



**ICYF**  
ISLAMIC COOPERATION YOUTH FORUM  
منتدى التعاون الإسلامي للشباب  
FORUM DE LA JEUNESSE DE LA COOPÉRATION ISLAMIQUE

*Religions for Peace*



**On the Margins of the Summit of the Future 2024:**

***Interfaith Youth Responses to the Century's Biggest Challenges:  
Faith-Based Contributions to the Summit of the Future***

**Friday, 20 September 2024 | 2:30PM – 4:00PM EDT ([Click here for your local time](#))**

**11<sup>th</sup> Floor , 777 United Nations Plaza, NY 10017**

**Concept Note**

**Background**

As pivotal agents of change, youth are essential to the achievement of our shared goals for a safe, resilient, and sustainable future for all humanity. At this crucial juncture, where the international community is forging a better path forward through the *Pact for the Future*, the official side event, ***Interfaith Youth Responses to the Century's Biggest Challenges: Faith-Based Contributions to the Summit of the Future***, will provide a dynamic platform for youth and diverse religious leaders, and experts to articulate their vision and explore actionable solutions for a brighter tomorrow. The side event is co-organised by *Religions for Peace* and the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF), in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Faith for Earth Coalition, the Republic of The Gambia and Uzbekistan.

Discussions will focus on the crucial role of youth, inspired by faith and core values, as agents and catalysts for addressing global crises and building communities of the future. It will touch on fostering faith as a source of and a foundational inspiration from which springs the fountains of hope, peace, mental wellbeing for ensuring a healthy environment for all within a framework of holistic development. The event will also highlight how youth faith-based actions demonstrate a holistic approach to creating, innovating, and collaborating for inclusive solutions in a world afflicted by wars, conflicts, environmental challenges, and other humanitarian emergencies.

**Objectives**

*Religions for Peace* and ICYF, in collaboration with key partners, will convene diverse religious leaders, interfaith youth, and experts to:

- Demonstrate how youth are motivated and empowered to take initiative in addressing major global challenges through reflections on faith-based values and teachings;
- Highlight and recognise successful youth-led projects and initiatives that have made a significant impact on their communities and beyond;
- Address the importance of mental health and environmental sustainability in creating inclusive and prosperous societies;

- Encourage and promote effective partnerships between civil society organisations, including faith-based organisations, other sectors of society and youth groups, to foster a united approach to humanitarian and global issues.



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## Programme

2:30 – 2:31	Moment of Silence
2:31 – 3:00	<p><b>Welcome Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Francis Kuria</b>, Secretary General, <i>Religions for Peace</i></li> <li>• <b>H.E. Dr. Taha Ayhan</b>, President, Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF)</li> </ul> <p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Hon. Minister Bakary Badjie</b>, Minister of Youth and Sport, Government of The Gambia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Jamil Ahmad</b>, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li> </ul>
3:00 – 3:45	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Rev. Amy E. Reumann</b>, Senior Director for Witness in Society, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bhikkhu Vasu Bandhu</b>, Co-Chair, Faith for Earth Youth Council, UNEP; Member, <i>Religions for Peace</i> International Youth Committee (IYC) - <i>Virtual</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Hannah Block</b>, Advisor, Faith for Earth Coalition: Youth Council (2024-2026)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Merylene Chitharai</b>, Youth Member, <i>Religions for Peace</i> South Africa - <i>Virtual</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Mukhammad Khakberdiev</b>, Chief Coordinator of the Representative Office, World Association of Youth of Uzbekistan</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Ourania Markaki</b>, Project Coordinator for the United Nations and Special Assistant, Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America</li> </ul>

3:45 – 4:00

*Closing Remarks*

- **H.E. Ambassador Hameed Opeloyeru**, Permanent Observer for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- **Dr. Fadila Grine**, Senior Adviser and Director of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF)