

## **Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Sustainable Development Goals – Leaving No One Behind Statement**

Starting from this Global Week to #Act4SDGs, we, the undersigned, hear the call to action to realize the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030;

Acknowledging that we all have a responsibility to ‘communicate, advocate and activate’ in our communities and countries to meet the SDGs’ pledge to ‘Leave No One Behind’;

Recognizing that to leave no one behind, religious or belief communities’ experiences of inequality and needs must be integrated into SDG planning, policy and action at a country level;

Also Recognizing that our responses will determine how fast blind spots in SDG pursuits are overcome and the challenges shaping people’s and the planet’s future are resolved;

We commit to seek and listen to peoples’ experiences of inequality because of their religion or belief, to better understand their needs, and thereafter to advocate and work collaboratively in our countries to ensure that no one is left behind.

We take this action in solidarity with Agenda 2030, future sustainable development goals, and human rights.

### ***ABOUT THE STATEMENT:***

Launched at the first High-Level Dialogue "Applying a FoRB lens to achieving the SDGs" on Thursday 23rd September 2021, this statement brings together parliamentarians, faith leaders and civil society to commit to approaching the SDGs through the lens of the right to FoRB in their context.

The High-Level Dialogue series on FoRB and the SDGs has been organized by the Freedom of Religion or Belief Leadership Network (FoRBLN), International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB), African Parliamentarians Association for Human Rights (AfriPAHR), Religions for Peace (RfP) and the UN Faith for Rights Initiative.

The statement will be updated regularly to show the names and titles of the signatories below and will be shared with relevant UN authorities and with the media in February 2022 at the end of the Dialogue series.

*The below signatories support this statement in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their government, political party, organization or any other body.*

1. Abdoulie Ceesay, Current Parliamentarian, The Gambia
2. Abid Raja, Current Parliamentarian, Norway
3. Ahmad Tabshir Choudhury, Head of External Affairs, Public Relations, Press and Media of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, Bangladesh
4. Aila Gill, Program Coordinator, National Commission for Justice and Peace
5. Amadou Camara, Current Parliamentarian, The Gambia
6. Amer Hamed, British Islamic Medical Association
7. Andrew Khoo, Advocate & Solicitor, Messrs. Andrew Khoo & Daniel Lo
8. Antonio Benevides, Current Parliamentarian, Timor Leste
9. Arthur Lyon Dahl, President, International Environment Forum, Switzerland
10. Asif Aqeel, Center for Law and Justice, Pakistan and
11. Aykan Erdemir, Former Parliamentarian, Turkey
12. Bafana Khumalo, Co-Executive Director at Sonke Gender Justice and Co-Chair of the Global Board of MenEngage Alliance, South Africa
13. Ben Ramkaj, Inter-religious collaboration Centre, Albania
14. Ben-Hur Yousaf, Founder and Chairman of Christian Democratic Party, Pakistan, Civil Society
15. Besa Ismaili, Former Parliamentarian, Kosovo
16. Cao Dai, Cao Đài Study Center
17. Catalin D. Tenită, Current Parliamentarian, Romania
18. Charles Chong, Former Parliamentarian, Singapore
19. Cheryllyn Dudley, Former Parliamentarian, South Africa and Political Analyst for DiaLOGOS
20. Christian K Lumpemba, Chairperson of the DRC Interfaith Youth Network
21. Daniela Rangelova, Former Parliamentarian, North Macedonia
22. Debbie Stothard, Founder/Coordinator, ALTSEAN-Burma, Myanmar
23. Deborah Atebo, Programmed Manager for Church of Uganda Teso Dioceses planning and Development Office (COU-TEDDO), Uganda
24. Dimitra Missira, External Relations Officer, KAICIID-International Dialogue Centre, Austria
25. Dogan Bermek, Alevi Philosophy Centre Association, Turkey
26. Don de Silva, Faith leader, Lecturer, The Tariki Trust, United Kingdom
27. Dr. Charles Reed, Director of Operations, FoRBLN
28. Dwi Rubiyanti Kholifah, Director AMAN, Indonesia
29. Ed Brown, Secretary-General, Stefanusalliansen, Norway
30. Elaine Alam, Founder Member/Secretary General FACES Pakistan and Independent FoRB expert, Pakistan
31. Emma Tomalin, Professor of Religion and Public Life, University of Leeds, United Kingdom
32. Esra Murati, Human Rights Activist, Serbia
33. Eva Kusuma Sundari, Former Parliamentarian, Indonesia

34. Faosat Moninnuola Lawal, Children Affairs Secretary/ Da'wah Volunteer Nasrul-Lahi-l-Fatih Lahil Fatih, Nigeria
35. Farahnaz Ispahani, Former Parliamentarian, Pakistan
36. Faustine Ndugulile, Current Parliamentarian, Tanzania
37. Fernanda Elena San Martin Carrasco, Former Parliamentarian, Bolivia
38. Gladys Nairuba, Programme Officer, DanChurchAid, Uganda
39. Hajj Muhammad Amir Kpakpo Addo, Secretary-General, Federation of Muslim Councils of Ghana (FMC) AND Executive Secretary, Ghana Conference of Religions for Peace (GCRP), Ghana
40. Hidaya Maulidi Dude, Community Leader, Digital Opportunity Trust, Tanzania
41. Huma Ikramullah, Secretary-General Religions for Peace, Pakistan
42. Ibrahim Inusah, Senior Project Offer, ACEPA, Ghana
43. Jamshed Thomas, Current Parliamentarian, Pakistan
44. Jennifer Jag Jivan, Former Director of the Christian Study Centre, Pakistan
45. Jeta Deda, Catholic Youth Representative, Interreligious Council of Albania
46. Jimmy Obuya, Program Coordinator FPCC, Religions for Peace, Kenya
47. Joelle Fiss, Current Parliamentarian, Switzerland
48. Jose Manuel Ormachea, Current Parliamentarian, Bolivia
49. Justice Okai-Allotey, Communications Officer, Humanist Association, Ghana
50. Kasit Piromya, Former Parliamentarian, Thailand
51. Katharine Cash, Advisor, Freedom of Religion or Belief, Sweden
52. Kathleen Thein, Ingyinmay Hindu Women Association(Founder), Myanmar
53. Kehkashan Basu, Founder-President, Green Hope Foundation
54. Khadija Elatri, Former Parliamentarian, Morocco
55. Kristina Patring, Advisor capacity building FoRB, SMC- Faith in Development, Sweden
56. Kristoffer Robin Haug, Current Parliamentarian, Norway
57. Liv H. Kvanvig, Director of IPPFoRB and Head of the Freedom of Religion or Belief Centre, Norwegian Helsinki Committee
58. Lola Loveita, Advocacy and Campaigns Officer for FoRB, APhR
59. Luciano Ezequiel Bizin, Universidad Católica de La Plata, Argentina
60. Luz Frances Chua, Co-Founder, Catholics for Reproductive Health (C4RH), Philippines
61. Lyandro Komakech, Former Parliamentarian, Uganda
62. Margaret Keita, Member, Inter-Church/Inter-Faith Committee of The Gambia Christian Council
63. Maria Chin Abdullah, Current Parliamentarian, Malaysia
64. Marie Juul Peterson, Senior Researcher
65. Martina Manzone, Spiritual Planetary Health Consultant, USA
66. Mary James Gill, Former Parliamentarian, Pakistan
67. Mboni M Mhita, Former Parliamentarian, Tanzania
68. Md. Sariful Islam, Project Coordinator at British Council, Bangladesh
69. Mei-Nu Yu, Former Parliamentarian, Taiwan
70. Mercy Chriesty Barends, Current Parliamentarian, Indonesia
71. Michael Ngara, Advocacy Lead, Faith for Action Network, Kenya
72. Mukunda Sharma, Faith leader, Nepal

73. Nazila Ghanea, Academic, UK
74. Nfamara Jarju, Program Officer Information, Education and Communication NGO Affairs Agency, The Gambia
75. Niklas Eklöv, Head of Unit, SMC - Faith in Development, Sweden
76. Nqabayomzi Kwankwa, Current Parliamentarian, South Africa
77. Nuwagaba Muhsin Kaduyu, Executive Director, Allied Muslim Youth Uganda (AMYU)
78. Palak Rao, Communications and Advocacy Advisor, IPPFoRB, Norway
79. Pheea Ntsihlele, Current Parliamentarian, Lesotho
80. Potre Diampatan Diampuan, Trustee, Global Council, United Religious Initiative
81. Prof. Dr Azza Karam, Secretary-General, Religions for Peace
82. Professor Pieter Francois, University of Oxford; Lead of the Freedom of Religion or Belief Leadership Network, UK
83. Ramakrishnan Suppiah, Former Parliamentarian, Malaysia
84. Reuben Emmanuel, Advocacy officer (JISRA/Peacebuilding), Nigeria
85. Reuben Qamar, Moderator of the General Assembly of Presbyterian Church of Pakistan
86. Rev Alusine Diamond-Suma, Civil Society actor, Sierra Leone
87. Roslyn Mould, Board Member, Humanists International, Ghana
88. Rumky Farhana, ARTICLE 19 Bangladesh and South Asia, Bangladesh
89. Saba Wallace, Program Coordinator, Skandinaviska Barnmissionen, Sweden
90. Sensio Banda, Former Parliamentarian, Zambia
91. Shahidul Alam, Drik Picture Library Ltd. Bangladesh
92. Sharif Kaf Al-Ghazal, President, British Islamic Medical Association
93. Sharon Rosen, Director, Religious Engagement, Search for Common Ground, Israel
94. Sonigitu Ekpe, Faith leader, Cross River State, Ministry of Environment, Nigeria
95. Suchith Abeyewickreme, Civil society actor
96. Vesna Marković, Current Parliamentarian, Serbia
97. Vladimir Gjorchev, Former Parliamentarian, North Macedonia
98. Yusra Mahdi, Al Khoei Foundation – CREID
99. Zafar Jan, Director, National Centre for Research and Leadership, Pakistan
100. Zainab Mohammed Ibrahim, Grant Assistant and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer II, Development Initiative of West Africa
101. Zubeda Sakuru, Former Parliamentarian, Tanzania