

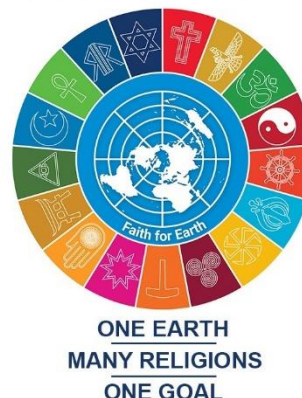
United Nations Environment Programme

Faith For Earth Coalition

Concept note



FAITH FOR EARTH



*The Coalition is created as a global platform to strengthen the cooperation with and among faith leaders and faith-based organizations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and living in respect and harmony with planet earth. The Coalition will facilitate policy dialogue and public engagement on environmental issues encouraging innovative approaches to finding long-lasting solutions to environmental challenges. **The overall aim is to facilitate partnerships with faith leaders, faith-based organizations and people of faith at global, regional and local levels in order to inspire, empower and strengthen action and behavioral changes towards achieving the SDGs and implementing UNEP's programme of work.***

Contents

1. Rationale and Value-Added of the Faith for Earth Coalition	3
2. Purpose	8
3. Values.....	8
4. Impact, Outcomes and Outputs.....	8
5. Membership.....	9
6. Proposed Structure	11
6.1. The Four Coalition Bodies	11
6.1.1. The Role of Each Coalition Body and the Relationship between Them.....	12
6.2. Governance.....	15
6.2.1. Decision-Making.....	16
6.2.2. Modalities of Work	17
7. Activities.....	20
8. Funding	21
8.1. Trust Fund	22
8.2. Funding Partnerships	23
8.3. Budget.....	23
9. Monitoring System.....	24
10. Operationalization of the Coalition	24
10.1. Consultative Process of Establishment	24
10.2. Small-scale Launch of the Coalition	24
10.3. Consultative and Interim Steering Committee	25
10.4. Statutes	25
10.5. Communication and PR.....	25

1. Rationale and Value-Added of the Faith for Earth Coalition

With the [Faith for Earth Strategy](#) (2018), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has adopted an integrated approach for the partnership with faith-based organizations. By cooperating with faith-based organizations, religious and cultural values become part of UNEP's efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030 and the implementation of its programme of work. The partnership shall enable inclusive, green and transformative development through adopting lifestyles and behavioral changes that are informed by faith-based and spiritual values. The integrated approach respects cultural diversity and religious, cultural and indigenous knowledge, and acknowledges and appreciates the value of faith when it comes to living in respect and harmony with planet earth. Coupling and informing strategies towards achieving the SDGs with faith-based approaches and values such as environmental stewardship or duty of care is the cornerstone for a **common vision** that focuses on valuing the needs of planet Earth.

The Faith for Earth Coalition is a means to realize this common vision by establishing a multistakeholder partnership with the **overall aim** to facilitate partnerships with faith leaders, faith-based organizations and people of faith at global, regional and local levels to inspire, empower and strengthen action and behavioral changes towards achieving the SDGs and implementing UNEP's programme of work.

The Faith for Earth Coalition will have the character of a platform comprising of four Coalition Councils:

1. The Council of Eminent Leaders: Composed of high-level faith leaders representing major and minor world religions in terms of number of adherents.
2. The Youth Council: Composed of young faith leaders and members of youth movements advocating for living in respect and harmony with planet earth.
3. The Network of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of FBO's: Composed of faith-based organizations with a focus on the environment or those working with (local) faith communities responding to the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. The Faith-Science Consortium: Composed of theologians, scientists and environmentalists to bridge the gap between environmental science and religions.

The case for why it is relevant and necessary for UNEP to engage with faith-based organizations has already been established in *inter alia* UNEP's Faith for Earth Strategy¹ as well as the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development Guidelines for Engaging Faith-based Organizations as Actors of Change². Nevertheless, for the purpose of establishing the rationale for the Faith for Earth Coalition, key arguments will be highlighted in the following.

Pew Research Center has found that more than 80 percent of the world's population are affiliated with a faith³. Such high percentage leaves no doubt that religion, and the values, behaviors and actions it entails and stipulates, have a fundamental impact on the lives of most individuals and thus on most communities worldwide. Citizens see faith-based organizations and faith leaders as trustworthy and highly networked

¹ UN Environment, Engaging with Faith-Based Organizations, January 2018: <https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment/faith-earth-initiative/strategy>

² UNFPA, Guidelines for Engaging Faith-based Organisations (FBO) as Agents of Change, 2009: <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/guidelines-engaging-faith-based-organisations-fbo-agents-change>

³ Pew Research Center (2012), *The Global Religious Landscape - A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Major Religious Groups as of 2010*. Washington: Pew Research Center.

organizations with dynamism that enables them to operate and assist in development efforts or humanitarian situations where and when needed. In many countries, religious and spiritual beliefs and practices are interwoven with cultural values, social principles, political engagement, economic prosperity and individual and group behaviors. For centuries, faith-based organizations have been providing social welfare services to communities on local, national and international levels, being sometimes the largest providers of education, welfare or health services and disaster relief. Ian Smillie and Larry Minear have found that “NGOs, including faith-based organizations, are active in more countries than many governments, and they carry more credibility with taxpayers than do government aid agencies. Indeed, some individual NGOs have country programs with larger budgets than the government ministries to which they relate”⁴. On the basis of this empirical reality, UNEP is partnering with faith leaders and faith-based organizations in order to foster environmental protection and responsible behavior with the Earth’s resources.

UNEP’s Strategy for Engaging with Faith-based Organizations defines faith-based organizations as:

“Legally registered international faith-based development and humanitarian NGOs, Religious leaders, religious institutions such as Mosques, Churches and their affiliated NGOs; and independent local community entities inspired by faith principles.”

For the purpose of the Faith for Earth Coalition, this definition is elaborated to encompass the two following categories:

(i) Faith-based organizations (FBOs) are “organizations that derive inspiration and guidance for their activities from the teachings and principles of the faith or from a particular interpretation or school of thought within that faith”⁵. They comprise a range of religious charitable organizations affiliated with one or more faith and spiritual traditions, which may include:

- Religious congregations (such as churches, mosques, synagogues or temples);
- Charities sponsored or hosted by one or more religious congregations;
- Non-profit organizations founded by a religious congregation or based upon faith and spiritual traditions;
- Coalitions that include organizations described above, and
- Educational institutions (such as schools, universities, institutes, colleges) founded by or affiliated with a faith and/or a spiritual tradition.

(ii) Religious leaders (RLs) are men and women with a formal affiliation to a religion or spiritual path who play influential roles within their communities and the broader civil society. Examples include priests, imams, rabbis, clerics, monks, nuns, lamas, traditional indigenous spiritual guides such as shamans and sukias, and lay religious leaders, as well as young persons that have a leadership role within their religious community.

UNEP partners with FBOs and religious leaders who subscribe to the **human rights**, and who are advocates (existing and potential) of UNEP’s programmatic areas of work.

⁴ Ian Smillie and Larry Minear (2004), *The Charity of Nations*, Kumarian Press, Inc, Bloomfield, USA.

⁵ Clarke G. and Jennings, M. (2008). *Development, Civil Society and Faith-Based Organizations: Bridging the Sacred and the Secular*. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.

A publication by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation titled “Voices of Religions on Sustainable Development”⁶ presents the voices of ten world religions regarding the Planet (as one of the “five Ps”⁷ of Sustainable Development), i.e. the Earth and the natural environment therein. The voices of the religions clearly show that it is important to all major world religions (and minor ones or sub-groups within a major religion) to take good care of the environment. Religious practices and spiritual expressions align with many important concepts of environmental ethics, including the value of the natural world, the need to stay within planetary boundaries, the continuity between human and non-human forms of life, the moral significance of all living beings in the eyes of God and/or in the cosmic order, the ritual dependence of human life on the natural world, and the principles of justice and other moral norms that reflect our responsibility to live in balance with nature. Therefore, caring for the Earth as a common home to all religious followers, is a concern that brings religious actors together and enhances peaceful dialogue and coexistence among religions. The Faith for Earth Coalition connects to the intrinsic linkages between faith concepts of stewardship and duty of care and environmental sustainability that improves the socio-economic conditions of all leaving no one behind. Linking religion and culture through environmental sustainability does not only significantly address climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, desertification and unsustainable land and water use, but can also bring religions together to enhance mutual understanding and collaboration.

While the relevance of religious and/or faith-inspired organizations, networks, leaders and communities as well as interreligious dialogue on the environment has been established, UNEP acknowledges that multistakeholder cooperation is necessary in order to achieve sustainable development leaving no one behind. A new and unique multistakeholder platform can truly advance sustainability when it comes to dealing with the environment. Notably, two other constituencies are of high relevance to such a platform: the youth and academia.

Regarding the first, the rationale for involving **young people** is based on UNEP’s long-standing engagement with youth in environmental activities that has taken innovative forms such as the Tunza Youth Strategy or the Young Champions of the Earth Award⁸. The aim of the Coalition is to engage young people in environmental activities, thereby including a sector of the world population that numbers over three billion (classified as persons aged under 25 years). The establishment of a Youth Council raises a generation of environmentally conscious leaders who will better influence environmental decision-making processes and act responsibly to promote sustainable development. In line with UNEP’s Faith for Earth Strategy, the Youth Council is a forum to stimulate youth engagement in interfaith and intercultural harmony activities related to the environment in order to foster peace and cross-cultural understanding.

Regarding the second relevant constituency, the Faith for Earth Coalition includes a **faith-science consortium**. Faith-based leaders have been using scientific findings in their teachings to reach the hearts and minds of their followers. Religious and spiritual leaders use scientific knowledge not only in their ministry, but also through official education. Almost half of the world’s educational institutions are owned or operated by faith organizations that in many cases add to the official curricula various faith-focused lessons and teachings, as well as organize faith-based extra-curricular activities⁹. However, some faith-

⁶ German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (2017), https://www.partner-religion-development.org/fileadmin/Dateien/Resources/Knowledge_Center/Voices_from_Religions_on_Sustainable_Development_April2017_3rd_edition.pdf

⁷ Planet, People, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

⁸ For more information on UNEP’s youth engagement see: <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2013/08/unep-and-youth/>

⁹ UNEP (2018). Engaging with Faith-based Organizations.

based organizations, especially on the local level and in countries of the global south, do not have easy access to global knowledge and scientific evidence related to climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification. Linking religious and traditional knowledge with scientific research and findings about environmental issues offers an innovative approach to strengthen the relationship between environmental stewardship and duty of care as well as to foster ethical behavior and sustainable citizenship. The Faith for Earth Coalition is a means to establish partnerships between FBOs, Religious and Spiritual Leaders and scientists to connect religious wisdom and scientific evidence for the purpose of a mutually inspiring and better-informed communication and knowledge. As for the faith-based context, scientific knowledge and evidence can strengthen *inter alia* school curricula, university curricula, sermons and messaging about the duty of care while featuring current environmental challenges and solutions and relating them to religious, cultural, traditional and indigenous knowledge. Moreover, the global networks of FBOs facilitate the exchange of practices, experiences and lessons learned connecting south to south and north to south and vice versa.

South-south cooperation has already proven effective in enabling technology and knowledge transfer¹⁰. The Coalition is a platform to facilitate exchange of experiences on green economy, environmental challenges and solutions, as well as sustainable lifestyle changes on the individual and on the community level. Global FBO networks have a unique opportunity to facilitate south-south cooperation as many FBOs have strong networks in the Global South. The **unique value-added** of the Faith for Earth Coalition is its **impact on interfaith collaboration regarding environmental issues**. The Faith for Earth Coalition is an innovative model for managing cultural and religious diversity by bringing together a diverse set of stakeholders with different backgrounds and beliefs around the issue of environment which undoubtedly affects all humans regardless of worldview. By partnering and cooperating on solving common environmental threats and challenges, the Coalition contributes to peaceful coexistence, respectful relationships and tolerance among the faiths and tolerance towards Earth. The creative and innovative multistakeholder platform will strengthen the common ground focus and identify where the role of each partner is mutually supporting the other in the joint quest to make a difference and bring environmental protection to the heart of global discussions and local action. The Coalition enhances the involvement of each stakeholder group with the fight against climate change and ecosystem degradation and powerfully scales up faith-based work on environmental protection for a positive impact on the people and the planet. The Coalition intends to create one environmental interfaith voice without compromising individual teachings, but rather maximizing the commonality on environmental protection in each one. Working together towards the common vision of a healthy planet will build confidence among the diverse actors and foster relationships built on trust and mutual tolerance and respect.

By mobilizing young (faith) actors to become change agents in their communities, the Coalition positively engages young people with efforts to tackle global challenges, which might otherwise lead to frustrations among the youth. Those young people contribute to a hopeful outlook in their local communities regarding global threats such as climate change and environmental degradation. Thereby, the Coalition adds unique value to existing efforts on preventing unpeaceful approaches to dealing with frustrations among the youth.

UNEP is committed to promote **gender equality and women's empowerment** in conservation and sustainable development¹¹. The Faith for Earth Coalition builds on the recognition that the full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women in all aspects of the Coalition's governance and outputs

¹⁰ UNEP (2018). Engaging with Faith-based Organizations.

¹¹ UNEP Policy and Strategy for Gender Equality and the Environment 2014-17

is vital for achieving the targeted impact. Recognizing that environmental conditions have different impacts on the lives of men and women due to existing gender inequality, the aim is to create an enabling environment for improving gender equality and the situation of women and girls everywhere, including in rural areas and local communities and among indigenous people and ethnic minorities. In some religious communities, women cannot take on official leadership roles at certain levels. Nevertheless, women already provide much needed leadership at the local level through their strong engagement in voluntary and charity work that serves the spiritual and practical needs of the communities. The Coalition aims to collaborate with these women in order to empower them with knowledge and support regarding environmental issues.

The Faith for Earth Coalition takes a **gender mainstreaming approach** that integrates gender equality and women's empowerment into all areas of work on all levels. As part of the foundational documents, a gender equality and women's empowerment strategy is adopted to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in the Coalition. The strategy aims to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all areas of work of the Coalition, and support partners in the same endeavor, so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects on women and men, respectively. The strategy addresses priority areas. Such areas include *inter alia*: gender-responsive design and implementation of all activities; a gender-sensitive monitoring system which applies gender equality indicators and collects sex-disaggregated data; and gender-responsive rules and regulations for the institutional governance of the Coalition, for example a 50% gender ratio for the Youth Council and the Faith-Science Consortium as well as a standard agenda item on gender equality in the meetings of the Coalition Councils. Being committed to gender equality and women empowerment, the Faith for Earth Coalition applies due sensitivity in accordance with the circumstances regarding gender equality in some faith-based organizations.

Policy dialogue and public engagement on the environment by and with Religious and Spiritual Leaders, FBOs, the Youth and academia add unique value to current global debates. Each of the four constituencies have a strong voice in their own right. Combining these voices while pursuing a common vision inspires, empowers and strengthens action and behavioral changes towards achieving the SDGs. Cooperation and partnership between the four constituencies leads to innovative policies and programs in order to address climate change and ecosystem degradation with a high level of urgency and a sustainable impact on the ground. Particularly, partnering with the far-reaching networks of religious actors opens avenues to reaching the most remote and marginalized communities, including some of the most important environmentally sensitive areas, while leaving no one behind, in the spirit of the Agenda 2030.

The partnership within the Coalition will mobilize creative approaches, inspire actions, create innovative financing mechanisms, cultivate and enhance scientific knowledge and coupling it with indigenous or religious knowledge, and engage like-minded networks to support the achievement of the SDGs at all societal levels. The Faith for Earth Coalition aims to be a genuine and productive partnership based on mutual respect and the recognition of the importance of achieving sustainability in dealing with the environment.

The Faith for Earth Coalition is embedded in the overall approach of the United Nations to strengthen their engagement with faith-based and civil society organizations based on UNEP's Faith for Earth Strategy, UN Interagency Guidelines on Engaging with Faith-based Actors, and the UN General Assembly's Resolution 62/90' among others.

2. Purpose

The Faith for Earth Coalition has the following purposes:

- Build a multistakeholder platform for global interfaith dialogue between Faith Leaders, faith-based organizations, young people, scientists, policy makers and environmentalists on issues that contribute to solving global environmental challenges,
- Facilitate policy dialogue and public engagement on environmental issues encouraging innovative approaches to finding long-lasting solutions at all levels of society,
- Link environmental policy as well as environmental science to faith principles and ethical and religious values and vice versa,
- Partner with (young) faith leaders, FBOs and people of faith at global, regional and local levels to foster the implementation of the SDGs in order to achieve sustainability in dealing with the environment, while ensuring the integration of youth perspectives and energy into overall global efforts,
- Guide the implementation of innovative projects at different levels to contribute to demonstrating the impact of sustainable solutions that are aligned to faith values,
- Promote gender equality and women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in efforts to solve global environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

3. Values

- ❖ Communicate effectively to engage with all stakeholders of the Coalition
- ❖ Respect all spiritual and religious beliefs
- ❖ Empower and engage with all stakeholders of the Coalition
- ❖ Act in ways that reflect and respect individual and communal beliefs
- ❖ Transform people's behaviors through their spiritual values
- ❖ Inspire innovative approaches to achieve the 2030 Agenda
- ❖ Organize knowledge and resources for efficient timely results
- ❖ Network and partner with faith leaders, faith-based organizations, UN organizations, youth organizations, academia and scientists

4. Impact, Outcomes and Outputs

Impact: Environmental degradation is reduced because Religious and Spiritual Leaders, faith-based organizations, young people and scientists of faith publicly engage at all levels of society towards achieving environmental sustainability.

In line with UNEP's Faith for Earth Strategy, the Coalition contributes to the following intermediate impacts:

- Decreased pollution by and through the engagement of faith-communities,
- Decrease in CO2 emissions due to FBO engagement in the fight against climate change,

- Adoption of sustainable lifestyles consistent with faith principles across diverse religious / faith communities,
- Reflection of the efforts of FBOs on environment protection in international policy discussion,
- Greened FBO investments and divestment from fossil-based energy production by FBOs.
- Demonstrated linkages between religious teachings and practical scientific evidence,

Outcomes and Outputs

1. **Outcome:** Religious and Spiritual Leaders, faith-based organizations, young people and scientists of faith at global, regional and local levels cooperate in a powerful Coalition partnership towards achieving environmental sustainability.
 - a. **Output:** A high-level global “Faith for Earth Coalition” is established to facilitate policy dialogue and interfaith collaboration on environmental issues showcasing and encouraging innovative approaches to finding long-lasting solutions to environmental challenges.
2. **Outcome:** Faith-based organizations represented in the Coalition green their investments, operations and assets based on sustainable investment and divestment decisions.
 - a. **Output:** Partnerships with major faith-based financing institutions are established to integrate impact investment related to environmental sustainability in their investment criteria.
3. **Outcome:** Environmental policy and science are linked to faith principles and ethical values and vice versa, and scientific findings around nature and sustainable living are translated into contemporary language that is actionable by people.
 - a. **Output:** A globally accessible knowledge platform is established to share and connect faith-based efforts with UN environment campaigns, presenting science- and religion-based evidence on the nexus between religion and science.

5. Membership

Membership is based on formal request and approval by the Coalition Secretariat based on the following established principles and guided and by membership criteria.

Generic membership criteria for all types of member organizations and persons are:

- Commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Human Rights standards.
- Focus on the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the SDGs.
- Commitment to equality among all humans.
- Demonstration of Interfaith collaboration and dialogue with mutual acceptance and respect.
- Adopt the principles of “Leave no one behind” – Inclusivity and diversity in regional, sectoral, religious and gender representation.
- Transparency in governance structure and decision-making procedures.
- Dedication to building bridges between existing knowledge and experience of the different member types.
- FBOs joining the Coalition at the CEO level should be accredited to UNEP and UNEA. FBOs accredited to ECOSOC can join the coalition, but must apply for Accreditation with UNEP in their first year of membership.

Membership criteria specific to each coalition body:

Body	Members	Membership Criteria
The Council of Eminent Leaders	Established and renowned faith leaders or faith influencers representing all major and minor religions.	Membership is ex officio, either the highest / a central faith leader or a leader, or an individual authorized by the highest faith figure of that faith, responsible for environment activities/programs, development or interfaith dialogue etc.
The Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified young faith leaders (understood as influencers) from major and minor world religions. Leaders (understood as influencers) from faith-based youth organizations working on environmental protection and against climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young persons between the ages of 15 and 30; Active and ongoing engagement in environmental issues, to be proven with voluntary activities, school activities, student activities, study course, and similar. The term 'leaders' for young people includes youth with official leadership positions but also influencers or very engaged young people. 50% gender ratio to be respected for the composition of the youth council, as well as religious and regional diversity. Individual persons as members must sign a code of ethics to ensure respect to membership. Membership is to be reviewed for renewal on bi-annual basis.
Network of FBO's CEOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith-based organizations or faith-inspired organizations accredited to UNEP or to ECOSOC at the level of CEO. Global Interfaith partnerships Identified faith leaders from youth and women organizations. Congregational leaders Any organization that is in line with the definition of FBOs in section 1. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership is ex officio. UNEP or ECOSOC accreditation. In case a faith-based organizations is interested in joining the Coalition but has no UNEP or ECOSOC accreditation, the organization can apply for an observer status at the Coalition in line with the UN regulations on observers. As an interim solution, an interested organization can join the Coalition through an official Coalition member who is accredited to UNEP or ECOSOC. Such an organization must apply for accreditation within the first year of membership.
The Faith-Science Consortium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith-based educational institutions Theological institutes and colleges Secular scientific and educational institutions focusing on sustainable development, environment, religion, economic development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific organizations, individual scientists and faith influencers with proven track record in working on the environment from officially recognized academic institutions or faith-based educational institutes, as well as theological institutes or colleges. Scientists can come from various disciplines: theologians, sociologists, environmentalists, economists, etc. Faith influencers can also be individuals who do not belong to a formal organization but have an established reputation in a faith community. 50% gender ratio to be respected for the composition of the Faith-Science Consortium. Individual persons as members must sign a code of ethics to ensure respect to membership.

Other Members:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 43 accredited organizations to UNEP and others interested accredited to ECOSOC. • UN Agencies and other multilateral organizations working on the environment or sustainable development. • Interested Governments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By default, all UN Agencies are represented in the Coalition by the co-chairs of the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development. However, individual UN Agencies can send their own representative to the Coalition. Other multilateral organizations working on the environment and/or sustainable development may join the Coalition either permanently or as advisors or observers.
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There is no maximum limit for the number of members of the Coalition. The size of the Youth Council, the FBO Network and the Religion-Science Consortium are to be monitored by the Coalition Secretariat to ensure regional representation, functionality and management of the three bodies, as well as a fruitful interrelationship between the Coalition bodies.

6. Proposed Structure

The Faith for Earth Coalition is a global multistakeholder platform comprising four Coalition Councils:

1. The Council of Eminent Leaders
2. The Youth Council
3. The Network of FBO's CEOs
4. The Faith-Science Consortium

6.1. The Four Coalition Bodies

1. **Council of Eminent Leaders:** Composed of 20 to 30 high-level faith leaders representing major and minor world religions in terms of number of adherents. Interfaith collaboration and joint faith voices regarding the environment will be an example of collaboration on common environmental issues among the different beliefs. Fruitful cooperation in the Council of Eminent Leaders is possible because protection of the Earth and duty of care are shared principles among all world's religions. The Council of Eminent Leaders will provide a united global voice on environmental issues for faith followers who represent more than 80% of the global population. The wisdom that high-level faith-leaders have gained through their ministry will fruitfully feed into the strategic direction and activities of the Coalition.

The Council of Eminent Leaders meets every two years with the other coalition bodies and the Coalition Steering Committee, as well as policymakers, political leaders and scientists in the context of the Coalition Global Forum which takes place every two years back to back with UNEA. Other meetings can be held upon request of one of the Eminent Leaders and endorsement of more than 50% of the members of this council.

2. **Council of the Youth:** Composed of young faith leaders as well as leaders of youth movements advocating for the protection of the Earth. The Council of Youth is a platform to mobilize young people as global ambassadors on Faith for Earth across the Coalition and beyond. Participating young leaders will learn how to address environmental degradation and climate change at the

local level and will encourage innovation, mobilize actions, especially focusing on the local level. The Council of Youth aims to promote an understanding of the connection between faith principles and environmental issues among young people. The Council of the Youth has Regional and Local sub-councils. Their task is to mobilize youth on the ground and implement Coalition projects and activities in local faith communities.

The Youth Council meets annually, one meeting taking place back to back with the biannual Global Forum of the Coalition. The second meeting is a digital conference where Youth come together on an interactive online platform. More digital conferences can be called to be held by representatives of the Youth Council to address important and emerging issues.

3. **Network of CEOs of Faith-based Organizations:** Composed of faith-based organizations with a focus on the environment or those working with (local) faith communities responding to the Sustainable Development Goals, from all major religions.

The mission of this network is to engage faith-based communities to achieve commitments, identify priorities of action, and mobilize networks for joint interfaith actions.

The network meets annually, one meeting taking place back to back with the biannual Global Forum of the Coalition, the other meeting taking place back to back with the Youth Council meeting in a digital conference space.

4. **Faith-Science Consortium:** Composed of theologians, scientists and environmentalists to bridge the gap between environmental science and religions. This consortium will be responsible to provide the scientific evidence connected to faith teachings on caring for the natural resources.

The Consortium meets biannually with the other coalition bodies, as well as policymakers, political leaders and scientists in the context of the Coalition Global Forum.

The proposed structure is a global structure. If required by Coalition members, the structure can be replicated at the national level in order to ensure effective implementation of the Coalition's work on national and local levels, while taking into account specific contextual factors in the respective national society.

6.1.1. The Role of Each Coalition Body and the Relationship between Them

The four Coalition bodies have different **roles**, which arise a) from the character and composition of the body, and b) from the relationship to the other three bodies.

Roles concerning character and composition: The following functions apply to each body due to their character and composition:

The **Council of Eminent Leaders** contributes **leadership, wisdom and theological views** to the work of the Coalition as well as a global voice in international fora and among faith followers on relevant environmental issues.

The **Youth Council** is composed primarily of young people from the Generation Z and partly Generation Y, who are both known for their high level of (global) interconnectedness especially via Social Media. Hence, the Youth Council contributes '**Encounter**' be it digital or analogue. Youth will be mobilized as

agents of change within their communities, at the regional and global levels, thereby providing social leadership on all levels. The energy and innovation of the youth will contribute to launching on the ground initiatives to solve environmental issues at the community level. The Youth will be encouraged to establish and lead local councils that bring together, with positive energy, other youth to drive change and implement nature and local-based solutions. The Youth Council will benefit from the Coalition by strategically engaging with the other three bodies, either in terms of wisdom/religion, practical experience of FBO work or science, research and innovation.

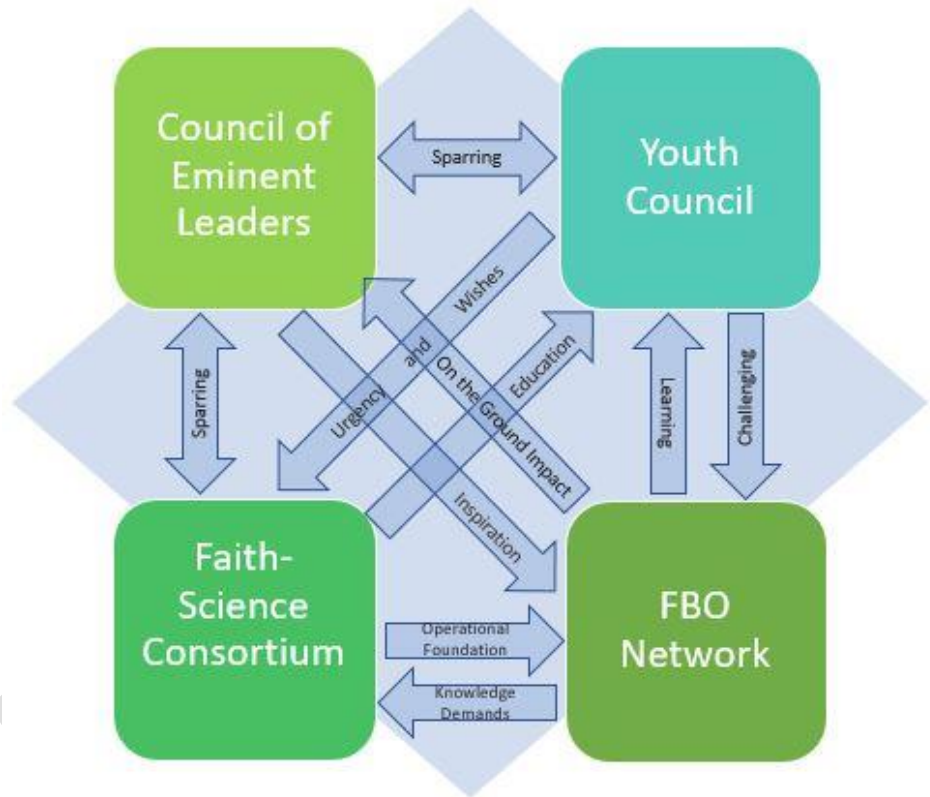
The representatives within the third body, the **FBO network**, contribute '**Collaboration and Networking**' as it is part of their inherent function to collaborate and partner with diverse actors in the area of charity and development work at different levels from international to congregational collaboration. They benefit from the Coalition by strategically engaging with the other bodies, learning from the wisdom of the Council of Eminent Leaders and the energy and innovative ideas of the Youth Council, while contributing practical case studies to the research findings from the Faith-Science Consortium.

The members of the **Faith-Science Consortium** contribute '**Insight**' and **Scientific-faith-based Evidence** to the Coalition as this Consortium is made up of scientists and researchers from environmental disciplines and religion. Being members of the Coalition, they get in contact with the three other bodies comprising different actors with diverse dynamics, experiences and information. For the scientists, this encounter can be translated into knowledge that contributes to their research work, e.g. a scientist could receive valuable information from the Religious Leaders concerning a theological question, or a social scientist concerned with sustainable development gets insight into the field experience of an FBO.

Coalition Body	Contribution	Benefit
Council of Eminent Leaders	Wisdom/Religion/Leadership	Sharing / Interfaith Tolerance
Youth Council	Encounter / Social Leadership	Strategic Exchange / Local Leadership and Innovation
FBO Network	Collaboration / Networking	Strategic Engagement
Faith-Science Consortium	Insight / Scientific-faith-based Evidence	Information / Knowledge

Roles in terms of relationship to the other three bodies: The following represents relationships between the four Coalition bodies, as illustrated below, and shows how the bodies interrelate to each other to become one Coalition, and which roles arise from these relationships:

The nature of the relationship between the Council of Eminent Leaders and the Youth Council, as both occupy leadership roles within their own spheres, is one of **sparring partners**, in the sense of exchanging ideas, experiences and viewpoints with the goal to foster intergenerational learning. The Council of Eminent Leaders also has a **sparring partner** relationship with the Faith-Science Consortium, exchanging wisdom and principles of the Religions and Spiritual Leaders with the insights and research of academia so that both constituencies complement the knowledge in their respective field. The Religious and Spiritual Leaders are the heads of (global) religious communities which comprise numerous charity and development agencies (FBOs) as well



as congregations. The agencies and congregations achieve a significant **on the ground impact** in terms of charity and social development, which is **inspired** by the wisdom / religion of the religious community they adhere to. The relationship between the Youth Council and the FBO Network is that of a **marketplace of challenging and learning**: The Youth Council can **challenge** established FBO work with innovative approaches and ideas while at the same time **learn** from the practical experiences of FBOs. Likewise, the Youth Council can express an **urgency of demands** related to research on eco-system restoration or the fight against climate change vis-à-vis the Faith-Science-Consortium. Moreover, the Youth Council can express their **wishes** vis-à-vis the natural scientists and theologians regarding research on environmental issues. At the same time, they receive **education** from the insights and research results of the Faith-Science Consortium. The FBO network equally expresses **knowledge demands** in faith and science towards the Faith-Science Consortium because FBOs need spiritual wisdom, principles, research, information and data as the **operational foundation** for their practical work.

In principle, there is no hierarchy between the bodies, while it must be acknowledged that due to its composition, the Council of Eminent Leaders enjoys a distinct authority that cannot be matched by the other three bodies.

From each functional relationship, specific outputs can arise which are listed in section 5. Outputs.

Two practical outputs tie the work of the whole Coalition together:

1. A **joint biannual topic** to which each body makes their contribution, while all benefit from the diverse contributions. The biannual topic will be the same as the theme of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)¹² in order to increase effectiveness of the Coalition and ensure innovative contributions to the programmatic work of UNEP and UNEA. The two-year work cycle of the Coalition corresponds to the biannual gatherings of UNEA. The aim of the Coalition is to foster innovation in each area of contribution, therefore the Coalition's biannual work plans will cover the corresponding areas as illustrated in the graphic.
2. Each two-year work cycle culminates in a **Global Forum** as the key event to bring the four bodies together. In line with the biannual work plan, the whole Coalition works towards the Global Forum, marking the end of one biannual work plan and the beginning of a new work plan. The Global Forum will be held on the theme of UNEA for that session and the Coalition can deliver statements to the official delegations. Accredited FBOs will have had the chance to comment and contribute to the UNEA resolutions over the period of their development as per UNEP's rules and regulations to engage civil society.



6.2. Governance

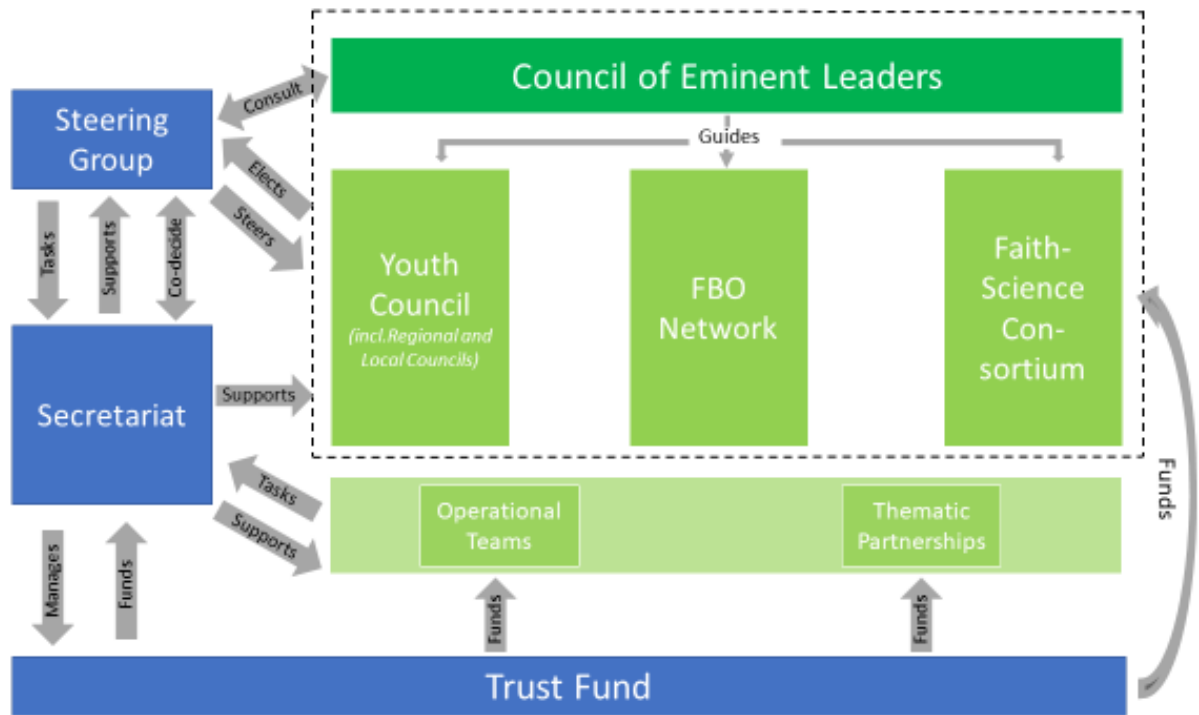
Reference: Draft of Statutes of the Coalition

The Coalition is governed by a Steering Committee (SC) for which UNEP's Faith for Earth Unit acts as the Coalition Secretariat. In a cooperative working relationship with rights and responsibilities as prescribed in the Statutes of the Coalition (see Annex), the SC oversees the work of the Secretariat which is responsible for executing the delivery of the Coalition and reporting on progress towards the intended impact.

The rights and responsibilities of the four Coalition bodies, the Steering Committee and the Secretariat are articulated in the Statutes of the Coalition (see Annex).

Organizational Chart

¹² The topic for the UN Environment Assembly is determined in a consultative process engaging Member States and Global Major Groups and Stakeholders which include civil society. Coalition members are invited to contribute to this consultation process.



6.2.1. Decision-Making

Reference: Draft of Statutes of the Coalition

The governance model distributes most decision-making power (regarding programmatic work, approval of budget, approval of funding requests) to the Coalition Steering Committee, in which the Youth Council, the FBO Network and the Faith-Science Consortium are equally represented with three representatives. The Council of Eminent Leaders may send delegates to the Steering Committee if it so wishes. The Secretariat holds the decision-making power over membership requests, staffing of the Secretariat (as it is managed by UNEP) and the usage of funds from the Trust Fund for its daily business. The Secretariat is responsible for preparing all decisions that are to be taken by the Steering Committee. The UNEP Faith for Earth Director is the Coalition Executive Secretary and has an ex officio seat in the Coalition Steering Committee. Members in the Coalition Steering Committee have equal votes, while the Coalition Secretary does not have a vote.

The Coalition, including all members of all four Coalition bodies, will contribute to proposing outputs and activities in the biannual work plan at the Coalition Global Forum. The work plan is prepared by the Coalition Secretariat in consultation with the Steering Committee and all Coalition bodies. The Coalition bodies also have the right to decide on changes being made to the Statutes of the Coalition if a motion by the majority is raised for that purpose.

While the Council of Eminent Leaders is the global high-level voice of the Coalition, it also provides normative guidance and leadership to the Coalition. The Council can, at its discretion, use different mechanisms (e.g. statements, calls) to provide a global interfaith voice on the environment.

The Youth Council has its own Steering Committee that is bestowed with decision-making power regarding the activities of the Youth Council. This governance arrangement fosters youth engagement and empowers the next generation to take responsibility.

The FBO Network does not have a formal leadership body that can take decisions but is a network space for collaboration that should connect FBOs to one another and to the other Coalition bodies in order to engage in activities in Operational Teams or Thematic Partnerships.

The Faith-Science Consortium does not have a formal leadership but is more of a space to bring together scientists of various disciplines to provide evidence for the faith-science nexus and to engage in joint activities (also with the other Coalition bodies) to be operationalized in Operational Teams or Thematic Partnerships. The Faith-Science Consortium can collaborate with the existing science-business forum within UNEP as it requests.

6.2.2. Modalities of Work

Reference: Draft of Statutes of the Coalition

The work of the Coalition focuses on the partnership among Religious and Spiritual Leaders, faith-based organizations, youth and academia to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensure a healthy planet.

The Coalition works in a **two-year cycle** with a **biannual work plan**. Each Coalition body contributes to the work plan as per their role (cf. section 6.1.1.). The biannual topic will be the same as the theme of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in order to increase effectiveness of the Coalition and ensure innovative contributions to the programmatic work of UNEP and UNEA. At the Coalition's Global Forum, which takes place every two years, the Coalition members approve the biannual work plan.

The Coalition applies a flexible mechanism of work under which **Operational Teams** and **Thematic Partnerships**, made up of members from each of the four constituencies, can (ad hoc) cooperate on specific activities. These activities must be in line with the biannual work plan of the Coalition. In order to maintain continuous engagement by Coalition members, i.e. in the form of an active Coalition core, a **labelling system for Coalition Champions** is applied.

Operational Teams

The operational work of the Coalition, including project implementation, is carried out by Operational Teams, with the support of the Coalition Secretariat to ensure consistency in country and global activities. An Operational Team develops an operational activity, such as a project, a publication, an event, and similar. The activity of an Operational Team must be in line with / part of the Coalition work plan for the biennium and contribute to the intended outcomes and impact of the Coalition.

The Operational Teams are formed on a voluntary basis by members. The Operational Teams must consist of members from each of the four Coalition bodies, while a member from the Council of Eminent Leaders is optional. It is possible to include staff members and consultants from the organizations who are directly involved in the implementation of activities. The funding procedure is organized in such a way as to ensure diversity. The Coalition Statutes state that the more diversity in terms of religions, gender and regions among project partners from the Coalition bodies, the higher is the probability of approval of a proposal. Gender equality, regional representation and religious diversity are principles to be respected in the composition of an Operational Team.

The Operational Teams can apply for funding from the Coalition Trust Fund with a project proposal. Another funding mechanism for the Operational Teams are funding partnership with a donor, e.g. a government, a philanthropic organization or a private company who may wish to finance the precise activity. The Operational Teams are obliged to report and monitor their activities in line with the Coalition monitoring system.

Thematic Partnerships

Thematic Partnerships are a specialized discussion space in order for the Coalition members to engage in interfaith policy dialogues, scientific/theological exchanges and thematic discussions for the purpose of moving forward the interfaith and science-faith debate regarding innovative solutions to environmental challenges. Instead of implementing practical projects, a thematic partnership is dedicated to one (or more) focused topics where faith representatives, youth, scientists and practitioners engage in knowledge and information exchange, exchange of best practices and lessons learned. The interfaith dialogue in the thematic partnership around the common concern about the environment shall foster mutual tolerance and peaceful relationships. A Thematic Partnership shall integrate the connection of environmental science to faith principles and ethical values and vice versa into its discussion space, while knowledge and science-based evidence on the nexus between religion and science shall be provided. The activity of a Thematic Partnership must be in line with / part of the Coalition work plan for the biennium and contribute to the intended outcomes and impact of the Coalition.

The Thematic Partnerships are formed on a voluntary basis by members. Thematic Partnerships must consist of members from each of the four Coalition bodies, while a member from the Council of Eminent Leaders is optional. It is possible to include staff members, scientists, theologians and consultants from the organizations who are directly working on the topic of the partnership. The funding procedure is organized in such a way as to ensure diversity. The Coalition Statutes state that the more diversity in terms of religions, gender and regions among project partners from the Coalition bodies, the higher is the probability of approval of a proposal. Gender equality, regional representation and religious diversity are principles to be respected in the composition of a Thematic Partnership.

A Thematic Partnership can apply for funding from the Coalition Trust Fund with a project proposal. Another funding mechanism for a Thematic Partnership are funding partnership with a donor, e.g. a government, a philanthropic organization or a private company who may wish to finance the precise activity. The Thematic Partnerships are obliged to report and monitor their activities in line with the Coalition monitoring system.

Labelling System for an Active Coalition Core – The Coalition Champions

The Coalition applies a labelling system in order to inspire active and continuous engagement by a core number of Coalition members. The label is called “**Faith for Earth Coalition Champion**” (in line with the UNEP’s Champion of the Earth Award).

While Coalition members can join as ordinary members, those organizations/individuals who are especially engaged in moving forward the work of the Coalition can win the label “Coalition Champion”. A Coalition Champion must fulfil requirements: the individual/organization (1) must continuously participate in Coalition activities, e.g. at the Global Forum, in Operational Teams or in Thematic Partnerships, and (2) must make one remarkable contribution to the Coalition Digital Knowledge Platform per year or a remarkable on the ground contribution.

The Coalition Secretariat will oversee and authorize the distribution of the label considering the principles of gender equality, religious diversity and regional representation. The label is valid for one year, e.g. an organization can be labelled “Coalition Champion 2021”. The Secretariat will review the label of each Champion every year and decide whether the label is continued or retrieved. Ideally, Coalition Champions continue to be engaged across several years and be labelled “Coalition Champion 2021 / 2022 / 2023 and so on.

The Coalition Secretariat, possibly in form of a creative competition, will organize the design of the logo for the Coalition Champions. The logo can be used for public communication by a Coalition Champion after approval by the Secretariat and in line with the rules and regulations governing the logo use but must contain elements of the existing Faith for Earth Initiative and/or its slogan.

The Coalition Secretariat

The Coalition is supported by a Secretariat hosted by UNEP Faith for Earth. The Secretariat shall report to the Coalition Steering Committee as well as to the UNEP Executive Office.

The Secretariat shall have the following functions and responsibilities (see statutes for details): Programmatic Coordination; Support and Logistics; Manage finances; communications; Membership and Partnerships; and Monitoring and Evaluation.

The Secretariat will be staffed with 4 FTE (full-time equivalent): 1 Coalition Executive Secretary (1 FTE), 1 Coalition communications manager (1 FTE), 1 Coalition financial manager (1 FTE) and 1 administrative assistant (1 FTE). Preferably, based on needs and available resources, the Secretariat will be staffed with at least 10 FTE (full-time equivalent) staff when the Coalition is fully functional: 1 Coalition Executive Secretary (1 FTE), 4 Coalition senior project managers/programme officers, i.e. one for each Coalition body (4 FTE), 1 Coalition researcher in order to provide scientific support, 1 Coalition communications manager (1 FTE), 1 Monitoring and Evaluation officer, and 2 Coalition administrative and financial support (2 FTE). In addition, the Secretariat will be staffed by UNEP interns.

The Coalition Secretariat is an office of UNEP governed by its rules and regulations as well as strategies and policies. It becomes active on the basis of (a) decisions by the Coalition Steering Committee, (b) the biannual work plan adopted by the whole Coalition, and (c) requests by the Operational Teams and the Thematic Partnerships, as far as funding is available. In cases of conflict of interest, the SC together with UNEP’s Executive Office and relevant units within UNEP shall intervene.

To ensure successful functioning, the Secretariat requires an annual operational budget of 550.000 USD p.a. (estimated values), covering staff, travel, IT, supplies commodities and materials and communication cost.

The most appropriate location of the Secretariat will be determined based on factors such as mobility, connectivity, FBO bases and connection to Intergovernmental Organizations.

Other Modalities of Work

In addition to the modalities of work explained above, members of the different membership groups may convene separately on request and engage in activities to contribute towards the achievement of the Coalition’s goals as described in the biannual work plan.

The Coalition is to become a predominantly **digital community** in order to reduce CO2 emissions and pollution by air travel and the management of large conferences. Physical meetings are only the Coalition Global Forum back to back with UNEA and other meetings by Coalition bodies as needed. The Secretariat will have a physical space.

The Coalition Secretariat will prepare an **annual report** as a mechanism for internal and external monitoring of the activities by the Coalition and in order to make transparent the achievements of the Coalition.

7. Activities

The Coalition will engage in a range of activities that contribute to achieving the outputs and outcomes, and ultimately the impact of the Coalition. The draft of the project work plan (annex) proposes a list of activities that the Coalition could engage in, while it must be emphasized that this is merely a suggested list. The discussion about activities will be held in the interim steering committee of the Coalition in order to ensure a maximum level of ownership and trust among Coalition members. Once the Coalition bodies are functional, each Coalition body proposes and develops activities in a bottom-up approach ensuring the participation of all members.

All activities by the Coalition will be developed in partnership with local faith-based NGOs in order to ensure contextualization and ownership. Home-grown solutions, which are present in many locations already, should be scaled up to achieve impact. In all activities the Coalition partners should be aware of the danger of duplication. Many faith-based organizations already work on the environment and climate change and one major focus of the Coalition is to showcase and connect existing work and scale up existing approaches instead of creating new activities. The Coalition shall aim to strengthen, promote and support existing efforts.

All of activities of the Coalition will be monitored to consider gender equality, religious minorities and vulnerable groups. The theories of change of the activities of the Coalition will consider the fact that climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, women and girls, refugees, and religious minorities. Those disproportional effects are to be tackled by the activities of the Coalition. A sensitive use of language in all activities will be applied.

The suggested activities of the Coalition can be roughly clustered into three broad areas: 1. Local level action, 2. Education/training/information exchange, 3. Advocacy. Those three areas of activities will take place across the three outcomes and corresponding three outputs:

1. **Outcome:** Religious and Spiritual Leaders, faith-based organizations, young people and scientists of faith at global, regional and local levels cooperate in a powerful Coalition partnership towards achieving environmental sustainability.
 - a. **Output:** A high-level global “Faith for Earth Coalition” is established to facilitate policy dialogue and interfaith collaboration on environmental issues showcasing and encouraging innovative approaches to finding long-lasting solutions to environmental challenges.
 - i. **Activities:** Interfaith policy dialogue on environmental issues that showcases and encourages innovative approaches to finding long-lasting solutions to environmental challenges will be held among all Coalition members. Through various local, national and global level advocacy initiatives, Religious and Spiritual Leaders and faith-based

organizations will be actively involved in global debates on integrating ethical, moral and religious values into the design and implementation of environment programs and initiatives, while interfaith dialogue around the common concern about the environment will foster mutual tolerance and peaceful relationships. Moreover, intergenerational, gender-responsive dialogue will be held to translate faith-values into actionable creative approaches addressing environmental challenges and halting environmental degradation on local, national and global levels. Trainings and practical projects connecting religious beliefs with environmental sustainability will be held to build capacity among faith-based actors at regional, national and local levels for effective engagement in tackling environmental issues.

2. **Outcome:** The faith-based organizations represented in the Coalition green their investments, operations and assets based on sustainable investment and divestment decisions.
 - a. **Output:** Partnerships with major faith-based financing institutions are established to integrate impact investment related to environmental sustainability in their investment criteria.
 - i. **Activities:** Tailored capacity building projects on green investment principles take place that are contextualized, religion-based and gender-responsive. Faith-based organizations financial institutions are encouraged to join the global network of UN Environment Finance Initiative and include in their criteria for investments principles of environmental sustainability. Tailored and contextualized support for faith-based organizations will be provided to manage their lands, resources, establishments and investments sustainably and responsibly.
3. **Outcome: Environmental policy and science are linked to faith principles and ethical values and vice versa, and scientific findings around nature and sustainable living are translated into contemporary language that is actionable by people.**
 - a. **Output:** A globally accessible knowledge platform is established to share and connect faith-based efforts with UN environment campaigns, presenting science- and religion-based evidence on the nexus between religion and science.
 - i. **Activities:** An online knowledge platform linking faith principles, scientific findings and practical work regarding the environment and environmental policies will be established. Scientific findings and traditional faith based messages around nature and sustainable living will be translated into contemporary, contextualized language that is actionable by people, such as low plastic waste, composting and food waste prevention, low carbon mobility, low impact food choices, energy efficiency and circular economy. Advocacy tools that include science- and religion-based evidence on the nexus between religion and science will be developed and distributed, and advocacy in the scientific community to demonstrate the value of collaboration with FBOs takes place.

8. Funding

Reference: Coalition Resource Mobilization Strategy

The Coalition employs various funding mechanisms: (1) an unearmarked Coalition Trust Fund, (2) Funding Partnerships, and (3) traditional resource mobilization e.g. by addressing different donors on one-on-one basis. The Secretariat is mandated to explore diverse sources of funding in line with the Coalition resource mobilization strategy that must be approved by the consultative and interim Steering Committee.

8.1. Trust Fund

The Coalition is to receive seed funds from interested governments and other donors to be deposited in an unearmarked Trust Fund created to cover the expenses of the Secretariat and the implementation of innovative interfaith projects in line with the Coalition's biannual work plan. The Trust Fund is open to traditional and non-traditional donors including but not limited to philanthropists, family foundations, faith-based organizations and faith-based financial institutions, private sector actors and others.

The (consultative and interim) Steering Committee and the Coalition Secretary decide on the allocation of resources from the Trust Fund. The Coalition Secretariat oversees the fundraising, budget and financial administration of the Trust Fund. The funds of the Trust Fund are held in UNEP Accounts.

The resources of the Trust Fund will be used for the following **purposes**:

- The operational expenses of the Coalition Secretariat, including, staff and travel;
- The implementation of the Coalition communication campaigns and fund-raising campaigns;
- External monitoring and evaluation of the Coalition's activities and achievement of targets;
- Activities by the Coalition in line with the biannual Coalition work plan, such as:
 - The Coalition Global Forum, incl. staff, travel, accommodation etc.
 - The work of the Operational Teams after successful funding request.
 - The work of the Thematic Partnerships after successful funding request.
 - Funding innovative projects by FBOs on identified priority areas in line with the Coalition work plan.

UNEP's regulations¹³ on engaging with implementing partners will be applicable to the project funding distributed to the Trust Fund. Coalition Operational Teams and Thematic Partnerships can apply for funding from the Trust Fund. Co-funding is encouraged (cash and in kind) and decided on a case-by-case basis. In assessing funding proposals, diverse partnerships in terms of religions, gender and region are an important criterion for assessment. Other important criteria are the innovation of the project approach as well as the connection to the theme of UNEA / the biannual work plan of the Coalition. Funding from the Trust Fund is available for small-scale, medium-scale and large-scale projects. Once the Trust Fund has a sufficient amount of resources to cover all expenses related to the Coalition, a structure for funding will be developed.

A **resource mobilization strategy** will be implemented in order to acquire resources for the Trust Fund. High level communication and advocacy vis-à-vis donors will be conducted in order to directly address governments as traditional donors among others. Directly after the Coalition launch, a two-year campaign will take place with the aim of acquiring funds for the Trust Fund, while at the same time making the Coalition known and winning more members (reference: communication strategy, resource mobilization strategy). The campaign will illustrate the comparative advantage and the relevance of the Faith for Earth Coalition. The campaign will run online and offline. The target groups of the campaign are individual

¹³ UNEP PARTNERSHIP POLICY AND PROCEDURES, 2011.

donors, as well as institutional donors. In addition, after year 2, every year, a 3-month fundraising campaign will be launched. The campaign will have the thematic focus of the Coalition Global Forum and will run online and offline. As it is too expensive to have continuous fundraising campaigns running, the set-up of a yearly 3-months long campaign is feasible and efficient.

Moreover, the Trust Fund will be advertised and communicated to relevant faith-based financial institutions. Those institutions hold large financial and investment assets that would be directed towards “Impact Investment”. UNEP aims to create partnership with such institutions to exchange experiences and take common action on shared priorities to accelerate and the drive towards sustainable finance in the context of the Coalition.

Each Coalition member may, at its discretion, contribute funds, personnel, and other resources to the Coalition subject to the laws, regulations, and policies of the Partner. Coalition members are free to decide the amount of funding. No membership fee is required of members.

8.2. Funding Partnerships

The Coalition establishes funding partnerships with interested donors / sponsors from public and private sectors. Within such partnerships, one or more donors/sponsors can provide funding for specific key expenses of the Coalition. For example:

- Funding all expenses related to the biannual Coalition Global Forum;
- Funding the expenses of the Secretariat for a certain amount of time (at least 6 months);
- Funding the digital infrastructure of the Coalition for the digital conferences for at least 1 year;
- Adopt an Operational Team or a Thematic Partnership for the period of at least 2 years and fund their projects and activities;
- Fund a major study (*research period: at least 12 month, research budget: at least USD 50,000*);
- Sponsor two (or more) Youth Ambassadors for a period of two years (e.g. USD 3000 travel budget, USD 1000 reimbursements for expenses) so that they are able to attend conference meetings or local project implementation of the Coalition. The sponsor has the option to sponsor one female and one male Ambassador, or two female Ambassadors. Sponsoring two male ambassadors is not possible. Sponsoring of Youth Ambassadors shall respect the principles of religious diversity and regional representation.

Funding partnerships with donors / sponsors are to be implemented in line with UNEP’s Rules and Regulations.

The Coalition will partner with **UNEP Finance Initiative** (UNEP FI). UNEP FI provides a global partnership platform with the global financial sector. Coupled with a strong focus on policy, the initiative could facilitate the most needed coupling of remodeling investment and the impact of financial reforms needed to achieve the SDGs involving faith-based investments. Through UNEP FI’s Positive Impact Initiative a new paradigm for engaging faith-based organizations could be explored.

8.3. Budget

Reference: Financial and Administrative Plan for 5 Years (Basic Scenario and Extended Scenario)

The costs for running the Coalition in its first year will be 1.3 Million USD. The overall costs for running the Coalition for the first five years will be 6.5 Million USD as per basic funding scenario.

9. Monitoring System

The basis for the Coalition monitoring system is transparency regarding responsibilities, accountability and agreed target indicators that enable the measurement of progress towards achieving outputs and outcomes and ultimately the intended impact. A robust monitoring system increases the legitimacy of the Coalition and enables the Coalition to demonstrate achieved results and successes. This in turn increases transparency and accountability, builds trust and credibility, motivates other actors to participate in the Coalition and attracts donor interest.

The continuous monitoring of the Coalition's activities will be conducted by the Secretariat which will be staffed with a monitoring and evaluation officer once resources are available. The Monitoring System of UNEP will be applied to the work of the Coalition. The monitoring system will be anchored at local, national and international levels. The Secretariat will cooperate closely with UNEP's Evaluation Office on monitoring and evaluation.

The Coalition Secretariat will prepare an annual report every year as the primary mechanism for internal and external monitoring of the activities by the Coalition and in order to make transparent the achievements of the Coalition measured by indicators and the linkages with UNEP program of work.

UNEP's Evaluation Office will carry out regular evaluations of the Coalition in line with UNEP's Evaluation Policy.

10. Operationalization of the Coalition

10.1. Consultative Process of Establishment

The establishment of the Faith for Earth Coalition is a consultative process. UNEP's partners in the area of Faith for Earth and beyond will initially be consulted in form of an online survey in order to gather feedback and impulses on the direction the Coalition should take in terms of activities, outputs, structure and membership. After the first round of consultation, the coalition documents will be drafted by UNEP Faith for Earth and will be circulated among UNEP's partners in the area of Faith for Earth and beyond in order to receive feedback and comments on the documents. Once the concept and the foundational documents are approved by UNEP's executive office, legal office and a critical mass of relevant stakeholders, the Coalition can officially be launched with the adoption of the documents by the members of the Coalition.

10.2. Small-scale Launch of the Coalition

Instead of funding a large-scale launch event which consumes a lot of resources and produces a lot of CO₂ emissions because of air flights being taken, the launch of the Coalition will be designed in an innovative and participatory small-scale event. In the run-up to the small-scale launch, the Coalition documents will be circulated for feedback to all relevant stakeholders and potential members in order to secure their contributions and membership and a sense of responsibility. The small-scale launch event will hold a workshop for leaders and representatives from FBOs and other relevant stakeholders to work on the further development of the Coalition concept, its activities, objectives and governance. The participatory session shall ensure ownership and buy-in by Coalition members. After the technical workshop, the official launch ceremony will take place with high-level faith leaders from all major and minor religions present to provide a global interfaith voice to the efforts of the Coalition in tackling environmental challenges.

As the Coalition will be the main faith-based conduit to impact policy, a connection between the launch event and UNEA, which will take place in February 2021, shall be established. The theme for UNEA 5 is "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals." The theme calls for strengthened action to protect and restore nature and nature-based solutions to achieve the SDGs in their

three complementary dimensions (social, economic and environmental). As faith leaders and FBOs wield considerable influence on people's behavior and because of their central role within traditional and indigenous communities who have lived in harmony with nature for eons, it is essential to consider the role of faith in generating action and strengthening nature-based solutions.

The outcomes of the small-scale launch event, including the technical workshops, is planned to feed into the deliberations and resolutions of the 5th UNEA. Ideally, the faith leaders and representatives present at the small-scale launch event will draft a declaration to be read out in the plenary of UNEA5, in which the FBO representatives endorse the establishment of the Coalition and require the UN system and all involved parties to work towards building and maintaining such a Coalition. Additionally, via an interested government, the FBOs could work on submitting a resolution to UNEA regarding the Coalition in order to involve more governments. Moreover, faith-related side events, such as a high-level interfaith dialogue on the theme of UNEA5 will be held during the time of the assembly. If the Coalition has taken up enough speed until UNEA5 and has secured a good proportion of global membership, a bigger launch event could be considered in order to promote the Coalition and advertise it globally.

Until UNEA5, the Faith for Earth Unit will work on increasing the number of interested members in the Coalition via bilateral meetings with FBOs as well as by presenting the Coalition concept at global conferences.

A small-scale launch and a gradual build-up of the Coalition will contribute to financial stability during the initial phase of the global platform and will consume resources in a healthier, more sustainable way, while at the same time building a stable stock of resources to be deposited in the Coalition Trust Fund that can start funding local projects.

10.3. Consultative and Interim Steering Committee

A Consultative and Interim Steering Committee is established prior to the launch of the Coalition as well as in the first year of its establishment until there is a quorum to allow election of the formal Coalition Steering Committee. The Consultative and Interim Steering Committee is established prior to the launch of the Coalition in order to consult with relevant key stakeholders on the governance, structure, membership, activities and other relevant areas of the multistakeholder partnership in advance. This consultative procedure allows potential Coalition members to contribute their expertise while at the same time ensuring ownership and participation, which in turn will lead to higher rates of engagement and commitment. The Consultative and Interim Steering Committee will approach relevant governments and high-level staff in multilateral organizations within and beyond the UN system in order to ensure political buy-in. The Faith for Earth Secretariat will invite members to the Consultative and Interim Steering Committee. The Coordinator of the Faith for Earth Initiative is a member of this group ex officio.

10.4. Statutes

Reference: Draft of Statutes of the Coalition

The statutes of the Coalition are developed in accordance with this concept note and attached in the annex.

10.5. Communication and PR

Reference: Coalition Communication Strategy

Up to the launch of the Coalition and thereafter, an extensive and concerted communication strategy will be implemented including inter alia the following:

- Dissemination of videos, flyers, posters,
- Interviews with relevant faith leaders to be published on UNEP's website,
- Approach global newspapers, TV channels and internet sites to cover the Coalition launch and/or the topic of religion and environment,
- Movie clips on environmental issues as reflected in different faith drawing interfaith linkages,
- Launch of the Faith for Earth Coalition Website, including interactive spaces for all Coalition constituencies,
- Social Media campaign including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and potentially YouTube.

In order to generate funding, which is one of the primary activities, a very precise two-pager about the Coalition is produced that is distributed to potential donors. The two-pager presents strong arguments why the achievement of the green SDGs is impossible without faith actors, while explaining the planned objectives and the set-up of the Coalition. It showcases the existing work of FBOs on environmental sustainability and presents data and facts that illustrate that faith actors are essential to reach the green SDGs. The two-pager lists precise activities and the amount of funding required so that donors can see what resources are needed for which activity. The aim of the two-pager is to show the strategic added-value and win-win for potential donors to make financial contributions to the Coalition or its activities.

Moreover, an effective communication system will be established that will be implemented and monitored by the Coalition Secretariat.