legal Fellow, Religious Liberty Initiative, Notre Dame

Ravan Hasanov | Executive Director; Baku International Multicultural Center

Her Excellency Yuyun Wahyuningrum | Chair and Representative of Indonesia to ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)

Dr. Pramod Mujumdar | Author and Activist for Social Harmony, New Delhi

One of the most profound challenges in our day of increasing diversity and polarization is finding optimal approaches to achieving social inclusion and social harmony. Different societies have tried different approaches with respect to this vital issue, and part of the thrust of this session is to identify what can be learned from different societies and civilizations. At the same time, dialogue between different groups in the form of interfaith dialogue may open important practical doors.

- What are practical steps that can be taken to building a cultural of mutual respect in society?
- How should interfaith dialogue be structured to achieve maximum beneficial effect.
- What is the relative value of interfaith diapraxis as compared with interfaith dialogue?
- What are the most effective strategies for promoting stable patterns of social inclusion and harmony?

13:30 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK

15:00 - 16:30

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Each concurrent session will commence with the speakers ringing the world peace bell followed by welcome and felicitations by host and playing of a short introductory film. There will be a short question and answer session at the end.

2A: VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Mahatma Gandhi Hall

Moderator: Dr. S. N. Pathan | Former Vice Chancellor, Nagpur University, Nagpur & Vice Chairman Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Govt. of India, New Delhi

Rawaad Mahyub | Executive Director, ACWAY

Shri. Adhik Kadam | Maharashtra Bhushan, Social Worker, worked for Kashmiri People, (Borderless Foundation), Mumbai, India

Lenin Raghuvanshi | Founder, People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights, (PVCHR), Varanasai, Uttar Pradesh, India

Shruti Nagvanshi | Founder, People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

Prof. Dr. D K Verma | Director, Research, Extension and Training Dean School of ATP Dr B R Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, India

Her Excellency Ms. Esther Karema Mutua | Asst. Director Ministry of Education, Kenya (Education Attache)

Her Excellency Mrs. H.E.Victoria Samuel Aru | Ambassador, South Sudan

A core mission of religious and interreligious communities is to advocate for the poor and displaced and to focus sharply on vulnerable communities, including those affected by humanitarian crises, children, and others. The COVID-19 crisis spurred both action and reflection on social safety nets of many kinds, including among interreligious institutions and communities. There is, however, need for further work and dialogue to integrate and look ahead, with pressing needs for more inclusive, humane policies and active efforts. Religious actors should be central to the agenda-setting process.

- Many vulnerable communities are “left behind” for the simple reason that they have not been included in the first place. The session will address ways of more effectively highlighting vulnerable groups that should be among those “not left behind.
- Not leaving anyone behind requires concrete efforts from faith leaders, government, the private sector, and media. What steps can be taken to assure that social protections are guided by human dignity and are targeted to those who need them most, prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable?
- Religious groups have a crucial role to play in challenging stigmatization and promoting inclusion towards these groups. Empowering women to bring along others left behind can be particularly effective.
- As the problems creating inequality and vulnerability are often moral at their roots, how can issues of social protection be addressed more holistically in a way that addresses root causes?
- How can humanitarian efforts be best structured to build resilience rather than leading to dependency?
- How can assessment of social protection and humanitarian needs be assessed so as to assure that programs are based on genuine needs of the community rather than on faith or government al agendas?

2B: PERSPECTIVES ON INDIAN NATIONAL EDUCATION

World Peace Dome

Moderator: Dr. R. M. Chitnis | Vice Chancellor, MIT World Peace University, Pune

Rev. Prof. Dr. Vishwanath Karad | UNESCO Chair and Founding Chancellor, MIT-WPU

Shailendra Sharma | Principal Advisor (Hon) to the Minister and the Director of Education, Government of Delhi

Dr. Faizan Mustafa | Professor, Aligarh Muslim University; Former Vice-Chancellor of Nalsar University Of Law

Prof. (Dr.) Ankur A. Kulkarni | Vice Chancellor, SAGE University, Indore, India

Dr. Arun Patil | Vice Chancellor, Chandigarh University, Chandigarh, India

Dr. Rajesh Dixit | Vice Chancellor, Renaissance University, Indore, India

Prof. Gopal Pathak | Vice Chancellor, Sarla Birla University, Ranchi, India

Dr. M. D. Lawrence | Vice Chancellor, Dr. P.A. Inamdar University, Pune, India

Dr Prasad Khandekar | Founding Vice Chancellor, DES Pune University, Pune, India

Mr. Amitabh Saxena | Vice Chancellor, Dr. CV Raman University, Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, India

Prof. V N Rajasekharan Pillai | Vice Chancellor & Member, Somaiya University & PERA, Mumbai, India

Prof. Dr. Mangesh Karad | Executive President and Vice-Chancellor of MIT ADT University, Pune, India

Dr. Sunil Rai | Chancellor at UPES University, Dehra Dun, Uttarakhand, India

This session will bring together a number of prominent Indian educational leaders to discuss their views on national education policy within India and what implications this may have for education policy in other parts of the world.

- What do Indian leaders see as the major issues in national education policy?
- What are important focuses for the future?
- Are there areas where India is particularly well-placed to suggest important types of innovation in educational policy, and what types of innovation should be encouraged?
- Are there traditional areas of education in India that could provide attractive educational patterns for others?

2C: PEACE BUILDING AND SOCIAL PEACE

Nelson Mandela Hall

Moderator: Rachel Miner | Founder and CEO, Bellwether International

Audrey Kitagawa | President/Founder, The International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation, President of the Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family

Pieter Francois | Associate Prof., Oxford

Dr. Priyankar Upadhyaya | UNESCO Chair for Peace & Intercultural Understanding, Distinguished Professor & Sr Advisor, MIT World Peace University (Pune), Global Fellow, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

Prof. Mohammad Gulrez | Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh

Hon'ble Dr. Edison Samraj | Director, Education Department, Southern Asia Division, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives

Dr. Sanjay Upadhye | Mentor & Chief Advisor, MIT World Peace University, Pune, Bharat

In a world increasingly plagued by violence, one of the major questions is whether religious communities can truly become sources of peace building rather than sources of dissension and polarization. This session will address how religious communities can better live up to their potential of fostering social peace.

- Religious communities have deeply embedded traditions for reconciliation and building peaceful communities. Their peacebuilding work needs to be part of global reflections and action on violence, including hate speech and misinformation and incitement to violence.
- Prevention is an essential focus when talking about peace building.
- The voices of women and children (child soldiers, etc.) are not currently present where decisions are being made about peace building and conflict prevention. Their rights, needs, experiences, and ideas are essential to true solutions.
- If we want peace in the world, we must begin with children. Mandatory peace syllabus as an example at MIT Pune in India.

2D: FOOD SECURITY

Joseph Smith Hall

Moderator: Jeff Nelson | International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University

Rand Blimes | Associate Professor. Faculty of Business & Government

Badiul Alam Majumdar | Global Vice President & Country Director, The Hunger Project

Johann H. Huleatt | Bruderhof

Dr. Anjoo Upadhyaya | Distinguished Professor, MITWPU, Global Fellow, Peace Research Institute Oslo

Mr. Amit Wadkar | Director, Robinhood Army, Mumbai

Shri Anoop Khanna | Founder Dadi Ki Rasoi, New Delhi

Mudit Jain | Mission Neki

Hunger is a central focus of religious teachings and action. With rising food prices, the number of people that are facing food insecurity has increased, jeopardizing progress towards SDG's, Zero hunger. The problems relate both to food prices and to deeper underlying challenges to production and supply chains. This translates to increasing numbers of people requiring urgent relief as well as livelihood support. There are

multiple drivers behind the food crises of varying degree in different parts of the world which, according to experts, require a pre-emptive approach rather than simply addressing its consequences.

- What are the main drivers behind food insecurity and how can interfaith leaders or communities address those?
- What are the best practices amongst religious communities in addressing the issue of food insecurity?
- Is it more efficient in addressing the issue individually or is there merit in solving it systematically?
- How can religious communities most effectively mobilize G20 responses to food crisis issues?

Thursday, September 7, 2023

PLENARY SESSIONS

9:00 - 9:10

WELCOME AND RECAP OF DAY 1

W. Cole Durham, Jr. | President, G20 Interfaith Forum

9:10 - 10:30

THE 4 C'S: COVID, CLIMATE, CONFLICT, AND CHILDREN

Moderator: Michael K. Young | Prof. of Law and Former President Texas A&M Univ. Former Chair, US Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Rodrigo Vitorino Souza Alves | Research Leader, Centro Brasileiro de Estudos em Direito e Religião – CEDIRE

Dr. Kezevino Aram | Director, Shanti Ashram

Ganoune Diop | Director, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, Seventh-day Adventist Church

Shri. Rahul V Karad | Managing Trustee & Executive President, MAEER's MIT and Executive President, MIT World Peace University, Pune, Bharat

"The 4 C's," issues identified as central to the polycrisis we are all facing today. The panel will explore the interconnected issues from a faith and interfaith perspective, highlighting the challenges that face communities and the actions that faith-inspired organizations, policy makers,

international organizations and civil society organizations can take to support communities in recovering from the impacts of COVID.

Just as the problems are interconnected, proposed solutions will also be interconnected, and stemmed from a central theme of how central international and local solidarity is to any action project. As faith communities have an enormous amount of soft power with their prophetic voice, they have a responsibility to help change societal values, redefining success (moving away from the concept of “more more more”) and emphasizing new ways of living, in addition to holding governments accountable. They must act on “the grand level and the ground level.”

In addition to information on each of these pressing issues, to through the light on corruption as a driving factor behind conflict and climate issues, with no solution possible until societies internalize a commitment to change at the cost of profit. A call will also be made for 4 new C’s: Connection, Courage and Creativity to look at new solutions and priorities, and Cohesion (realizing it’s going to take all of us to address these crises).

10:30 - 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 - 12:30 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Each concurrent session will commence with the speakers ringing the world peace bell followed by welcome and felicitations by host and playing of a short introductory film. There will be a short question and answer session at the end.

3A: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON EDUCATION

Mahatma Gandhi Hall

Moderator: Michael K. Young | Prof. of Law and Former President Texas A&M Univ. Former Chair, US Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Matius Ho | Executive Director, Leimena Institute

Maria Lucia Uribe Torres | Ethics in Education Arigatou International

A. Halim Mahfudz | Badan Wakaf Pesantren Tebuireng (Pesantren Tebuireng Waqf Foundation)

J Heinrich Arnold | Bruderhof

Vishal Talreja | Co-founder Dream a Dream

Prof. Marshal Sheldon | Executive Dean, Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology, Nelson Mandela University

Dr. Abhay Wagh | Member, Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC), Mumbai

Prof. Dr. Anant Chakradeo | Pro Vice Chnacellor, MIT World Peace University, Pune, India

Prof. Dr. Sanjay Kamtekar | Chief Academic Officer, MIT World Peace University, Pune, India

Dr. Akshay Malhotra | Dean-Academics, MIT World Peace University, Pune, India

The education breakout session will focus on aspects of global education agendas most pertinent for religious and interreligious communities, including education quality and access, and attention to ethics and values education.

- Religions need a place at the table because they're critical providers of education and have the power to make education more inclusive.
- To what extent should educational institutions aim at teaching about religion, as opposed to inculcating religion, and what training of teaching personnel does this require?
- How can education be structured to assist in instilling moral codes to make a difference in eliminating things like corruption, conflict, and prejudice.
- How can faith-based groups best engage with governments in helping to expand access to education.
- Values and ethics-based education is surrounded by a lot of fear from both sides of the equation. How can ethics-, values-, and virtues-based education be structured to reduce fears and misapprehensions, so that it can best be structured to be beneficial to all?

3B: HEALTH CARE

Gautam Buddha Hall

Moderator: Col. Harjit S. Bhagat | CEO, Medidect India

Dr. Kezevino Aram | Director, Shanti Ashram

Mr. Yaqeen Sikander | ACWAY

Dr. Aditi Karad | Executive Director - VishwaRaj Hospital | Member Trustee and Joint Secretary General, MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions, Pune

Dr Vijay G Prabhakar Ji | Chairman, Global Strategic Alliance Inc, Editor-In-Chief, Global Eye – Digital News Monthly, Greater, Chicago, USA

Dr. Babasaheb Vishwanath Tandale | Senior Scientist, National Institute of Virology Pune

Hon'ble Deelip Mhaisekar Ji | Former Advisor to Chief Minister of Maharashtra

Dr. Ramaswamy N Secretary | Govt. of Maharashtra & Former Commissioner of Health, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai

Dr. Archana Patil | Former Director, Health Services, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai

Dr. Subhash Salunke | Former Assistant Regional Director, WHO, South East Asia, Mumbai

Mr. Sachin Itkar | Senior Program Advisor Strategic Foresight Group Pune

The COVID-pandemic highlighted the fragility of healthcare systems across the world. Everything from available professional medical staff to medical equipment and resources proved to be insufficient, straining healthcare systems as they worked to address dealing the crisis and sustain basic healthcare. The need to be prepared for future pandemics comes alongside the need to address inequities and inefficiencies within health care systems. Healthcare has been the leading edge of movements to build bridges between development and religion. It is the most travelled path and the most important for religious engagement, but has a long way to go.

- The role of religious leaders in the pandemic was either helpful or disastrous, but never minimal. What can be learned from the COVID experience to build a more balanced and constructive appreciation of the religion-health nexus in the future?
- The next pandemic is inevitable, and as such we must bridge the divide between religious-health assets and pandemic preparedness. Nations and communities must make better emergency plans of action and build religious resources into those.
- Existing systems addressing physical health, mental health, and emotional health need to be restructured, with religious voices and resources involved in the restructuring.
- A better debate is needed about responsibility, oversight, and defining a minimum level of care—instead of letting national healthcare systems develop randomly, leading to corporatization and inequity. How can these systems be balanced in a more ethical way?

3C: PROTECTING CHILDREN AND THE VULNERABLE

Nelson Mandela Hall

Moderator: Bani Dugal | Principal Representative of The Bahá'í International Community to the UN

Yayah Khisbiyah, MA | Associate Professor of Psychology, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta

Hesha Perera | Arigatou International's End Child Poverty - Knowledge Centre

Lenin Raghuvanshi | People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR)

Shruti Nagvanshi | People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR)

Col. Binoj Koshy | Technical Director, UIDAI, New Delhi

Justice (Retd) Roshan Dalvi | High Court, Mumbai

Children around the world are vulnerable to maltreatment and are often well-hidden by their persecutors. Faith communities can help identify vulnerable children within communities and ensure their protection.

- Interpol is unable to address all the transnational exploitation affecting children, and it's impossible to prosecute it out of existence. Systems must be changed.
- We must pay specific attention to children on the move—both internally displaced children and refugees.
- Education for parents and community members regarding risks and technological developments is critical. Giving children access to technology can open doors to abuse. Best practices need broader sharing.
- What are the best practices for creating safe spaces for children?
- The G20 process may be the ideal vehicle to reach tech companies, to urge the engagement in finding solutions, and to hold them accountable. In terms of GDP loss per child sexual abuse victim, that's \$1.5 Million. One in ten children are victims. And prevention training costs only \$10 per person. With every training session, one adult will make 10 children safer.

3D: CLIMATE

Joseph Smith Hall

Moderator: Hon'ble Dr. Rajashree Joshi | Program Director, BAI Development Research Foundation, Pune

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Hattah Fattah | Vice Rector, Universitas Muslim Indonesia

Greshma Pious Raju | ACWAY

Ambassador of Peace Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni | Founder President Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti

Hon'ble Prof. Dr. Mallickarjun Joshi | Former Director Science & Professor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Hon'ble Shri. Dr. Alok Shrivastava | Dy. Director, URSC, ISRO,
Bangalore Team Chandrayan Mission

The broad impact of changing climate and issues for intergenerational climate justice are central to all global agendas, from economic and financial policies to political and cultural relations. Religious actors have central roles, both in the formal spaces such as the COP meetings and in national and community policies. Points of light in faith's contribution to climate action so far include the faith presence at COP27 and COP28, Patriarch Bartholomew's call to action at the Italy IF20, Laudato Si, the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, and more.

- What role can religious voices play in addressing the very complex issue of climate finance?
- In what ways can interfaith organizations help ensure that under-represented voices such as indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups are represented?
- How can communication between must happen between religious leaders and scientific experts be fostered so that they can better understand each others' issues and each others' respective languages?
- Are there areas such as advocacy for the Global Biodiversity Framework and National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans where religious actors may be in a stronger position to make contributions than in the more grid- locked climate space.
- Are there ways that religious voices could have more impact in the environmental sphere if they came together more effectively in developing unified messages and priorities?
- Are there ways that the soft power of faith could contribute wisdom and ethical frameworks that could support nation states and government with critical support, ideas, and creativity?

12:30 - 14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:00 - 15:30 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Each concurrent session will commence with the speakers ringing the world peace bell followed by welcome and felicitations by host and playing of a short introductory film. There will be a short question and answer session at the end.

4A: PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Muhatma Gandhi Hall

Moderator: Peter Petkoff | Editor, Oxford Journal of Law and Religion
Dr. M. C. Rajan | Director at St. Xavier's Legal Aid Ministry
David Burrowes | Prime Minister's Deputy Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion and Belief
Hon'ble Dr. M. Satish Kumar | Queen's University Belfast, UK
Siddharth Kak | Indian Documentary Maker, Television Producer, and Presenter
Dr. Vasant Shinde | Former Vice Chancellor, Deccan University, Pune

Protecting cultural sites is essential to maintain and preserve a nation's history and identity. Sites include religious monuments and iconographies that are part of every community. The risks extend to attacks of various kinds on intangible aspects of cultural heritage as well as the more concrete attacks on physical sites. Addressing these issues to ensure that cultural sites are protected during conflict and as part of the solution for preventing or resolving conflict has broad implications for peace. Attention needs to be paid not only to hazards to physical sites, but broader issues of protection of intangible cultural heritage.

- When it comes to legal protection and preservation of sacred sites, the museum value of the original site often comes into conflict with the worship value of its use. How should these concerns be balanced?
- How can religious communities help assure that the viewpoints of all stakeholders are taken into account, particularly where governments or policymakers are motivated to erase cultural sites or use them to suit their interests?
- Misconstrued views of identities and new narratives of history are creating conflict now where it didn't exist 50 years ago in some locations. How can religious communities contribute to sound resolution of such issues?
- Are there examples of best practices in predicting potential violence and dangerous behaviour surrounding sacred sites and in providing appropriate protections?

4B: TRAFFICKING

Gautam Buddha Hall

Moderator: Kevin Hyland | Former Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, UK; Global Strategic Director, Santa Marta Group

Sr. Abby Avelino MM | International Coordinator Talitha Kum

Fr. Don Bosco Darsi | Director, Talitha Cumi Unnati

Ms. Pallabi Ghosh | Founder, Impact Dialogue Foundation, New Delhi

Shri Ajeet Singh | Director, Guria Foundation

Human trafficking is a global issue with long and deep roots. Governments and agencies have worked hard to fight this and have taken steps to identify traffickers and transnational criminals. Forced labor, one of the most prominent issues in human trafficking, has become an increasingly important issue in recent decades where activists across the globe are calling for governments to step up and stop forced labor.

- More effective mechanisms need to be found to combat trafficking and forced labor.
- What are the most effective responses? How can profits from trafficking and the associated “tainted money” be restricted or eliminated? How can big tech companies help with blocking trafficking platforms, are be held accountable for failing to do so?
- Religious communities and faith leaders must provide a moral compass to governments and legal systems, raising Human Trafficking to the forefront as a crime against humanity.
- The same way cars and planes have safety regulation processes; supply chains should have regulation processes to eliminate trafficking and forced labor.

4C: GLOBAL YOUTH AND PEACE DIALOGUE

World Peace Dome

Moderator: Milind Patre | Associate Dean, Department of Peace Studies, MIT-World Peace University

Rawaad Mahyub | Executive Director, ACWAY

Panji Saputra | Head of National Sport Affairs Division, Indonesia

Jeff & Janet Nelson | Senior Fellows, International Center for Law and Religion Studies

Zahra Al Hilaly | ACWAY

Zainab Chamoun | ACWAY

Alek Barovic | ACWAY

Mr. Yaqeen Sikander | ACWAY

Mr. Himanshu Panday | ACWAY

Greshma Pious Raju | ACWAY

Aardra Prasanna Manoj | ACWAY

Sophia Lestina | BYU Hawaii
Aaron James | BYU Hawaii
Prashanth Ramishetty | BYU Hawaii
Supriya Babasaheb Thorat | MITWPU, India
Andrés ramos bonilla | MITWPU, India
Dnyaneshwari Nilesh Virole | MITWPU, India
Uday Jain | MITWPU, India
Dharini Nashikkar | MITWPU, India
Om Joshi | MITWPU, India

15:30 - 16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:00 - 17:00 VALEDICTORY SESSION

Recapitulating the themes of the forum
Video review of the G20 Interfaith Forum
Felicitation of the Distinguished Guests and Delegates on the dias

Hon'ble W. Cole Durham, Jr. | President, G20 Interfaith Forum, USA
Shri Rahul V Karad | Hon'ble Shri. Rahul Karad, Managing Trustee & Executive President, MAEER's MIT and Executive President, MIT World Peace University & Chief Initiator - NLC, BCS, NTC, Pune, Bharat
Narayan Bablani Ji | Vice President Vishwa Hindu Parishad, writer Social worker, Founder President Sindhi Heritage Foundation
Shri. Bandaru Dattatreya | Hon'ble Governor of Haryana (Video Message)

INDIA TO BRAZIL HANDOVER SESSION

Handover at the hands of W. Cole Durham Jr. & Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad

Roderigo Vitorino Souza Alves | Chair, 2024 G20 Interfaith Forum Local Organizing Committee
Alexandre Brasil Carvalho Da Fonseca | Ministry of Education, Federative Republic of Brazil, Director of Higher Education Policies and Programs

Irenilda Aparecida Maria Francisco | General Coordinator for the Promotion of Religious Freedom National Secretariat for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship

Ivo Pereira da Silva | Analyst for Social Policies, General Coordination for the Promotion of Religious Freedom, General Directorate for the Promotion of Human Rights

Fabio Nascimento | Translator

17:00 - 18:00

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS AND TRANSITION REFLECTIONS

Reading of the G20 Interfaith Forum Final Statement

Prof. W. Cole Durham Jr. | President, G20 Interfaith Forum

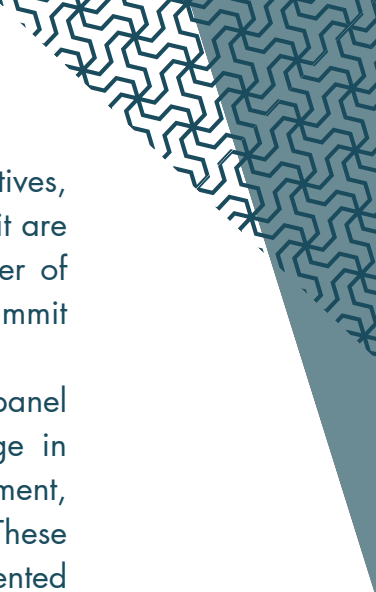
Article: Fostering Global Peace and Holistic Development: G20 Interfaith Summit at World Peace Dome, Pune

BY DR GANESH MANTRI | FACULTY AT MIT SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

In an increasingly interconnected world grappling with pressing challenges like violent conflicts, inequality, the climate crisis, and diminishing trust in public institutions, the G20 Interfaith Summit stands as a beacon of hope. Organized in collaboration with the MIT World Peace University, Pune, and the G20 Interfaith Forum Association, this summit, scheduled to take place at the World Peace Dome in Pune on September 5th-6th, 2023, aims to pave the way for a future marked by peace, sustainability, and comprehensive development. Initiative to organize is taken by W. Cole Durham, Jr. President, G20 Interfaith Forum Association and Rahul Karad President, Executive President, MIT-World Peace University, Pune, India. This initiative would have long lasting impact on policy making on world scale.

The G20 Interfaith Summit seeks to unite diverse perspectives from religious leaders, faith-based organizations, experts, and practitioners to address multifaceted crises plaguing our world. By recognizing the intricate interdependencies of these challenges, the summit aims to forge new pathways for leadership that integrate ethical values with pragmatic strategies.

This fusion of vision and insight is crucial for effective global and local engagement, ensuring a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to problem-solving. **Promoting a Culture of Peace:** By engaging religious leaders and faith-based organizations in meaningful dialogues, the summit aims to underscore their pivotal role in conflict resolution and peace building. It seeks to emphasize their contributions and harness their influence to foster a culture of peace across communities. **Addressing Interlinked Crises:** The summit recognizes the interconnectedness of challenges like conflict, inequality, climate change, and eroding trust. It strives to identify innovative approaches that integrate various sectors and stakeholders to develop sustainable solutions that tackle these crises holistically. **Empowering Vulnerable Communities:** With a focus on children affected by the human trafficking and covid pandemic and those facing climate change-related disparities, the summit aims to amplify their voices and address their unique challenges. By empowering these communities, it envisions a more



equitable future. Fostering Hope for a Better Future: Practical initiatives, successful case studies, and visionary ideas showcased at the summit are intended to inspire optimism and belief in the transformative power of interfaith collaboration. By highlighting tangible outcomes, the summit seeks to instill hope for a brighter tomorrow.

The G20 Interfaith Summit will be a hub of high-level dialogues, panel discussions, and Break-out Sessions. Religious leaders will engage in global debates, focusing on peace building, holistic development, climate change, and social anomalies prevailing in the societies. These discussions will highlight best practices and initiatives implemented within communities, offering real-world solutions that can be scaled and adapted. By facilitating networking and collaboration opportunities among participants, the summit aims to create a web of partnerships that can collectively address identified challenges. By fostering cross-sectoral cooperation, it will enable a more coordinated and effective response to global crises.

The G20 Interfaith Summit at the World Peace Dome in Pune stands as a testament to the power of unity and collaboration in the face of adversity. By bringing together religious leaders, experts, and practitioners, the summit promises to spark innovative solutions to interconnected global challenges. Through its emphasis on vulnerable communities, it seeks to empower those most affected and, in doing so, cultivate a sense of hope and optimism for a better future. As the world grapples with complex issues, the G20 Interfaith Summit serves as a powerful reminder that by working together across faiths and backgrounds, humanity can forge a path toward lasting peace and holistic development.

