

***From Greed to Deeds—
A Call to Action from the Faith Community to Global Leaders***

ImPACT Coalition for Faith-based Solutions Statement at the Summit of the Future
20 September 2024

A Holistic Path Forward:

The global faith community, in partnership with Member States, the United Nations, and other stakeholders, aims to address the world's most urgent challenges. We advocate for an approach that encompasses economic, social, environmental, physical, psychological, and spiritual well-being, in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and WHO's principles of health and happiness. We recognise that environmental degradation, resource scarcity, and climate change are not just ecological issues but also drivers of conflict, displacement, inequality, and insecurity. We urge world leaders to take bold, decisive actions that transcend short-term political interests and focus on fostering trust, respect, tolerance, and peace. Upholding human rights and dignity is crucial to ensuring a sustainable future for all.

Addressing Polarization and Greed:

We urge global leaders to confront the forces of polarization, resource exploitation, and environmental degradation fueled by greed. The future requires collective action, where peace, prosperity, equality, sustainability, and democratic participation catalyze unity of purpose. Global leadership today requires bold and courageous steps to reform the global financial systems, enact fair taxation, advance gender-responsive budgeting, and promote sustainable business practices in line with the 2030 Agenda, the UN Global Compact, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Hope for People and Planet:

Across all religions, faith traditions, and spiritual practices, we offer a vision of hope that unites people across societal divides. We draw inspiration from sacred texts and traditions that champion respect for our shared natural heritage, guiding us toward peaceful coexistence between people and the planet. We also offer institutions, charities, and networks that are addressing social and economic inequities providing pathways to tackle systemic environmental challenges. Religious values and spiritual principles profoundly influence individuals and institutions, emphasizing our ethical responsibility to do no harm to each other and to protect and steward the planet. Human well-being is fundamentally linked to environmental health, making responsible stewardship a moral duty.

Embracing Inclusivity and Diversity:

Faith plays a significant role in people's lives and influences the decisions they make, with religious institutions holding considerable sway over values and community participation. Faith and spirituality provide connection, solace, and ethical foundations for building a more just and sustainable world that is conducive to human flourishing today and for future generations. Overlooking the role of religion in public policymaking risks excluding invaluable insights and perspectives into the world's most complex challenges. We celebrate the diversity of ethnicities, cultures, and religions as sources of wisdom, strength, and resilience.

Incorporating Faith-based Solutions:

The exclusion of faith-based perspectives from the Pact for the Future preparation is a critical oversight. Faith actors are key partners for reaching the unreachable and for achieving sustainable development. We call on Member States and the UN to adopt a genuinely inclusive multi-stakeholder approach that fully recognizes the indispensable contributions of faith, religious, and spiritual actors and ensures their contributions to international norms and standards-setting and decision-making processes. The intrinsic relation between freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is crucial to the flourishing of international peace and security, which the New Agenda for Peace must recognize.

Our Commitment:

We reaffirm our dedication to human rights, the rule of law, and the 2030 Agenda. We stand for freedom of religion and belief, equal rights and participation of men and women, and the dignity and worth of all people, living in harmony with others and our planet. We commit to working together to build the culture of peace by employing the best of our religious and spiritual traditions, including addressing our complicities with past historic injustices, not the least slavery, colonialism, racism, and sexism, so that we can move forward to a future of hope, peace, justice, and sustainability.

Looking Ahead:

We remain dedicated to the long-term success of the UN Summit of the Future, including its key outcomes—the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact, and the Declaration on Future Generations—working in conjunction with the 2030 Agenda, driven by our shared vision of hope and justice for all. In solidarity with global leaders in the belief that there is “a path to a brighter future for all of humanity,” we will also take actions to “set ourselves on that path, striving for a world that is safe, peaceful, just, equal, inclusive, sustainable and prosperous, a world in which wellbeing, security and dignity and a healthy planet are assured for all humanity.”¹

¹ Pact for the Future Rev 4 Chapeau as of 13 September 2024

ImPACT Coalition for Faith-based Solutions Members:

ACT Alliance- Action by Churches Together

African Council of Religious Leaders - Religions for Peace (ACRL – RfP)

Anglican Communion

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University

Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA)

Empower INDIA

Faith to Action Network

Global One 2015

Interreligious Alliance for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

Maseno University International Relations Scholars Association

PMU - Swedish Pentecostal Relief and Development Agency

Re-Imagining New Communities

Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbeans

Soka Gakkai International

The Global Interfaith Network for People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Expressions (GIN SSOGIE)

United Methodist Church-General Board of Church and Society

World Council of Churches

World Evangelical Alliance