

Making Peace with Nature: Heeding the Call of Indigenous Peoples

Overview: Religious leaders across faiths are increasingly understanding the urgent need to recognize the rights and spiritualities of indigenous peoples – from the Arctic to the Equator – to achieve the goals of the Paris climate agreement. This event highlights powerful new coalitions of religious and indigenous leaders from diverse traditions to protect nature and the climate. The Government of Norway will also announce its support for the next phase of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative (IRI), a unique collaboration between the United Nations and the world's religions that is mobilizing faith-based movements to protect forests and the rights of indigenous peoples globally and in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Event moderator:

Dr. Charles McNeill, Senior Advisor on Forests and Climate, United Nations Environment Programme.

First Session

Faith communities – individually and collectively – have made action on the climate crisis one of their highest priorities with far reaching programs on education, advocacy and on-the-ground mobilization for nature and indigenous peoples rights.

- ▶ **Prof. Azza Karam**, Secretary General, Religions for Peace.
- ▶ **Mr. Andreas Dahl-Jørgensen**, Director of the Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).
- ▶ **The Right Reverend Dr. Marc Andrus**, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California and Head of Delegation for COP26.
- ▶ **Chief Rabbi David Rosen**, International Director, Department of Interreligious Affairs, American Jewish Committee; Co-President, Religions for Peace.

Second Session

In this session, indigenous speakers from Anglican Christian and tribal religions – North and South - will unfold their view of a deeply interconnected world reality, speak out about the abuse of their cultures and ecosystems and call for solidarity, advocacy and action from allies.

- ▶ **Archbishop Mark MacDonald** (Canada), Anglican Church of Canada, President of the World Council of Churches (WCC) for North America.
- ▶ **Reverend Mari Valjakka**, Pastor of Sámi at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and Moderator of the Indigenous Peoples Reference Group of the World Council of Churches (WCC).
- ▶ **Statements of Amazonian indigenous leaders** (from 'Prophetic Indigenous

Voices on the Planetary Crisis' video series prepared by the Anglican and Episcopal Churches).

Third Session

This session will explore the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative (IRI) as a best practice for the implementation of high level commitments from faith communities to partner with indigenous peoples at the local and national level - in Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia and Peru.

- ▶ **Bishop Francisco Duque**, Anglican Church of Colombia and President of the Interreligious Council of Colombia.
- ▶ **Mr. Joseph Itongwa**, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Indigenous Peoples Network for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems (REPALEF).

DISTINGUISHED DISCUSSANTS

- ▶ **Reverend Henrik Grape**, Senior Advisor on Care for Creation, Sustainability, and Climate Justice of the World Council of Churches.
- ▶ **Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton**, Shackan First Nation, Episcopal Church.
- ▶ **Ms. Ravinder Kaur Nijjar**, Chair, Religions for Peace UK Women of Faith Network and Sikh Representative in the Scottish Religious Leaders Forum.



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ORGANIZERS



WEDNESDAY

3 November 2021

Blue Zone, COP26, Glasgow, Scotland

▶ Registration link: bit.ly/3CEbQHp

Event time:

6:30pm-7:45pm GMT

2:30pm-3:45pm EST

11:30am-12:45pm PST