

Who should be a Faith for Earth Councilor? Questions and Answers

Who should become a Faith for Earth Councilor?

Faith-based Organizations (FBOs) are a vital, necessary and influential group of actors in attaining the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and changing the current course of climate and societal catastrophe. Faith Leaders engender the trust of their communities and inspire action that brings social change and transformation to villages and cities around the globe.

For these reasons, the Faith for Earth Councilor representing your FBO or community is someone who is very interested in caring for Creation and is eager to learn more and invite others to get involved. Your Faith for Earth Councilor is a recognized member within your FBO or community, and is an individual who demonstrates a natural ability to lead.

Every Faith for Earth Councilor will be asked to perform all activities while engaging in the Faith for Earth principles as follows:

- Commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Respect for all spiritual and religious beliefs
- Adoption of the principles of "Leave no one behind"
- Transparency in governance structure and decision-making
- Interfaith collaboration with mutual acceptance and respect
- Focus on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs
- Building bridges between existing knowledge and experience scientifically and spiritually
- Perform Actions that respect individual and communal beliefs
- Aim at Transforming people's behaviors through their spiritual values.

What are the benefits of being a Faith for Earth Councilor?

The Faith for Earth Councilor training will create an informed and well-prepared team of individuals ready to support and organize their communities in becoming aware of what's at stake for humans and Nature in the short term, and to take life-affirming action for the long term. The Faith for Earth Councilors will have the support of their Faith for Earth Councilor peers, as well as resources provided throughout the training, and recognition from their FBO. Faith for Earth Councilors will learn basic principles of community organizing, and share, with their communities, powerful ways forward by weaving together faith teachings, the SDGs and location-specific environmental education.

In their work together, Faith for Earth Councilors will meet and work collaboratively with many stakeholders, creating valuable relationships. In the later part of 2021, Faith for Earth Councilors from each project happening concurrently in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), India and Lebanon will share 90 minutes online gathering to exchange best practices and stimulate even greater

success in each region and beyond. At the training's conclusion, Faith for Earth Councilors will be recognized at an event to be determined by each region.

Does it cost money to participate?

No. The cost of the Faith for Earth Councilor training is generously being covered by UNEP. The training days and materials will be provided at no fee to the participants.

What support will our FBO / Faith for Earth Councilor receive from UNEP?

Depending on the location (India, BiH, Lebanon), the Faith for Earth Councilor training will bring together various FBOs, universities and schools, hospitals, government officials and religious leaders to determine potential actions for the protection of the environment. UNEP will have a presence in the training, and the Faith for Earth initiative along with the United Religions Initiative (URI) will provide website and curriculum resources to support the creation of a Faith for Earth Councilor action guide or other promotional materials to be used in each region.

Once trained, what will the Faith for Earth Councilors be expected to do?

Faith for Earth Councilors will be a resource and point of contact for their FBOs, schools and/or local communities. Like a "train the trainer" model, the Faith for Earth Councilors will be encouraged to grow grassroots environmental action in their communities (as determined in the training and using the tools provided), and increase the number of engaged people working to reduce global warming and to care for Creation. These efforts will foster stronger partnerships between FBOs, NGOs, and civil society. Every Faith for Earth Councilor is asked to:

- Commit to advancing the vision and mission statements of the Faith for Earth initiative
- Commit to advancing the vision and mission statements of the Faith for Earth Councilors:
 - Vision - *Uniting faith and inspiring collective action to tend and protect Nature*
 - Mission - *To connect, educate and equip Faith Leaders and community members to respond quickly and effectively to the climate crisis at the local and regional level*
- Strive to engage the faith community on environmental work in their congregations and houses of worship
- Use their social media to promote the Faith for Earth Initiative in their location (India, BiH, or Lebanon)
- Participate in national, regional and global webinars
- Co-create, with other Faith for Earth Councilors, a Faith for Earth network

PLEASE NOTE: Faith for Earth Councilors may not use this designation in performing any other business but only as associated to the objectives, mission and vision of the initiative. The designation will be for one year renewable based on mutual agreement and assessment of the effectiveness of this partnership. Designation might be withdrawn if the bearer fails to respect any of the above mentioned principles.

How will the Faith for Earth Councilors be most successful?

The Faith for Earth training will include suggestions and support for effective ways to foster change and to create lasting impact within communities. Using faith teachings, the environmental SDGs along with environmental concerns specific to the area, Faith for Earth Councilors will be well-resourced for inviting greater action from their communities. It will be very important for Faith for Earth Councilors to feel the endorsing support of their religious leaders and those who hold seniority or influence so that the work plans happen with verbal and visible solidarity.

Who else is participating?

The Faith for Earth Councilor participants will look slightly different in each region but will always be comprised of a diverse group of faith leaders, students and young activists, government officials, NGOs or other leaders from the community.