

## Faith's imPACT: Promoting Human Fraternity, Empowering Future Generations

Hosted by  
Arigatou International, Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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### Faith's imPACT Workshop: Concept

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2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference (2024 UNCSC)  
United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), Kenya, May 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

#### Overview of the 2024 UNCSC

The United Nations Civil Society Conference (2024 UNCSC) is the premier event on the civil society calendar at the United Nations. The Conference<sup>1</sup> offers civil society organisations an opportunity to put a global perspective on a specific issue and brings together senior UN System officials, prominent international civil society organizations, youth changemakers, academia, public opinion makers, and international media to discuss issues of global concern. This international forum, expected to host some 1500 participants, will provide preliminary discussions and data ahead of the Summit of the Future in September 2024 at the UN Headquarters in New York<sup>2</sup>.

#### Faith's imPACT: Promoting Human Fraternity, Empowering Future Generations

The 2024 UNCSC is organised under the guiding principle "Shaping a Future of Global and Sustainable Progress". As such, it welcomes stakeholders to host thematic workshops<sup>3</sup> as part of the conference proceedings, with the aim to deepen collective efforts towards a sustainable and just future, and to advance major reforms outlined in the Pact for the Future<sup>4</sup>.

Together with the Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities (IAFSC) and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), Arigatou International will host an interfaith, multi-stakeholder workshop, "Faith's imPACT: Promoting Human Fraternity, Empowering Future Generations".

The Workshop seeks to foster multi-stakeholder partnerships and commitments to advance children's wellbeing and rights, for sustainable development. It will promote human fraternity, meaningful children's participation, and empowerment, and building resilient communities. It will highlight present and emerging challenges, progress, and opportunities facing children globally – through interfaith and multi-sectoral dialogue.

#### Expected Dialogue and Contribution of the Faith's imPACT Workshop.

1. **Promotion of child-centred community:** Putting children at the 'heart' of community, by prioritising children's wellbeing, rights, and dignity, in sustainable development practices and policies.

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<sup>1</sup> 2024 UNCSC Concept Note: [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2024uncsc\\_conceptnote\\_11apr\\_2.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2024uncsc_conceptnote_11apr_2.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> 2024 UNCSC description, UN website: <https://www.un.org/en/civilsociety/2024uncsc>

<sup>3</sup> 2024 UNCSC programme: [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2024uncsc\\_draft\\_programme\\_24apr.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2024uncsc_draft_programme_24apr.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> The Pact of the Future is an action-oriented outcome document of the 2024 Summit of the Future: <https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future/pact-for-the-future-zero-draft>

2. **Amplifying meaningful participation of young people:** Prioritise amplifying the perspectives, voices and actions of children and youth in decision-making processes, advocacy efforts, and programmatic interventions. Empowering children and youth as change-leaders in sustainable development, not only strengthens their sense of agency and self-efficacy, but also leads to more inclusive and effective solutions to address their needs and aspirations, and those of the wider society. Engaging and partnering with children and youth is paramount to securing a sustainable future.

*Why focus on children?*

- Children represent the future of humanity, with an estimated 25% to 29% of the current global population being under 18 years (UNICEF).
  - Children are co-creators of solutions, with the potential to contribute towards shaping the present society in profound ways and building a sustainable future for all.
  - Despite progress in recent years, children continue to be disproportionately confronted by a range of inter-connected crises. Global shocks and humanitarian crises, persistent poverty, protracted conflicts, violence against children, the adverse impacts of climate change, and limited access to education and healthcare, are among the pressing challenges.
  - While presenting massive gains, emerging issues such as the growing use of digital technology and social media, further exacerbate these vulnerabilities and present new challenges including online violence and sexual exploitation of children.
3. **Fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships:** Emphasise the importance of building partnerships and collaboration — including, among faith-inspired and religious institutions, governments, civil society organisations, academia, and private sector entities — to address the complex challenges, as well as current and future opportunities facing children. By leveraging collective expertise, resources, and networks, communities can work more effectively to advance children's wellbeing, children's rights, and sustainable development. This is the power of shared commitment and human fraternity.
  4. **Dialogue on building resilience:** Showcase successful interventions and best practices, while highlighting the role of faith actors and civil society. We shall draw upon the promising, good practices of faith communities in responding to shocks and crises, from the grassroots to global levels - and learn from the impact of faith actors in sustainable development. Further, the workshop will contribute community-informed discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

**Our added value to the 2024 UNCSC**

1. Continue to foster impactful alliances and interfaith cooperation, to build a better world for all children, promote human fraternity and build resilient communities.
2. Facilitate children's meaningful engagement with the Summit of the Future discourse.
3. Communicate widely, the conference deliberations and outcomes with our constituents and networks.

## Faith's imPACT Workshop: Agenda

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**Date:** Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**Time:** 11:00 – 14:00 EAT.

**Venue:** Trademark Hotel, Village Market, Limuru Rd, Nairobi, Kenya.

**Contact Person:** Michael Adikwu (Mr.), Lead, Sustainable Development, End Child Poverty, Arigatou International, ([m.adikwu@arigatouinternational.org](mailto:m.adikwu@arigatouinternational.org); + 254.737.638.274)

**Organisation E-mail:** ([gnrc@arigatouinternational.org](mailto:gnrc@arigatouinternational.org) / [endchildpoverty@arigatouinternational.org](mailto:endchildpoverty@arigatouinternational.org))

Time (EAT)	Action
11:00 – 11:30 EAT	<b>NETWORKING AND SOCIAL MEDIA</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrivals and registration</li> <li>• SDGs game and Media spot by the host team</li> </ul>
11:30 – 12:00 EAT	<b>KEYNOTE REMARKS</b>
	<p><b>Session Moderator:</b> Rev. Fred Nyabera, Director, End Child Poverty, Arigatou International</p> <p><b>Session Format:</b> Brief remarks, 5 minutes each speaker, providing an overview of the discussion topics, in relation to the 2024 UNCSC</p> <p><b>WELCOME AND CONTEXT SETTING</b> Speaker: Rev. Fred Nyabera, Director, End Child Poverty, Arigatou International</p> <p><b>MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE</b> Speaker: <b>Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali</b>, Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC), Arigatou International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What does meaningful participation and empowerment of children and youth entail?</i></li> <li>• <i>In what ways does Arigatou International promote meaningful children's participation and empowerment?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>VOICE OF THE FUTURE</b> Speaker: <b>Children</b>, the SDGs Academy for Children and Mtoto News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What does meaningful participation mean to you as a young person? How does it differ from simply being present or included?</i></li> </ul> <p>Speaker: <b>Ms. Ilhan Salah</b>, Youth Leader, Youth in Action – Kenya.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What barriers do young people face in accessing opportunities for meaningful participation, and how can these barriers be overcome?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>HUMAN FRATERNITY</b> Speaker: <b>Mr. Ryan John Koch</b>, Director, The New York Office of Public and International Affairs, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What does "human fraternity" mean in the context of multilateral institutions like the United Nations or African Union? How does this concept intersect with issues such as human rights, social justice, and equality?</i></li> </ul>

- *How does the current geopolitical landscape, including issues such as migration, climate change, and economic inequality, impact efforts to promote human dignity and fraternity?*

12:00 – 12:40 EAT

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

**Session Moderator:** Mr. Michael Adikwu, Lead, Sustainable Development, End Child Poverty, Arigatou International

**Session Format:** 30 minutes group discussion, followed by 10 minutes presentation in plenary. Each group is to generate 1 key recommendation, to present in plenary.

**GROUPS 1 & 2: MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

Group 1 Guide: Ms. Jeniffer Kaberi, Founder and CEO, Mtoto News.

- *How can technology and media be leveraged to amplify the voices of young people and promote their empowerment?*

Group 2 Guide: Mr. Michael Adikwu, Lead, Sustainable Development, End Child Poverty, Arigatou International

- *In what ways can governments and institutions create inclusive spaces for young people to engage in dialogue and decision-making processes.*

**GROUP 3 & 4: HUMAN FRATERNITY**

Group 3 Guide: Mr. Gary Oba, Volunteer Service Government Relations Representative, African Union Office, Latter-day Saints Charities, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

- *How can education and intercultural dialogue contribute to the promotion of human dignity and fraternity, particularly among young people?*

Group 4 Guide: Ms. Nyambura Mundia, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Specialist, USAWA Inc.

- *Looking ahead, what are some potential future challenges and opportunities in advancing the principles of human fraternity and dignity on a global scale?*

**GROUP 5 & 6: BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

Group 5 Guide: Sheikh Ramadhan Aula, Director, Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR)

- *How can communities measure their progress and success in becoming more resilient?*

Group 6 Guide: Mr. Faraz Hashmi, Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities (IFASC).

- *What are some innovative approaches or strategies for enhancing community resilience, particularly in the face of climate change, natural disasters, or socio-economic challenges?*

12:40 – 13:00 EAT

REFLECTIONS AND COMMENTS

**Session Moderator:** Rev. Nicta Lubaale, General Secretary, Organisation of African Instituted Churches (OAIC)

**Session Format:** Experience sharing and reflections with a panel of respondents, in plenary. The respondents will give their views, based on the group discussion responses, and keynote remarks.

**MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

Respondent: Mr. Brian King, Advisor to the Chairperson, Africa Children Summit, Mtoto News.

- *What barriers do young people face in accessing opportunities for meaningful participation, and how can these barriers be overcome?*
- *How can technology and social media platforms be leveraged to amplify the voices of young people and promote their empowerment?*

### HUMAN FRATERNITY

Respondent: **Ms. Rattan Channa**, Trustee, Global Council, United Religions Initiative (URI).

- *How can education and intercultural dialogue contribute to the promotion of human dignity and fraternity, particularly among young people?*
- *Looking ahead, what are some potential future challenges and opportunities in advancing the principles of human fraternity and dignity on a global scale?*

### RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Respondent: **Sheikh Ibrahim Lethome**, Secretary General, Centre for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR).

- *What are some innovative approaches or strategies for enhancing community resilience, particularly in the face of climate change, natural disasters, or socio-economic challenges?*
- *How can communities measure their progress and success in becoming more resilient?*

13:00 – 13:30 EAT

### WAY FORWARD AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

Session Moderator: **Rev. Fred Nyabera**, Director, End Child Poverty, Arigatou International

Session Format: Brief plenary session

### WAY FORWARD

**Ms. Karimi Kinoti**, Technical Expert, Africa Faith Leaders Initiative on the SDGs (AFLI)

- *How can faith actors engage in the Summit of the Future processes and other relevant advocacy, towards sustainable development.*

### CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Speaker: **Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali**, Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC), Arigatou International

Speaker: **Mr. Ryan John Koch**, Director, The New York Office of Public and International Affairs, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Speaker: **Mr. Faraz Hashmi**, Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities (IFASC).

Group photo(s): Host team

13:30 – 14:00 EAT

### NETWORKING AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- Media spot by the host team.
- Participants are welcome to leave at their convenience.

## Faith's imPACT Workshop: Guiding Reflection Questions

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### A. Empowerment and participation of young people

1. What does meaningful participation mean to you as a young person? How does it differ from simply being present or included?
2. What does meaningful participation mean in the context of youth engagement and decision-making processes?
3. What barriers do young people face in accessing opportunities for meaningful participation, and how can these barriers be overcome?
4. How can technology and social media platforms be leveraged to amplify the voices of young people and promote their empowerment?
5. What role do education and mentorship programs play in empowering young people to become active participants in their communities?
6. In what ways can governments and institutions create inclusive spaces for young people to engage in dialogue and decision-making processes.

### B. Human Fraternity

1. What does "human fraternity" mean in the context of multilateral institutions like the United Nations or African Union? How does this concept intersect with issues such as human rights, social justice, and equality?
2. How can education and intercultural dialogue contribute to the promotion of human dignity and fraternity, particularly among young people?
3. How does technology influence human fraternity? Can digital platforms and social media be used to promote connection and solidarity, or do they exacerbate divisions?
4. How does the current geopolitical landscape, including issues such as migration, climate change, and economic inequality, impact efforts to promote human dignity and fraternity?
5. Looking ahead, what are some potential future challenges and opportunities in advancing the principles of human fraternity and dignity on a global scale?

### C. Building Resilient Communities

1. What does resilience mean in the context of sustainable community development, and why is it important?
2. How can we ensure that marginalized or vulnerable populations are included in resilience-building efforts?
3. What are some innovative approaches or strategies for enhancing community resilience, particularly in the face of climate change, natural disasters, or socio-economic challenges?
4. In what ways can education and awareness-raising activities contribute to building community resilience?
5. How can communities measure their progress and success in becoming more resilient?
6. Looking ahead, what are the emerging trends or future directions in building resilient communities?