#### Faith-based Advocacy at the UN

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## 2020 Faith Call to Action for the UN Summit on Biodiversity

#### Faith Call to Action for Biodiversity

The natural world is a vital source of humanity's collective flourishing, and in its grandeur can be found signs of the Divine. Throughout history, and in all parts of the world, nature is the physical loom upon which the tapestry of culture, civilization, and peace is woven. Religious and spiritual traditions compel us to care for creation, of which we are an integral part, with love, respect, and reverence.

We grieve the excessive use of natural resources that disrupts the balance of ecosystems and acknowledge our shortcomings in aligning our actions with the values and tenets of our traditions. Yet we also recognize the immense power of faith to bring about radical positive change by imparting hope and summoning the courage necessary for billions to respond to the challenges and crises before us.

As people of faith and spirit, we have a responsibility to ensure our communities cultivate an appreciation for the natural world. Transformation comes through nurturing faithful attitudes and approaches that create sustainable patterns of individual lifestyles and collective actions. Committing to spiritual wisdom and scientific truth, we can return to a more integrated relationship with the earth, where there is abundance for all, scarcity for none, and human life thriving in harmony with the natural world.



# FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT 2021

ENSURE ACCESS TO SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR ALL



ACTION TRACK #2:





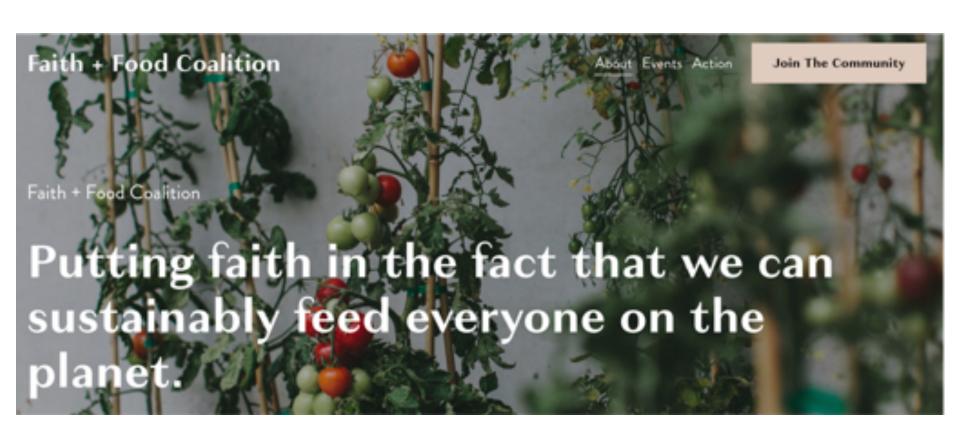


ADVANCE EQUITABLE LIVELIHOODS



BUILD RESILIENCE TO VULNERABILITIES, SHOCKS AND STRESS





#### Overview

Increase since 2014/15

Advocacy eco-systems for different topics

Significant number of faith groups involved

Various opportunities to engage

#### Examples of current FBOs

- Saint Egidio Community
- Muslim for Progressive Values
- Parliament of the World's Religions
- Religions for Peace
- Baha'i International Community
- Jewish Theological Seminary, USA
- World Evangelical Alliance
- World Vision International
- Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation
- KAICIID Dialogue Centre

- The Archbishop of Canterbury
- The International Center for Religion and Diplomacy
- Joint Learning Initiative
- Caritas Internationalis
- ACT Alliance
- Church of Latter Day Saints/LDS
- FinnChurchAid
- World Council of Churches
- United Religions Initiative
- World Jewish Congress

### Key Moments & Processes

**UN General Assembly** 

High Level Political Forum

United Nations Environment Assembly

United Nations Environment Programme Faith for Earth initiative

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP26

#### Advantages

Organise side events

Issue statements and responses

Network and partner with other FBOs and civil society

Engage with UN entities

Engage with Member States

#### **UN** accreditation

Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

UN Department of Global Communications (DGC)

United Nations Environment Assembly

**UNFCCC Observer Status** 

## Faith Coalitions & Groupings

Committee of Religious NGOs

**UNFCCC** Interfaith Liaison Committee

Faith and Biodiversity UN Coordination Group

