AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

between

Religions for Peace International

and

<<Name of National Interreligious Council>>

with

<<Name of Regional Interreligious Council>>

<u>Introduction</u>

Religions for Peace (*RfP*) advances common action among the world's religious communities for peace through its affiliated Interreligious Councils (IRCs). IRCs are organized on national and regional levels, and are affiliated in name, and shared principles, with *Religions for Peace* International. Each affiliated body retains its independence, as each shares the mission and basic structural tenets, and works in harmony with the principles, of *Religions for Peace*.

Religions for Peace International refers to the World Council and its International Secretariat, and supports and organizes the entire *Religions for Peace* global movement in its mission of advancing common action among the world's religious communities for peace. No single religious community leads *Religions for Peace*. Instead, representatives from diverse religious traditions make up all its structures and leadership.

This multi-religious collaboration is consistent with *Religions for Peace*'s four guiding principles:

1. *Respect* religious differences and seek to honour the identity and community of each religious tradition;

2. *Leverage* the existing spiritual, moral, and social assets of the world's religious communities to act on deeply held and widely shared values;

3. *Build* and/or *strengthen* representative, sustainable multi-religious mechanisms, co-owned by religious institutions and communities; and

4. *Partner* local, national, regional, and global multi-religious structures, with governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental civil society actors.

Bearing in mind the world's challenges and the need for a strong network of interreligious bodies to lead efforts advancing effective multi-religious cooperation for peace, *Religions for Peace* has six strategic goals:

1. *Promote* Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies

2. *Advance* Gender Equality

3. *Nurture* a Sustainable Environmnet

4. *Champion* Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion

5. *Strengthen* Interreligious Education

6. *Foster* Multi-religious Collaboration and Global Partnerships

<<Brief National IRC Profile and Description>>

<<Brief Regional IRC Profile and Description >>

Religions for Peace International*,* through the Executive Committee of its World Council (Board) welcomes <<Name of National IRC>> as as its affiliated IRC in <<Country Of Affiliating IRC>>. Thereby, << Name of National IRC>> is also known as *Religions for Peace* <<Country Of Affiliating IRC>>, according to the Principles of Affiliation, guidelines, and provisions stipulated in this agreement.

Principles of Affiliation

1. *Religions for Peace* International recognizes <<Name of National IRC>> *(Religions for Peace* <<Country>>) as an independent and autonomous multi-religious body, competent to represent the mission of *Religions for Peace* on the national level of <<Country>>.

2. <<Name of National IRC>> *(Religions for Peace* <<Country>>) recognizes the other members of the *Religions for Peace* movement as its partners.

3. <<Name of National IRC>> *(Religions for Peace* <<Country>>) shall also be affiliated with the <<Name of Regional IRC>>.

Mutual Support to Build Peace

Religions for Peace International*,* through the Executive Committee of its World Council, will:

1. Welcome from <<Name of National IRC>> *(Religions for Peace* <<Country>>) delegates to the *Religions for Peace* World Assembly, which consultatively develops the overall strategic direction, as well as the long-term policies, of the *Religions for Peace* movement, and elects its World Council.

2. Offer to <<Name of National IRC>> *(Religions for Peace* <<Country>>)the use of the *Religions for Peace* name and symbols, including their adaptation for <<Name of National IRC>> as outlined in the Communications Guidelines, as well as the right of <<Name of National IRC>> to identify itself as a *Religions for Peace* affiliate.

3. Offer to <<Name of National IRC>> its capacity building, knowledge, and policy advocacy services. These include, but are not limited to:

   • Developing and disseminating joint advocacy statements;

   • Strategic linkages to the World Council, Ambassadors, and Advisers;

   • Showcasing/advocating for the work of the national *Religions for Peace* affiliate with multilateral entities, such as the United Nations;

   • Serving as a communication hub across the entire *Religions for Peace* movement; and

- Providing assistance, with and through <<Regional IRC>> to strengthen <<Name of National IRC>>'s organizational and program delivery capacities through sharing guidances, toolkits, and trainings.

4. Where possible, support programme partnerships with *Religions for Peace* International and/or <<Regional IRC>>, which would be negotiated and agreed upon directly, and separately from this Agreement.

5. <<Regional IRC>> will also welcome from <<National IRC>> approved delegates for the Assembly of <<Regional IRC >>, which develops the overall strategic direction as well as the long-term policies of <<Regional IRC >>, and elects its leaders.

<<National IRC>> *(Religions for Peace* <<Country>>), will:

1. Give due regard to the ways the religious and spiritual communities in its geographical area are represented and take this into account in the selection of its office holders.

2. Advance multi-religious dialogue and actions for peace in synchronization with the overall principles and relevant strategic priorities of the *Religions for Peace* movement, and in accordance with the *Religions for Peace* IRC Development Strategy Paper, found in the appendix.

3. Commit to embodying the standards, mission, and values set out in *Religions for Peace* Code of Conduct, found in the appendix.

4. Participate in *Religions for Peace* World Assemblies to share its own achievements and learning, to help identify global priorities for action, and elect the World Council, and in <<Regional>> Assemblies to share its own achievements and learning, and to help identify regional priorities for action.

5. Share its work, according to mutually agreed timeline and templates, through the media and communication network of *Religions for Peace* International and <<Regional IRC>>.

6. Participate in global advocacy for peace through, but not limited to, actions and statements, in accordance with the Guidelines on *Religions for Peace* Official Statements.

7. Identify itself in its own communication materials as an affiliate of *Religions for Peace* International and <<Regional IRC>>.

8. Accept and work in accordance with <<Regional IRC>>'s mission, objectives, and values, found in the appendix.

9. Provide, at the time of its request for affiliation, to the *Religions for Peace* International Secretariat in New York and the Secretariat of <<Regional IRC>>, copies of the Affiliate's:

    i. Constitution

    ii. Standing Rules

    iii. List of officers

10. Provide *Religions for Peace* International and <<Regional IRC>> with an annual report.

Religions *for* Peace

Other Provisions

This affiliation agreement does not confer any financial responsibility on any party.

In case of controversy or dispute arising out of or related to this agreement, the parties agree first to try in good faith to settle the differences by conciliation. If mutual amicable agreement fails, the parties agree to follow recourse established in the *Religions for Peace* Code of Conduct.

Each of the parties have the right to dissolve this agreement with formal written notice to the respective Head of Office, prior to any public notification thereof.

By: _____

Prof. Dr. Azza Karam   <<Date>>
Secretary General, *Religions for Peace*
on behalf of
the International Executive Committee

By: _____
                                                                                         <<Date>>
<<NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE>>
<<TITLE>>
<<National IRC>> on behalf of
<<National IRC >> (*Religions for Peace* <<Country>>)

By: _____
                                                                                         <<Date>>
<<NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE>>
<<TITLE>>
<<Regional IRC>> on behalf of
<<Regional IRC >> (*Religions for Peace* <<Regional>>)

Religions *for* Peace

APPENDIX I: *Religions for Peace* Strategic Plan 2020-2025

APPENDIX II: IRC Development Strategy Paper

APPENDIX III: Guidelines on *Religions for Peace* Official Statements

APPENDIX IV: *Religions for Peace* Code of Conduct

APPENDIX V: *Religions for Peace* Guiding Principles

APPENDIX VI: Fundamental Elements of a *Religions for Peace* Affliated IRC

APPENDIX VII: Principles of Engagement with and Capacity Building of IRCs

APPENDIX VIII: <<Regional IRC>> Documents

Religions *for* Peace

APPENDIX V

Religions *for Peace* Guiding Principles

Respect religious differences and seek to honour the identity and community of each religious tradition;

Leverage the existing spiritual, moral, and social assets of the world's religious communities to act on deeply held and widely shared values;

Build and/or *strengthen* representative, sustainable multi-religious mechanisms, co-owned by religious institutions and communities; and

Partner local, national, regional, and global multi-religious structures, with governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental civil society actors.

APPENDIX VI

Fundamental Elements and Main Functions of a *Religions for Peace* Affiliated Inter-religious Council (IRC)

IRCs are mechanisms that engage religious leaders and their communities in multi-religious cooperation working at the national and regional level to transform conflict, promote peace and advance sustainable development. This approach recognizes that religious communities themselves, through their leaders, outstanding persons, grassroots congregations and other organizational manifestations are the main "agents" of multi-religious cooperation, and that *Religions for Peace* structures should be designed to support the religious communities' efforts for cooperation.

Each IRC in the *Religions for Peace* network is independent, self-led, and honors the ways the different religious communities in its area are organized and represent themselves. Three features characterize each IRC at the international, regional, national and local levels:

a. **Representative:** They engage entire religious communities through the persons that each community has chosen to represent it in various ways.

b. **Action-oriented:** Their purpose is to facilitate collaborative action to address shared concerns among the religious communities.

c. **Sustainable:** They are built from the religious communities to serve as a durable platform for cooperation, able to address whatever critical issues of shared concern that emerge over time.

The IRCs have three main functions:

a. To encourage, equip and facilitate actions (service delivery/advocacy/interventions) by their member faith communities in their own capacity.

b. To bring together the member faith communities through their respective leaders and institutions to initiate and facilitate joint action (service delivery/advocacy/interventions).

c. To act in the name of the council as mandated by the appropriate organ of the council (service delivery/advocacy/interventions).

APPENDIX VII

Principles for Engagement in Capacity Building of Interreligious Councils

One of the main roles of the World Council of *Religions for Peace*, working through the International Secretariat; and <<Regional IRC>> through its secretariat, is to contribute to building IRCs and equipping them for action on different levels to transform conflict, build peace and advance sustainable development. This work is guided by the following principles:

Building Organizations

a. *Limited*: Targets the essential capacity needed by religious leaders to engage their own communities around common concerns.

b. *Efficient*: Utilizes the capacity of religious communities as the first source of IRC organizational strength.

c. *Engaged*: Connects organizational strengthening to increasing the ability of IRC to take action and exchange experiences among IRCs.

Equipping for Action

a. *Consensual*: Focuses solely upon those areas of concern that are deeply held and widely shared among the religious communities.

b. *Community Based:* Assists religious leaders to further equip their own communities for cooperative action.

c. *Collaborative:* Prepares IRCs to enter into program partnerships with other key stakeholders.

Networking among IRCs

a. *Autonomous:* Acknowledges the independence and autonomy of each IRC.

b. *Complementary:* Draws upon the different strengths of religious communities working together to solve common problems.

c. *Linked:* Fosters solidarity, shared identity and common action across national, regional and international levels.

APPENDIX VIII

<REGIONAL APPENDIX>>