

# Gender Working Group

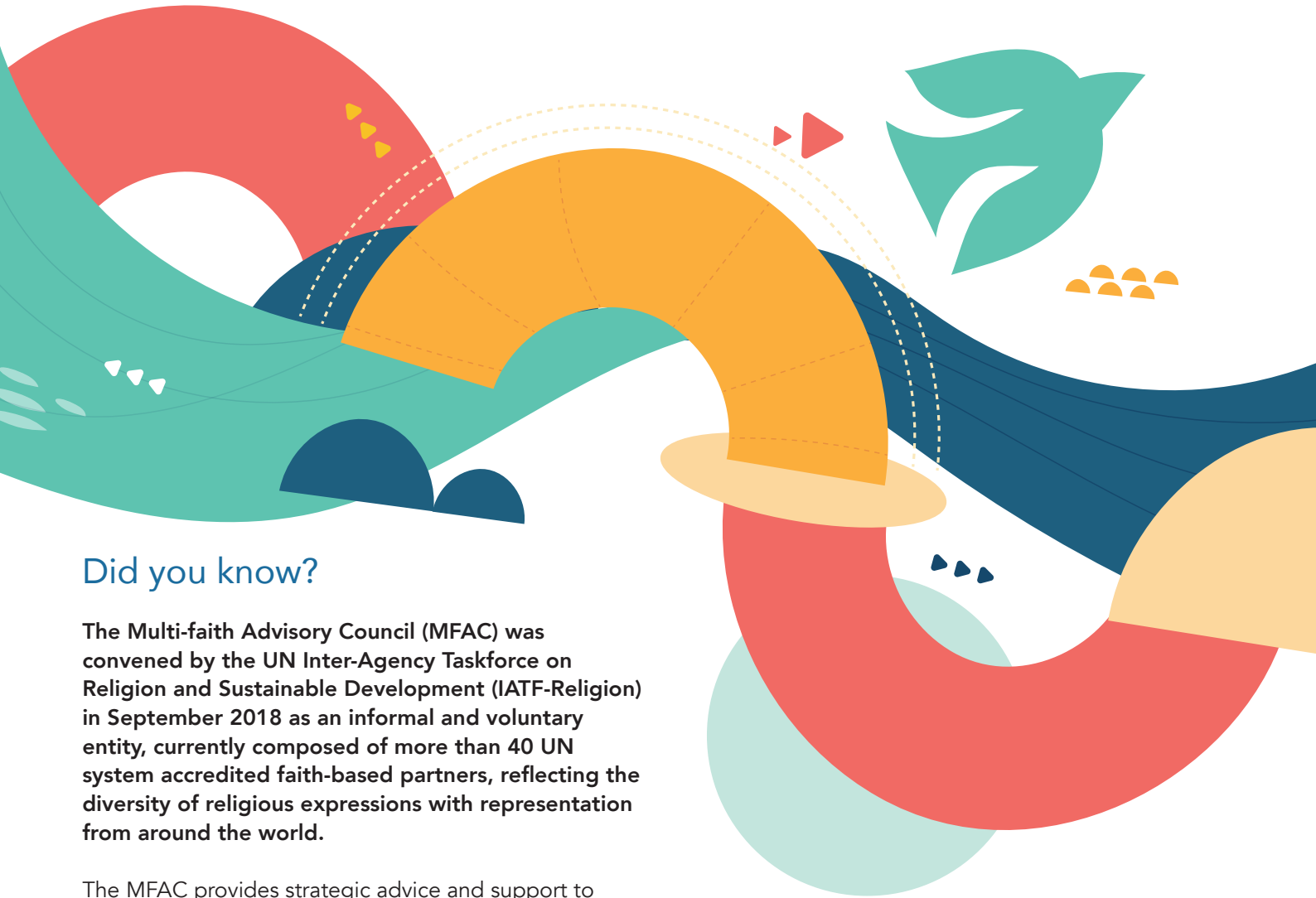
## Multi-Faith Advisory Council to the UN Interagency Taskforce on Religion and Sustainable Development

MFAC



MULTIFAITH ADVISORY  
COUNCIL

To the United Nations  
Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development



### Did you know?

The Multi-faith Advisory Council (MFAC) was convened by the UN Inter-Agency Taskforce on Religion and Sustainable Development (IATF-Religion) in September 2018 as an informal and voluntary entity, currently composed of more than 40 UN system accredited faith-based partners, reflecting the diversity of religious expressions with representation from around the world.

The MFAC provides strategic advice and support to IATF-Religion in partnership for UN system policy advocacy, religious literacy for secular UN staff and to encourage better partnerships among the UN and Faith-based actors for peace, sustainable development and human rights.

### Why Gender Justice?

Gender Justice with a view to Women and Girls Empowerment and its intersectionality was identified as a thematic area of focus and a respective Working Group was created comprising 13 Organizations from around the world. The core work of the Gender Working Group is to support the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and beyond, and to ensure that the advancement of human rights is done through the prism of gender justice. The working group is chaired on a rotational basis for a one-year term.

### Why do we collaborate?

We create spaces for multi-faith actors, UN and other stakeholders to engage together, listen to each other and advance collaboration in areas that we have consensus to multiply impact in our shared vision of achieving Agenda 2030.

### What are the other sub-themes?

Interreligious and Intercultural dialogue, violence against women and girls, leadership of women and girls, peace and security, human rights with a focus on freedom of religion or belief and its intersectionality with the other themes identified as a priority by the MFAC as a whole, including environment, migration, financing for development, peacemaking and security and health.

## What is our objective?

Our main goal is to build stronger partnership between UN and FBOs and deliver together around the following objectives:

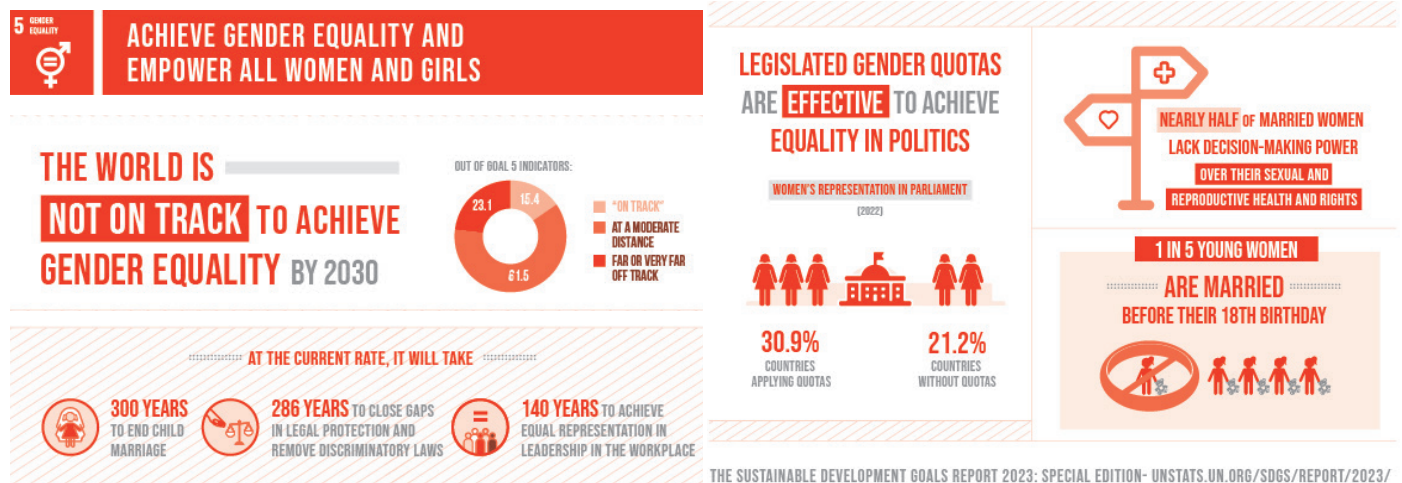
- Assist the United Nations system through strengthened policy advocacy within and outside of the UN system with other multilateral institutions at different levels (international, regional, local);
- Assist in coordinating direct and systematic outreach, interaction and engagement with faith-based and faith-inspired entities, and between faith-based NGOs and UN entities;
- Advise on programming and enhance focus, knowledge and capacity around how religion impacts our societies, representation and dynamics at and within the UN.

## How?

STRATEGIC AND POLICY GUIDANCE ↔ KNOWLEDGE SHARING ↔ CAPACITY BUILDING ↔ ADVOCACY EVENTS

The working group helps bridge the gap and assist the UN understand the impact of religion and religious beliefs on UN pillars, and in particular SDG 5. We aim to deepen UN system staff capacities by providing strategic and policy guidance through engaging with FBOs and broader religious communities for mutual benefit.

We would welcome UN Agencies to join us in our monthly meetings as a first step to advance our efforts towards our common agenda, and have predefined thematic discussions.



### WHAT CAN WE OFFER TO THE UN?\*



- Guidelines on interreligious and intercultural dialogue;
- Evidence;
- Mainstreaming inter-religious dialogue;
- Policy and programming input in UN resolutions; revisions; strategies; plans of action etc.
- Input in reports;
- Capacity building (trainings etc.);
- Curricula development;
- Input in reports;
- Input speakers;
- Joint workshops/events/webinars;
- Development of code of conduct on anti-harassment.
- Recommend trusted partners to work with at the local level.

### WHAT DO WE NEED FROM THE UN?

- Regular dialogue;
- Knowledge exchange;
- Information on upcoming events; reports; revisions etc.
- Input speakers;
- Exchange of expertise;
- Requests for advice, guidance, etc. from the MFAC and gender working group

\* Offering is dependent on available resources.

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## Who are we?

ACT Alliance; Islamic Relief Worldwide; Joint Learning Initiative; Lutheran World Federation; Muslim for Progressive Values; The International Dialogue Centre – KAICIID; The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers; Soka Gakkai International; UN Women; World Evangelical Alliance; World Council of Churches; World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA).