

## Guidelines on *Religions for Peace* Official Statements

### I. Principles of “*Subsidiarity*” and “*Simultaneity*”

The *Religions for Peace* movement consists of the World Council and its International Executive Committee, regional and national Interreligious Councils (IRCs) which encompass women and youth networks on these respective levels and religious institutions and their constituencies, the Global Women of Faith Network, and the Global Interfaith Youth Network.

[Article I-B of the International Standing Rules](#) notes the principle of **subsidiarity**: “local decisions and actions are taken at the local level, national decisions and actions at the national level, regional decisions and actions at the regional level, and world decisions and actions at the international level.” Respecting the principle of **subsidiarity**, *Religions for Peace* International coordinates with different levels of the organization to address national, regional, and international issues and challenges to peace.

*Religions for Peace* works simultaneously on global, regional, national, and local levels. The **simultaneity** of multi-religious action is *Religions for Peace*’s core strength. In a globalized world, the major challenges to peace typically manifest themselves on these multiple levels and thus need to be addressed on these same levels simultaneously in a coordinated way. *Religions for Peace* is able to do this because it is organized on, and maintains, a network across global, regional, national, and local levels. *Religions for Peace*’s structure reflects the fact that many religious communities are organized on these same levels. The engaged presence of *Religions for Peace* on multiple levels positions the network to develop internal linkages and strategies to tackle concrete challenges from the global to the grassroots.

[Article II of the International Standing Rules](#) stipulates that the *Religions for Peace* International Executive Committee, serving on behalf of the World Council, has the sole legal authority to recognize a *Religions for Peace*-affiliated national IRC and to grant the license to use names and symbols associated with *Religions for Peace*. Such affiliation may be established through a bilateral agreement between *Religions for Peace* International through its International Executive Committee and the relevant national IRC or a tripartite affiliation agreement between *Religions for Peace* International, the regional IRC, and the national IRC. The affiliation agreement also specifies basic conditions and requirements for IRCs to be recognized as *Religions for Peace* affiliates and authorized to use *Religions for Peace*’s names and symbols, as well as a mechanism to resolve any dispute, and specifies a process for the termination of *Religions for Peace* recognition by the International Executive Committee.

### II. Hierarchy of *Religions for Peace* Official Statements

The following categories of statements shall be recognized as *Religions for Peace* official statements in the hierarchical order of governance and level of authority:

- a. The World Council or its International Executive Committee
- b. The Office of *Religions for Peace* International
- c. Statement by National or/and Regional IRCs
- d. Statement by the International Women’s Coordinating Committee and the International Youth Committee
- e. Statements by Individual Members of the World Council

**a. Statements by The World Council or its International Executive Committee**

The World Council is *Religions for Peace's* highest level of governance, consisting of senior-most religious leaders from the world's religious institutions and communities, elected by the World Assembly. Moderators/Chairs of Regional IRCs are *ex-officio* members of the World Council and the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is constituted and appointed by the World Council to serve on its behalf as the executive decision-making body for the organization when the World Council is not in session.

When an issue, situation, or theme is of international character and relevant to the mission of *Religions for Peace*, the World Council/International Executive Committee shall decide to issue a statement on behalf of the entire *Religions for Peace* movement, as its highest level of governance and authority. If the issue, situation, or theme of the statement addresses a particular national and/or regional context, the World Council/International Executive Committee shall consult and coordinate with regional IRCs, national IRCs and/or other relevant *Religions for Peace* entities through the moderators of regional IRCs on the World Council and relevant officers of national IRCs to which an issue, situation, or theme of the statement is directly related.

When the World Council considers that national or regional advocacy is more relevant to the issue, situation, or theme on which the statement is issued, the World Council/International Executive Committee may choose to have regional or national IRCs take the initiative and to support and/or affirm their statements in consultation and coordination with relevant national or regional bodies.

**b. Statements by The Office of the *Religions for Peace* International**

When an issue, situation, or theme is of an international character, but there is a time constraint for a full consultation and consensus among the entire World Council/International Executive Committee, the International Secretary General, in coordination with Co-Moderators of the World Council, may issue a statement on behalf of the *Religions for Peace* International. The Secretary General shall also consult with the national and regional IRCs for whom the issue, situation, or theme of the statement is relevant.

**c. Statements by National or/and Regional IRCs**

When the World Council considers that a national or regional advocacy is more relevant to the issue, situation, or theme on which the statement is issued, the World Council/International Executive Committee may choose to have regional or national IRCs take the initiative and support and/or affirm their statements in consultation and coordination with relevant national or regional bodies.

**d. Statements by the International Women's Coordinating Committee (IWCC) and the International Youth Committee (IYC)**

If an issue, situation, or theme is specifically focused on women or youth, and the IWCC or IYC, respectively, expresses their desire to issue a statement, the International Secretary General shall be consulted and determine if such a statement would be an appropriate means of the *Religions for Peace* global advocacy. In such instances, the World Council/International Executive Committee may choose to have IWCC or IYC take the initiative and support/affirm their statements.

**e. Statements by Individual Members of the World Council**

Individual members of the World Council may issue statements relevant to the mission of *Religions for Peace*, using his or her *Religions for Peace* title(s). Based upon [the International Standing Rules](#), [Code of Conduct](#), and other guidelines, their statements should reflect the values, mission, and principles of *Religions for Peace*. Statements from individual World Council members shall be redistributed to the global movement and its partners by the *Religions for Peace* International Secretariat.