



**A Child Centered Vision for 2030 Building on the 4Cs: Climate, COVID, Conflict, and Children**  
**HLPF Side-Event: July 11, 2023, 13:00 – 15:00**  
**Hosted by the Baha'i International Community**

The interlinked crises of violent conflict, widening inequality, the on-going climate crisis, and diminishing trust in global and local public institutions demands new partnerships and leadership that link an ethical and pragmatic vision, nuanced by global and local insights, to deep multisectoral engagement.

The Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities, with its partners, is organizing a high-level side event during the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York City on July 11, 2023. This year the HLPF will focus on the thematic reviews of Sustainable Development Goals 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. This side-event will highlight the thematic areas with a specific focus on SDG 11 and 17 as they pertain to the protection of children and vulnerable populations and the critical role of faith communities.

The side event will engage representatives of faith-based organizations, government representatives, international organizations, and civil society to come together to share experiences and provide concrete and formulate actionable recommendations. These recommendations will form the basis of global advocacy efforts aimed at engaging on the HLPF thematic areas for 2023, the 2023 SDG Summit and implementing a larger global roadmap towards the UN Summit of the Future in 2024.

To ensure that diverse perspectives and challenges are adequately captured in the recommendations and future advocacy efforts, this meeting will include international voices and local leadership. The outcomes of these meetings across the globe will be included in the development of a larger roadmap for advocacy in the year ahead.

The *Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities*, in partnership the Baha'i International Community, the New York Board of Rabbis, United Church of Christ – UN Office and Arigatou International/NY are jointly organizing this side-event on July 11, 2023, from 13:00 – 15:00 at the Baha'i International Community office in New York, NY.

The meeting will focus on the four C's - COVID, Climate, Conflict, Children, and will cover a number of topics at the intersection of faith-based engagement such as:

- Developing a child-centered vision for the 2020s;
- Galvanizing action to mobilize resources for recovery and social protection;
- Post-COVID action: pandemic preparedness and health system reform;
- Food security;



- Urgent humanitarian and peacebuilding action;
- Action on climate change;
- Making sure that the most vulnerable are not left behind.

This side-event will be attended by 15-30 participants, including faith leaders and representatives from international organizations, civil society, academia, and faith-based organizations communities. The event aims to attract a diverse and inclusive audience, representative insofar as possible of the regional population.

#### **About the Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities**

The Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities was established 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.

#### **About the Baha'i International Community**

The Baha'i International Community represents the worldwide Baha'i community, whose members come from every national, ethnic, religious, cultural, and socio-economic background, representing a cross-section of humanity. Active in various global fora, the Baha'i International Community maintains United Nations offices in New York and Geneva, as well as regional offices in Addis Ababa, Brussels, and Jakarta. The Baha'i International Community registered with the UN as an NGO in 1948 and currently has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as accreditation with the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and United Nations Department of Global Communication (DGC). The Baha'i International Community collaborates with the UN and its specialized agencies, as well as member states, inter- and non-governmental organizations, academia, and practitioners.

#### **About the New York Board of Rabbis**

The New York Board of Rabbis, for over 140 years, has importantly impacted Jewish life in New York, educated rabbis and the public, and responded to the changing needs of Jewish communities. We are a non-government organization representing more than 750 rabbis, which makes The NYBR the largest rabbinic inter-denominational body in the world. We provide a unique opportunity for rabbis of different denominations to come together for study and professional development. The NYBR is concerned about the welfare of the entire community, both Jewish and non-Jewish. We believe it is imperative to be a moral voice regarding global concerns of our world. We are proud that The New York Board of Rabbis serves as a bridge of strength and promise between individual rabbis, the greater Jewish community, and other faith constituencies. We know that we are stronger when we stand together.

#### **About Arigatou International**

Arigatou International (AI) "thank you" in Japanese was founded in Japan in 1990 by the late Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto, a member of the Myochikai Buddhist organization. He was a leader and visionary who dedicated his life to promoting peace. Today, its members continue to support the only global interfaith organization exclusively focused on the protection of children's rights and well-being. With its headquarters in Tokyo and offices in Geneva, Nairobi, and New York City, AI develops and sustains multi-stakeholder initiatives designed to ensure that all children are treated with dignity and respect and their rights are protected. Its network comprises diverse religious leaders, faith communities, international agencies, civil society organizations, and governments. Operating in 67 countries in partnership with more than 1,700 faith and spiritual organizations, AI employs an interfaith and intercultural approach aimed at bringing positive change from the grassroots to a global level. As such, it holds special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and recently affiliated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (UNDGC).