

ENGAGING FAITH COMMUNITIES: G20 AGENDAS AND BEYOND

Abu Dhabi, December 12-13

OVERVIEW

The world faces grave and deeply interlinked crises of violent conflict, widening inequality, the on-going climate crisis, and weakening trust in global and local public institutions. These crises demand new ideas and innovative leadership that links an ethical and pragmatic vision, nuanced by global and local insights and experience, alongside deep multisectoral engagement.

The G20 Interfaith Forum Association and the Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities are jointly organizing a forum on “Engaging Faith Communities: G20 Agendas and Beyond”, to be held on the 12th/13th December in Abu Dhabi, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi.

This convening will serve as a bridge between the November G20 Summit in Indonesia and the launch of the 2023 G20 agenda, with India as 2023 host. The central focus will be on calls for action to serve the world’s most vulnerable communities and to address action grounded in meaningful inclusion of all world citizens.

The forum will convene a group of deeply engaged leaders focused on the religious dimensions of global debates, from current socio-economic crises through to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda, in order to highlight tangible action steps for the G20 and G7 processes.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The forum will offer a platform for faith leaders, representatives of faith-inspired organizations, government officials, international organizations, academia and civil society to come together to share experiences and provide concrete, actionable recommendations. These recommendations will form the basis of global advocacy efforts aimed at shaping the agenda of the 2023 G20 Summit and beyond.

TOPICS

The forum will focus on four thematic areas:

- ✓ **Protecting the vulnerable:** Discussing policy recommendations on key threats faced by vulnerable members of society such as children and youth, refugees and displaced individuals, human trafficking, food security, etc.
- ✓ **Post-COVID response:** Helping communities recover from the pandemic, covering aspects such as education, healthcare, economic issues such as debt relief, social protection, etc.
- ✓ **Tolerance, acceptance and understanding:** Dialogue on issues such as freedom of religion and belief, discrimination and bias, protecting cultural sites, conflict resolution, etc.
- ✓ **Mitigating climate change:** Developing deeper understanding on the role faith leaders and faith-inspired organizations can play in mitigating the impact of climate change

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EVENT STRUCTURE

Spread over two days, the event will consist of plenary sessions as well as thematic break-out sessions. The event will also be live-streamed to a broader global audience.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The forum will be attended by 100-150 participants, including senior faith leaders and government body representatives, international organizations and civil society. The aim is to convene a diverse and inclusive audience that represents the global population. A much larger audience is expected to follow the event online, with multi-channel simultaneous interpretation,



About the G20 Interfaith Forum

The G20 Interfaith Forum Association was launched in 2014, during Australia's Presidency of the G20. It has progressed from a largely academic gathering timed to coincide with the G20 Summit to a sustained alliance of diverse religious leaders, practitioners from humanitarian, peacebuilding, and development organizations; and scholars. The underlying purpose is to contribute to and help to shape global agendas through practical and ethical experience and wisdom of the world's diverse religious communities, which are often absent from global forums. The extensive contributions of the "network of networks" as well as the prophetic voice and leadership of renowned religious leaders can enrich the G20 deliberations and contribute, alongside parallel and often interlinked constituencies (civil society, youth, business, etc.) to addressing the urgent problems facing the world and its leaders.



About the Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities

The Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities was established in 2018 to empower faith leaders to work for the safety and security of our communities, tackling issues such as child sexual abuse, extremism, radicalization and human trafficking. The IAFSC aims to facilitate the building of bridges between key stakeholders including faith communities, NGOs and experts in various domains. The IAFSC is conscious of the importance of empowering faith leaders, both at the institutional and grass-root levels, with knowledge, and to mobilize them to play a more active role in community safety.