

Religions for Peace 

MISSION
& IMPACT

Religions for Peace—the world’s largest and most representative multi-religious coalition—advances common action among the world’s religious communities for peace. *Religions for Peace* works to transform violent conflict, advance human development, promote just and harmonious societies, and protect the earth.

90+
countries

6 regions

1 World
Council



ABOUT US

page2
MILESTONES

Overview of Religions for Peace’s success for nearly 50 years

page14
ASSEMBLIES

Overview of Religions for Peace’s ten World Assemblies

page16
TESTIMONIALS

Global leaders endorse Religions for Peace

page8
VATICAN

Advancing a Moral Alliance Among the World’s Religions for an “Integral Ecology”

page4
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

H.E. Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah [President, Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies; Co-Moderator, Religions for Peace] leads collaborative global impact through the organizations’ deep partnership

GLOBAL IMPACT

page12
INTERFAITH RAINFOREST INITIATIVE

Religions for Peace is a key implementing partner of IRI, an alliance harnessing moral leadership to protect the earth’s resources

page10
ETHICS IN ACTION

Religions for Peace is catalyzing action to advance the SDGs through Ethics in Action

page6
MYANMAR

Religions for Peace as the most high-profile multi-religious specialist promoting peace in Myanmar

MILESTONES



1970

The first “World Assembly” took place in October 1970 in Kyōto and led to the formal establishment of *Religions for Peace* as an independent organization. *RfP*'s 10th World Assembly occurs from 20-23 August 2019.

1991-2000

Civil war breaks out in Sierra Leone and Muslim and Christian leaders form the *RfP* Inter-religious Council of Sierra Leone (IRCSL). They mediate between the government and rebels. The Council negotiated the release of 50 child hostages in 1997, and played a key role in the Lomé peace talks. In the following years, IRCSL conducted a human rights and peace education project to promote dialogue and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. IRCSL transformed to respond to the Ebola epidemic in 2014 and remains active today mitigating electoral violence.



2003-2012

Religions for Peace catalyzed interfaith efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and scale up faith-based responses. *RfP* worked to strengthen faith-based support to people living with HIV/AIDS, particularly in reducing the stigma that surrounds the disease.



2011-2012

RfP Haiti mediated the “standoff” between the executive and legislature on the formation of a permanent electoral council that plunged Haiti into months of political crisis. It brought the parties together and facilitated the signing of the memorandum of understanding on 24 December 2012. Both parties requested that *RfP* Haiti lead further peace talks.

2012

Religions for Peace launched the “Ten Promises to Our Children,” a global initiative to improve child survival. This initiative empowers people of faith to promote life-saving practices, such as breastfeeding and immunizations, in the communities where they live and work.



2013

Religions for Peace is advancing Restoring Dignity, a global initiative dedicated to engaging faith-based organizations, religious leaders, communities and individuals of faith for common action to end violence against women. *RfP* released its “Restoring Dignity” Toolkit this year.

2014-2016

RfP's West African IRCs underwent tremendous efforts to combat the deadly Ebola Virus. *RfP* led quick and effective targeted awareness and sensitization activities to curb the spread of Ebola and save lives. *RfP*-IRCL partnered with UNICEF to deliver essential services. *RfP*-IRCL Women of Faith Network responded by providing care, material support, educational access and alternative learning opportunities for those who could not attend school during the outbreak. After the crisis, *RfP*'s IRCs worked to mainstream orphans into society and assist in educating for childhood immunizations.

2016-present

Launch of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, of which *RfP* is the implementing partner. *RfP* Latin America and the Caribbean has been instrumental in implementing the project in Colombia and Peru and has also supported a meeting of key stakeholders in Brazil. The African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL-*RfP*) and the Inter-religious Council of Indonesia (IRC Indonesia-*RfP*) coordinated similar convenings for key stakeholders and potential local partners in both the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Indonesia, respectively. Learn more on page 12.



1970

1991

1990

2003

2011

2012

2013

2014

2016

1996

2009

2014

2016

2018



1990-1997

The *Religions for Peace* Inter-religious Council of Liberia (*RfP*-IRCL) was founded in 1990 by religious leaders of Liberia drawn from the Christian and Muslim communities. Their effort set up a basis for mediation and dialogue which eventually culminated in the ECOWAS Peace Plan for Liberia and the 1997 general elections. President Charles Taylor announced his stepping down through the Council.



1996-1997

Following the Dayton Agreement, the *Religions for Peace* Inter-religious Council of Bosnia-Herzegovina (IRC-BiH) facilitated communications across religious communities, liaised between religious communities and NGOs working in the post-conflict environment, with founding member Grand Mufti Mustafa Cerić. IRC-BiH remains active today in the protection of Holy Sites.



2009-2010

The Arms Down! Campaign for Shared Security was launched by the *Religions for Peace* Global Youth Network in late 2009. Youth leaders from the world's great religious traditions convened on 4 October to deliver the 20 million signatures that they had collected on the Arms Down! petition to the United Nations Secretary-General's High Representative for Disarmament.



2014

In 2014, *RfP* launched the “Faith for Earth” campaign, led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in 195 countries and culminated in a petition, signed by 1.8 million people.



2016-2018

RfP religious leaders have convened for eleven meetings entitled “Ethics in Action” between 2016 and 2018, to develop a multi-religious moral consensus and to deploy that consensus as the basis for concrete ethical action. Learn more on page 10.



2018

The Forum and *RfP* co-host senior religious leaders from the MENA and EU regions to collaborate to find innovative responses to mass migration. Learn more on page 4.

RfP Partnership with Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies

GLOBAL ACTION

H.E. Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah [President, Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies, Co-Moderator, RfP] is greeted by Bhai Sahib Bhai Mohinder Singh, OBE KSG [Chairman, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha; Co-President of RfP]

RELIGIONS WORKING TOGETHER TO CONFRONT EXTREMISM AND VIOLENCE

The Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies (the Forum) and RfP co-hosted an event to confront extremism in December 2014. RfP has been formally advancing a notion of shared security, and later, *Shared Well-Being* since the 8th World Assembly in 2006. The Forum has become a key partner in this goal.

ADVANCING THE PROTECTION OF MINORITIES IN MUSLIM MAJORITY STATES

RfP has been eagerly supportive of the Marrakesh Declaration, an initiative led by H.E. Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah [President, Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies, Co-Moderator, RfP]. Following the adoption of the Declaration, more than sixty world renowned religious leaders from the MENA region participated in RfP's "Partnering with Religious Leaders of the Middle East in Advancing the Protection of Minorities in Muslim Majority States." Leaders reaffirmed the Marrakesh Declaration¹ and advanced cooperation to promote inclusive citizenship.



The Forum and RfP co-host an event in Abu Dhabi in December 2014 entitled "Religions Working Together to Confront Extremism and Violence."



60 world renowned religious leaders from the MENA region participated in the High-level International Consultation: "Partnering with Religious Leaders of the Middle East in Advancing the Protection of Minorities in Muslim Majority States" held in Japan

¹ The Marrakesh Declaration, developed under the aegis of the Forum, provides a legal framework and call to action in support of the rights of religious minorities in predominately Muslim lands. The declaration was signed by leading religious figures in Marrakesh, Morocco in 2016.

PARTNERING TO CONFRONT THE GLOBAL MIGRATION CHALLENGE

Senior-most religious leaders from the *Religions for Peace's* European Council of Religious Leaders (RfP-ECRL) and the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim societies convened in Abu Dhabi, UAE from 8–9 December 2018 to address the influx of MENA migrants to Europe. This meeting collected the wisdom, knowledge and expertise of some of the most senior religious leaders in Europe and MENA to offer guidance on advocacy and action addressing the root causes and effects of migration.



Bhai Sahib Bhai Mohinder Singh presents Forum partners with the Charter for Forgiveness and Reconciliation



H.E. Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah and Dr. Vendley address the global influx of migration with MENA and European religious leaders



The Forum and RfP have closely worked together since 2013, not least in the historic Marrakesh Declaration and Alliance of Virtues initiatives of the Forum and multiple initiatives from the RfP side. Here, H.E. Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah addresses RfP leadership and esteemed guests at the 2013 RfP 9th World Assembly in Vienna.

ALLIANCE OF VIRTUES: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GLOBAL PEACE

Several key *Religions for Peace* leaders were graciously hosted by the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies for the **Alliance of Virtue** in 2018. *Religions for Peace* collaborates at every level, from senior-most religious leaders to grassroots youth of faith, with the world's most representative coalition of religions in order to advance the goals set at this meeting by H.E. Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah.

Religions for Peace compliments the above goals of our partners in our own stated goal of "Advancing *Shared Well-Being* as a Multi-Religious Vision of Positive Peace." This notion understands that human beings are relational; a link exists between unfolding personal human dignity & building up the "common good" through care for others.



In his address, Dr. Vendley [Secretary General, *Religions for Peace*] stated:

"[An Alliance of Virtue] can start with religions that bear similarities with one another... but ultimately must extend to all religious believers and people of good will. The bold commitment to the common good needs to be properly expressed, something that H.E. Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah has been advancing with the enthusiastic support of *Religions for Peace*."

MYANMAR



Religions for Peace-Myanmar has been recognized as “the most high-profile and visible international specialist interfaith actor” working for peace in the context.¹

Cardinal Charles Bo [Patron, *RfP* Myanmar, Archbishop of Yangon] consults with H.E. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during *RfP*'s Second Advisory Forum on National Reconciliation and Peace in Myanmar.

Religions for Peace has had a presence in Myanmar for years, but more recently set the goal of building the capacity of *Religions for Peace-Myanmar (RfP-M)* to be the preeminent organization in Myanmar for interfaith dialogue, collaboration and action. As of 2019, *RfP* has developed a multilevel, multi-stakeholder approach to supporting efforts to end violent conflict, including decades-long conflicts between the military and armed ethnic groups, and the deadly clashes between Rakhine Buddhists and Muslims.

At the diplomatic level, a high-level international delegation was invited to visit the country and deliver the 'Letter to the Peoples of Myanmar' carrying a call for the establishment of the *Religions for Peace Advisory Forum on National Reconciliation and Peace in Myanmar*.

The Advisory Forum brought together senior religious leaders, officials from the United Nations, the Myanmar government and the military, parliament and ethnic organizations. To respond to the critical lack of “open space” for dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders, this program builds a unique multi-religious and multi-stakeholder mechanism for dialogue and action. The government has publicly acknowledged the critical role religious leaders play in transforming people and conflict and pledged to support future *Religions for Peace* work on dialogue and multi-religious cooperation.

At the grassroots level, several projects and programs have built the capacity of *RfP-M* members and supporting dialogue and multi-religious activities have deepened understanding and brought communities back together after violent conflict. Evaluation evidence has shown that the projects have had a profound and positive impact on many participants, especially women, and have helped build peace and reconciliation in the project areas.

¹ Nyi Nyi Kyaw, "Trends in Southeast Asia: Interreligious Conflict and the Politics of Interfaith Dialogue in Myanmar," Yusof Ishak Institute, ISEAS Publishing, Singapore, 2019, page 23, Web, https://www.iseas.edu.sg/images/pdf/TRS10_19.pdf.



(Above and on the left, below) *RfP* International and *RfP*-Myanmar leadership meet H.E. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to present the “Letter to the Peoples of Myanmar”



H.E. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (center) meets with Bishop Gunnar J. Stålsett [Honorary President, *RfP* International; Bishop Emeritus of Oslo] (left) and Rev. Kyoichi Sugino [Deputy Secretary General, *RfP* International] during a high-level multi-religious delegation to Myanmar.



RfP-Myanmar, *RfP* International, senior religious leaders and esteemed guests participate in the second Advisory Forum on Peace and National Reconciliation in Myanmar in May 2019.

H.E. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered her opening address emphasizing the significance of the *RfP* Advisory Forum and the role of religion in advancing positive Peace:

“RfP is bringing about important progress for peace. The second Forum is important to advance human dignity, democratization and to find solutions to national challenges.”



“RfP-M is teaching our followers and the entire population about the peaceful aspects of our religions. We are visiting Rohingya, listening to their concerns and communicating them to authorities. Buddhism in my eyes, just like Islam, is a peaceful religion with no room for hate or discrimination.”

Al Haj U Aye Lwin [Founding Member, *RfP*-M; Chief Convener, Islamic Center of Myanmar]

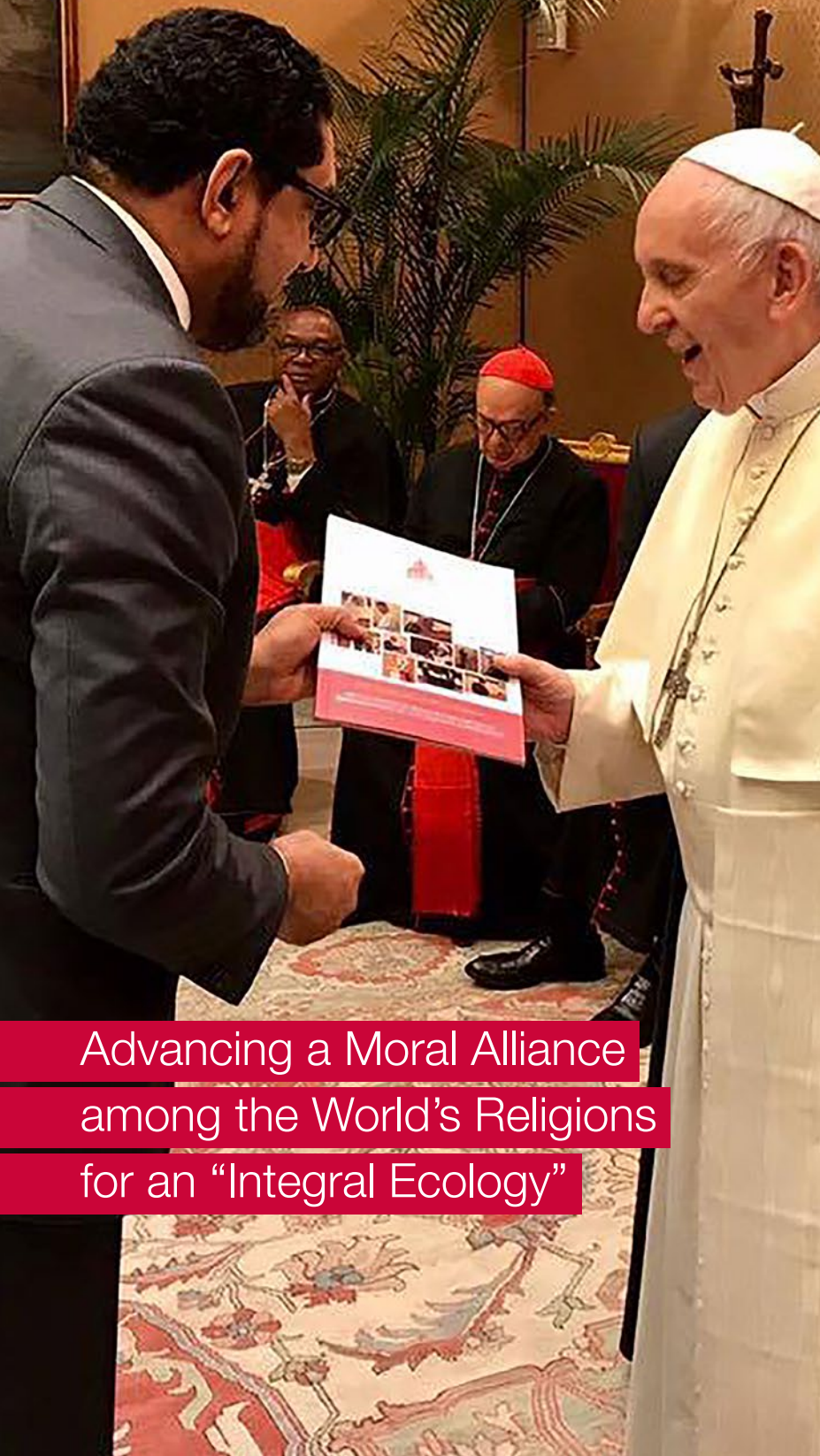


“We gain nothing from fighting each other, killing our brothers and sisters. Those who grew up in conflict areas fear they will never taste peace. All of us here in the RfP Advisory Forum are walking the path of peace. Myanmar is a blessed nation with more opportunities than it has challenges.”

H.E. Cardinal Charles Bo [Patron, *RfP* Myanmar; Archbishop of Yangon]



VATICAN MEETING



Advancing a Moral Alliance
among the World's Religions
for an "Integral Ecology"

In response to a growing climate of distrust and fear, *Religions for Peace* convened a high-level meeting to review and reflect on the power and efficiency of the *RfP* model to harness the world's largest preexisting infrastructure and volunteer base – religious communities – as delivery platforms for actions that build the common good. The outcomes of the meeting were an integral part of the preparations for the *RfP* World Assembly in 2019.

Eighty highly diverse senior religious leaders from all continents, eminent *Religions for Peace* Trustees, government representatives, foundations and global experts committed to collaborating for the common good attended the meeting, which concluded with a meeting with His Holiness, Pope Francis.

OBJECTIVES

- Advance multi-religious alliance for an "Integral Ecology" for the common good
- Share best practices, challenges and opportunities for multi-religious cooperation to build Peace
- Identify practical means to implement recommended priority multi-religious actions

ON THE LEFT:

Amb. Cheikhna Bin Bayyah presents the Marrakesh Declaration on behalf of his father, **H.E. Shaykh Abdullah Bin Bayyah** [President, Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies; Co-Moderator, *RfP*]



H.E. The Late Cardinal Jean-Louis Pierre Tauran [President Emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue; Camerlengo Emeritus of the Holy Roman Church], **H.H. Pope Francis**, **H.E. Raymundo Cardinal Damasceno Assis** [Archbishop Emeritus of Aparecida, Sao Paulo, Archdiocese of Aparecida, Sao Paulo; Moderator, Latin America and Caribbean Council of Religious Leaders-*RfP*] and **H.E. John Cardinal Onaiyekan** [Co-Moderator, *RfP*; Archbishop of Abuja, Nigeria] with key *RfP* leaders and esteemed guests



Left to right: **H.E. Sheikh Shaban Ramadhan Mubaje** [Grand Mufti, Uganda Muslim Supreme Council; Co-Moderator, African Council of Religious Leaders-*RfP*], **Rev. Kosho Niwano** [President-Designate, Rishso Kosei-Kai; Co-Moderator of *Religions for Peace*], **Rabbi Sir David Rosen** [Co-President, *Religions for Peace*; International Director of Interreligious Affairs, American Jewish Committee], **Bhai Sahib Bhai Mohinder Singh, OBE KSG** [Chairman, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha; Co-President of *RfP*] and **H.E. Dr. Mohamed El Sammak** [Secretary General of the Islamic-Christian Dialogue Committee; Co-President, *RfP*] await the arrival of His Holiness, Pope Francis.



H.H. Pope Francis is greeted by **Dr. William F. Vendley** [Secretary General, *RfP*]



Left to right: **Rev. Kosho Niwano** [President-Designate, Rishso Kosei-Kai; Co-Moderator of *RfP*], **Dr. William F. Vendley** [Secretary General, *RfP*], **H.E. The Late Cardinal Jean-Louis Pierre Tauran** [President Emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue; Camerlengo Emeritus of the Holy Roman Church], **H.E. John Cardinal Onaiyekan** [Co-Moderator, *RfP*; Archbishop of Abuja, Nigeria] and **Dr. Vinu Aram** [Director, Shanti Ashram; Co-Moderator, *RfP*] shared knowledge with *RfP* leadership and esteemed guests.



H.H. Pope Francis addresses *Religions for Peace* key leadership and esteemed partners

ETHICS IN ACTION



RfP is leading the way
in interreligious action
for the advancement of the
Sustainable Development
Goals through the
Ethics in Action initiative

H.E. Dr. Mohamed El Sammak
[Secretary General of the Islamic-Christian
Dialogue Committee; Co-President; *RfP*],

Ethics in Action is an initiative predicated on the notion that the grave and urgent challenges facing the world are moral challenges requiring moral solutions. Launched in partnership with the Chancellor of Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the University of Notre Dame, *RfP* religious leaders convened for eleven meetings between 2016 and 2018 to develop a multi-religious moral consensus and to deploy that consensus as the basis for concrete ethical action. Topics included the rights of indigenous peoples, environmental justice and the refugee crisis.

During these meetings, a significant number of *Religions for Peace* Co-Presidents and strategic partners convened every three months to discern shared ethical concerns related to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In that process, they were able to discern substantial and still emergent areas of consensus on a shared notion of the common good. The cumulation of this multi-religious notion of *Shared Well-Being* has resulted in Dr. William F. Vendley's [Secretary General, *RfP*] Commission Paper for the *Religions for Peace* 10th World Assembly, entitled: "*Advancing Shared Well-Being as a Multi-Religious Vision of Positive Peace.*"



Rabbi Sir David Rosen [Co-President, *RfP*; International Director of Interreligious Affairs, American Jewish Committee], **Shaykh Hamza Yusuf Hanson** [Co-Founder and President, Zaytuna University] and **H.E. Dr. Mohamed El Sammak** [Secretary General of the Islamic-Christian Dialogue Committee; Co-President; *RfP*]



H.E. John Cardinal Onaiyekan [Co-Moderator, *RfP*; Archbishop of Abuja, Nigeria] and **Shaykh Hamza Yusuf Hanson** [Co-Founder and President, Zaytuna University]



Left to Right: H.E. Dr. Mohamed El Sammak [Secretary General of the Islamic-Christian Dialogue Committee; Co-President; *RfP*], **Dr. Anantanand Rambachan** [Professor of Religion, St. Olaf College; *RfP* Ethics in Action Member], **Rev. Kosho Niwano** [President-Designate, Rishso Kosei-Kai; Co-Moderator of *RfP*]. **Back Row, Left to Right: Rev. Nobuhiro Masahiro Nemoto** [Secretary General, Asian Conference of *RfP*] and **Rev. Kyoichi Sugino** [Deputy Secretary General, *RfP*].



Left to Right: Sri Sri Ravi Shankar [Founder, Art of Living Foundation], **Dr. William F. Vendley** [Secretary General, *RfP*], **Shaykh Hamza Yusuf Hanson** [Co-Founder and President, Zaytuna University] and **Dr. Anantanand Rambachan** [Professor of Religion, St. Olaf College; *RfP* Ethics in Action Member]



Left to Right: Msgr. Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo [Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences in the Vatican], **H.E. Metropolitan Emmanuel** [Co-President, *RfP*], **Shaykh Hamza Yusuf Hanson** [Co-Founder and President, Zaytuna University], **Rabbi Sir David Rosen** [Co-President, *RfP*; International Director of Interreligious Affairs, American Jewish Committee], **Rev. Kosho Niwano** [President-Designate, Rishso Kosei-Kai; Co-Moderator of *RfP*] and **Dr. Anantanand Rambachan** [Professor of Religion, St. Olaf College; *RfP* Ethics in Action Member]

INTERFAITH RAINFOREST INITIATIVE

Religions for Peace is the primary implementer of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, capturing the moral authority of religions to protect the world's rainforests

Religions for Peace is one of the core partners of the **Interfaith Rainforest Initiative (IRI)**, an international, multi-faith alliance that aims to bring moral urgency and spiritual resources to global efforts to end tropical deforestation. It is a platform for faith-based leaders and communities to work hand-in-hand with indigenous peoples, governments, civil society and businesses to protect rainforests and safeguard those that serve as their guardians.

Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean has been instrumental in implementing the project in Colombia and Peru and has also supported a meeting of key stakeholders in Brazil.

ACRL-RfP and the Interreligious Council of Indonesia (IRC Indonesia-RfP) coordinated similar convenings for key stakeholders and potential local partners in both the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Indonesia, respectively.

"We are at a turning point. This is a dramatic moment in history and we all have to realize that climate change and environmental protection cannot wait any longer. Different religions are getting involved because this task is just as important as the principles of our faith and our daily religious activities. I believe, in fact, that protection of the environment – God's creation – is itself a religious activity and thus an obligation for all of us."



Laura Vargas
[Executive Secretary of Religions for Peace Peru; Country Coordinator, Interfaith Rainforest Initiative in Peru]



ABOVE:

Bishop Gunnar Stålsett
[Honorary President, *Religions for Peace*; Advisor Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, Bishop Emeritus, Church of Norway] attended the Vatican Conference entitled "International Conference on Religions and Sustainable Development Goals" in order to introduce the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative to **H.H. Pope Francis** and other senior religious leaders. He noted:

"As faith-based organizations and institutions, we assert that working towards the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals is also a spiritual exercise and a moral imperative. It is a widely shared affirmation of faith that we - all persons - are created equal in God's image, and all share responsibility for God's creation."

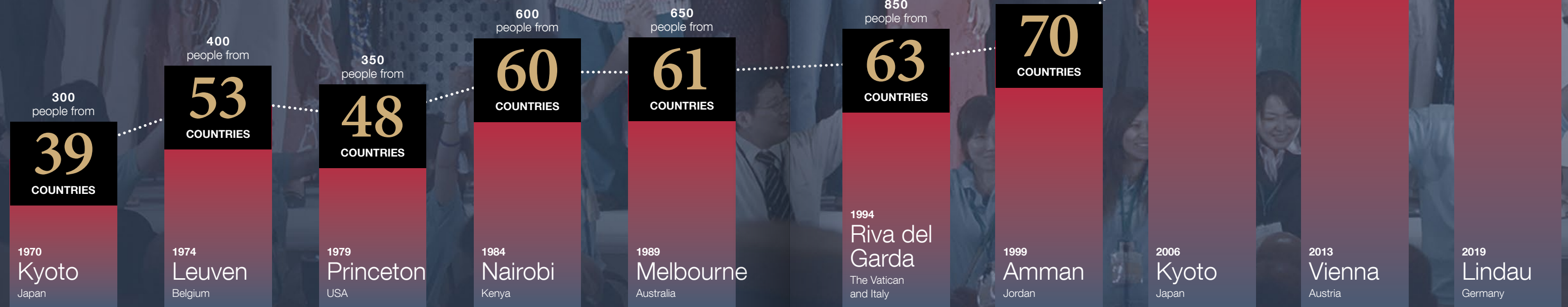


ABOVE: President of Peru, **Martín Vizcarra**, joins **Elías Szczytnicki** [Secretary General, *Religions for Peace* Latin America and the Caribbean (RfP-LAC)] during the regional consultation in preparation for the 10th World Assembly. RfP-LAC has been instrumental in implementing IRI in Peru and Colombia.

ON THE LEFT: IRI is an alliance where religious leaders can walk hand-in-hand with indigenous leaders to protect natural and spiritual gifts and resources.

WORLD ASSEMBLIES

Every 5–7 years, *Religions for Peace* convenes a World Assembly of senior-most religious leaders for the purpose of forging a deep moral consensus on contemporary challenges, electing a new World Council and advancing multi-religious action across and beyond the *Religions for Peace* network. The *Religions for Peace* World Assemblies are global in scale, multi-stakeholder in composition and action-oriented. The Assemblies convene senior religious leaders from around the world who are strategically positioned to advance multi-religious action for the common good. They also include representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations, charitable foundations and other civil society sectors and provide concrete opportunities to forge multi-stakeholder partnerships for the common good.



Advancing Peace through Disarmament, Development and Human Rights

CONTEXT

Escalating Cold War rivalry and the worsening war in Vietnam

SELECTED OUTCOMES

- Called for an immediate ceasefire
- Dispatched a multi-religious fact-finding mission to Vietnam
- Established a legal NGO at the UN
- Pioneered the UN NGO Committee on Disarmament

World Religions, World Peace

CONTEXT

The Cold War – the threat of nuclear annihilation dominates the global order

SELECTED OUTCOMES

- Started Vietnamese Boat People's Project and continued work for Disarmament
- Established first of six regional multi-religious bodies

Religion in the Struggle for World Community

CONTEXT

The Cold War; the USSR's invasion of Afghanistan; the Iranian revolution

SELECTED OUTCOMES

- Welcomed Chinese religious leaders to join *Religions for Peace*
- Organized delegations to Washington, Moscow and Beijing to advocate for nuclear disarmament

Religions for Human Dignity and World Peace

CONTEXT

Cold War continues and former colonies struggle for inclusive governance

SELECTED OUTCOMES

- Orchestrated *Religions for Peace* South Africa multi-religious efforts to end apartheid
- Mobilized the *Religions for Peace* International Youth Committee

Building Peace Through Trust

CONTEXT

Vast accelerated military spending related to the Cold War (Star Wars)

SELECTED OUTCOMES

- Built confidence through intense liaison among Soviet, European and US religious leaders
- World Summit of Religious Leaders for Children in support of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Introduced global action partnership with UNICEF

Healing the World: Religions for Peace

CONTEXT

Cold War ending; civil wars in many parts of the world, including former Yugoslavia

SELECTED OUTCOMES

- Established Inter-religious Council (IRC) of Bosnia and Herzegovina-*RfP* for reconciliation
- Empowered IRC Sierra Leone-*RfP* in efforts to mediate the civil war, participate in the formal peace talks and advance reconciliation
- IRC Liberia-*RfP* helps to mediate the civil war, receives the resignation of Charles Taylor and advances reconciliation

Action for Common Living

CONTEXT

Cold War has ended; a short period of unipolar American hegemony; peace dividends anticipated; HIV/AIDS pandemic

SELECTED OUTCOMES

- Advanced conflict resolution in 15 states
- Convened Pan African religious leaders on HIV/AIDS in partnership with the UN
- Advanced 'Hope for African Children' program in 10 African states with major INGOs; 180 million US dollars is raised for services linked to *Religions for Peace* multi-religious religious structures

Confronting Violence and Advancing Shared Security

CONTEXT

9/11; invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq; growing threats of terrorism; North Korea conducts first nuclear test

SELECTED OUTCOMES

- Track II negotiations are initiated among representatives of Iraq, Israel and Palestine, North and South Korea, Sudan and Sri Lanka
- Launched youth-led global multi-religious campaign "Arms Down!"

Welcoming the Other – Advancing Human Dignity, Citizenship and Shared Well-Being

CONTEXT

Violent extremism and rising social hostility

SELECTED OUTCOMES

- Organized programs to counter terrorism
- Partnered with UNHCR and UNICEF on refugees
- Prepared for global climate change campaign for Paris Summit
- Ethics in Action in the Vatican for SDGs

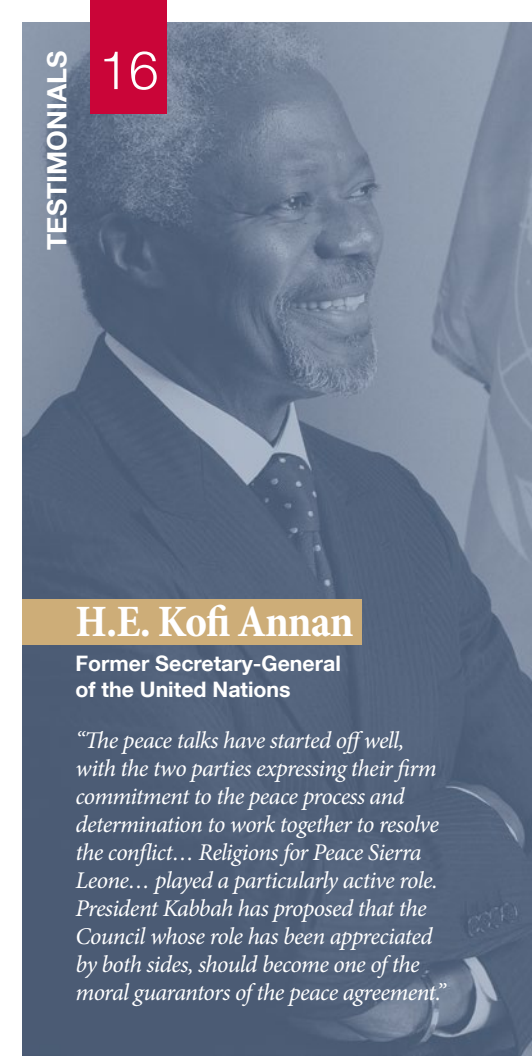
Caring for our Common Future – Advancing Shared Well-Being

CONTEXT

Violent conflict and extremism, rising inequality, threats to the earth, crisis of confidence in institutions

SELECTED GOALS

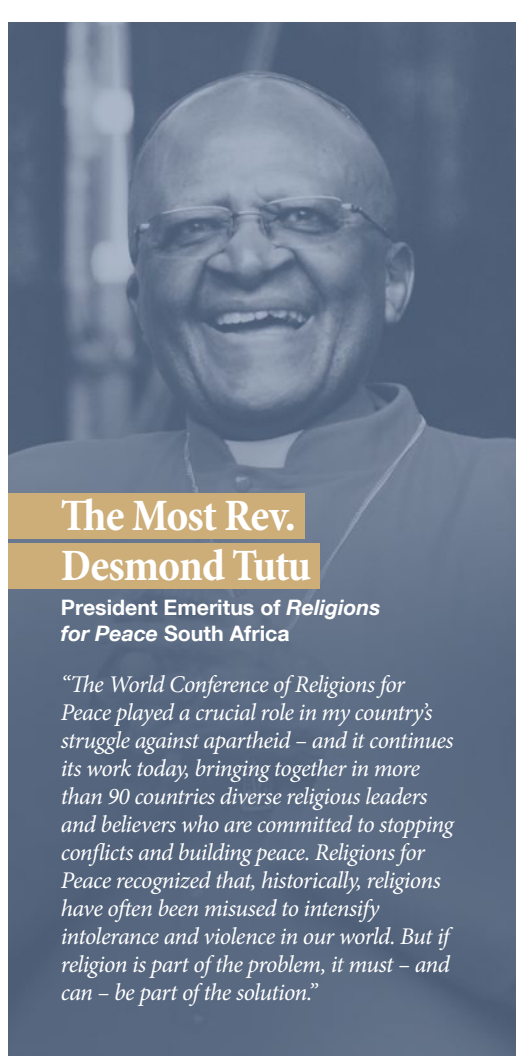
- Facilitate the discernment of a consensus of care on the most serious challenges facing the human family as a foundation for principled multi-religious action



H.E. Kofi Annan

Former Secretary-General of the United Nations

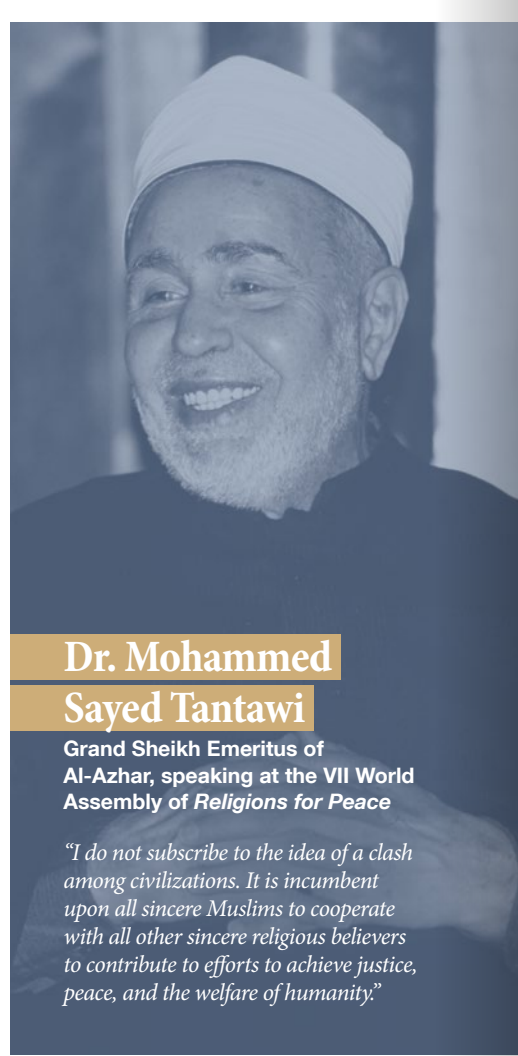
"The peace talks have started off well, with the two parties expressing their firm commitment to the peace process and determination to work together to resolve the conflict... Religions for Peace Sierra Leone... played a particularly active role. President Kabbah has proposed that the Council whose role has been appreciated by both sides, should become one of the moral guarantors of the peace agreement."



The Most Rev. Desmond Tutu

President Emeritus of Religions for Peace South Africa

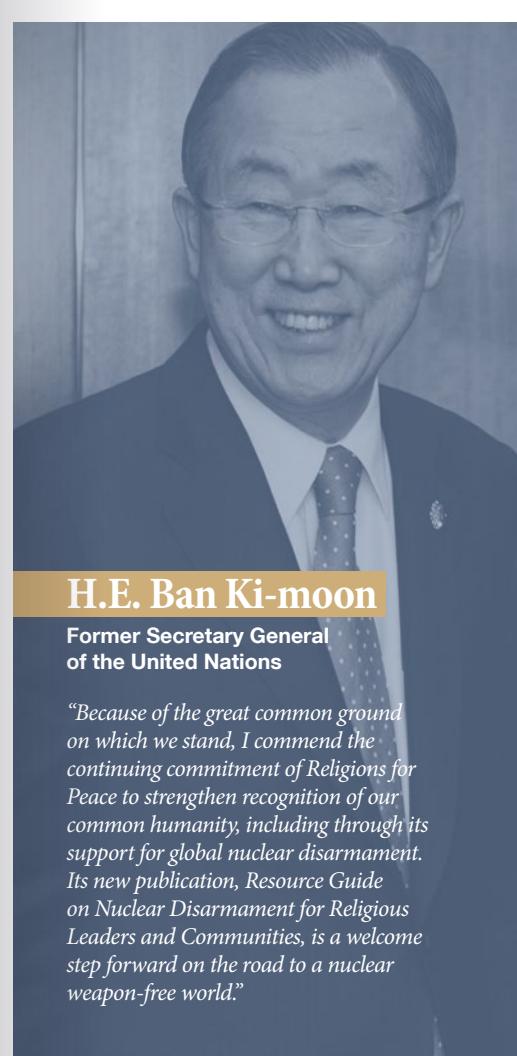
"The World Conference of Religions for Peace played a crucial role in my country's struggle against apartheid – and it continues its work today, bringing together in more than 90 countries diverse religious leaders and believers who are committed to stopping conflicts and building peace. Religions for Peace recognized that, historically, religions have often been misused to intensify intolerance and violence in our world. But if religion is part of the problem, it must – and can – be part of the solution."



Dr. Mohammed Sayed Tantawi

Grand Sheikh Emeritus of Al-Azhar, speaking at the VII World Assembly of Religions for Peace

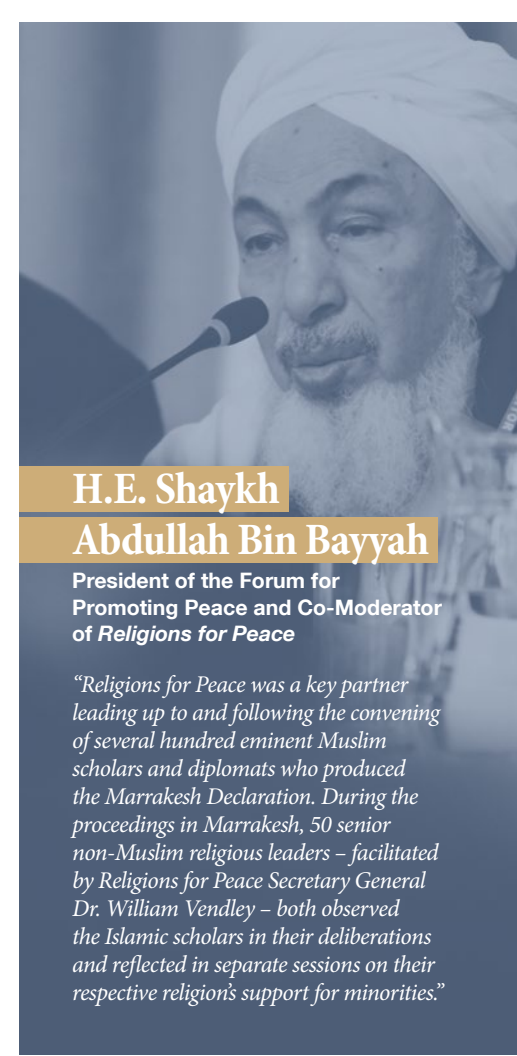
"I do not subscribe to the idea of a clash among civilizations. It is incumbent upon all sincere Muslims to cooperate with all other sincere religious believers to contribute to efforts to achieve justice, peace, and the welfare of humanity."



H.E. Ban Ki-moon

Former Secretary General of the United Nations

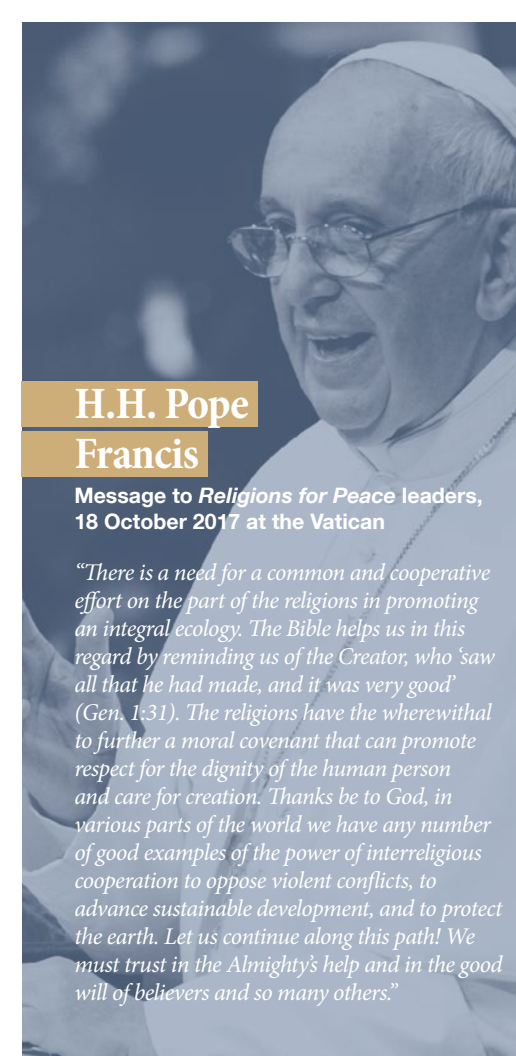
"Because of the great common ground on which we stand, I commend the continuing commitment of Religions for Peace to strengthen recognition of our common humanity, including through its support for global nuclear disarmament. Its new publication, Resource Guide on Nuclear Disarmament for Religious Leaders and Communities, is a welcome step forward on the road to a nuclear weapon-free world."



H.E. Shaykh Abdullah Bin Bayyah

President of the Forum for Promoting Peace and Co-Moderator of Religions for Peace

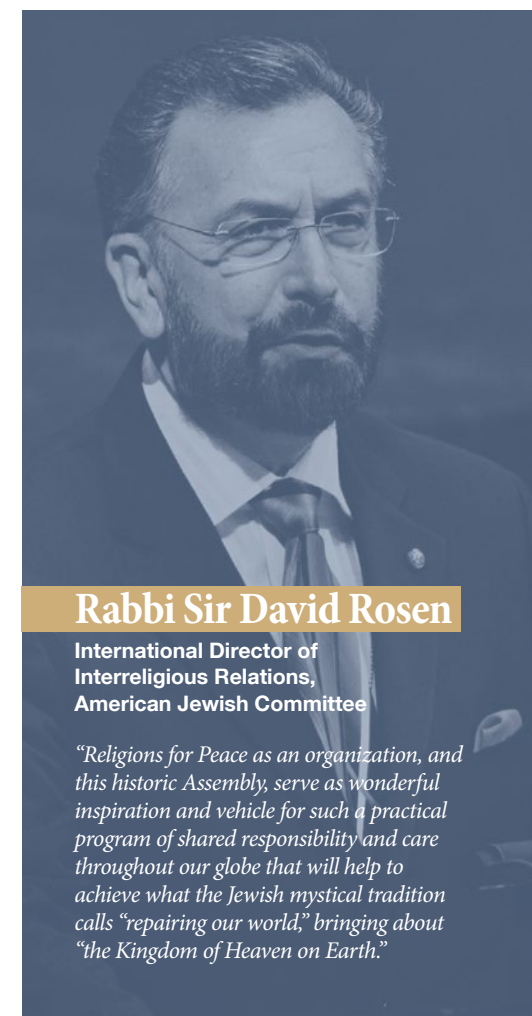
"Religions for Peace was a key partner leading up to and following the convening of several hundred eminent Muslim scholars and diplomats who produced the Marrakesh Declaration. During the proceedings in Marrakesh, 50 senior non-Muslim religious leaders – facilitated by Religions for Peace Secretary General Dr. William Vendley – both observed the Islamic scholars in their deliberations and reflected in separate sessions on their respective religions support for minorities."



H.H. Pope Francis

Message to Religions for Peace leaders, 18 October 2017 at the Vatican

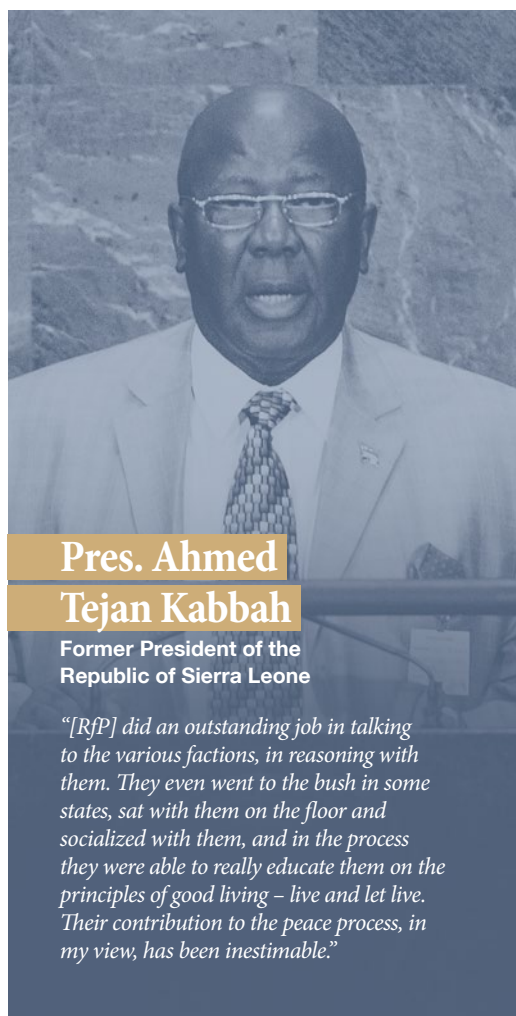
"There is a need for a common and cooperative effort on the part of the religions in promoting an integral ecology. The Bible helps us in this regard by reminding us of the Creator, who 'saw all that he had made, and it was very good' (Gen. 1:31). The religions have the wherewithal to further a moral covenant that can promote respect for the dignity of the human person and care for creation. Thanks be to God, in various parts of the world we have any number of good examples of the power of interreligious cooperation to oppose violent conflicts, to advance sustainable development, and to protect the earth. Let us continue along this path! We must trust in the Almighty's help and in the good will of believers and so many others."



Rabbi Sir David Rosen

International Director of Interreligious Relations, American Jewish Committee

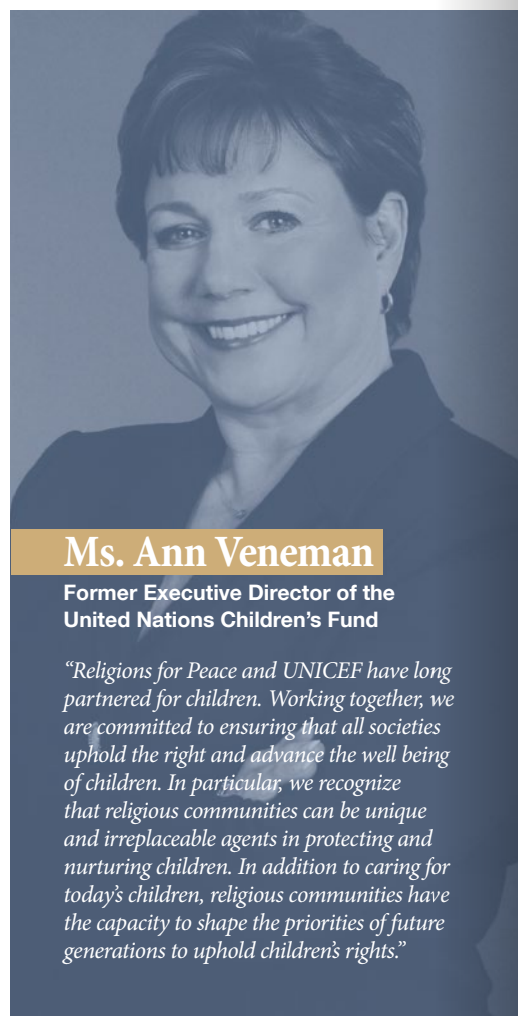
"Religions for Peace as an organization, and this historic Assembly, serve as wonderful inspiration and vehicle for such a practical program of shared responsibility and care throughout our globe that will help to achieve what the Jewish mystical tradition calls 'repairing our world,' bringing about 'the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.'"



Pres. Ahmed Tejan Kabbah

Former President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

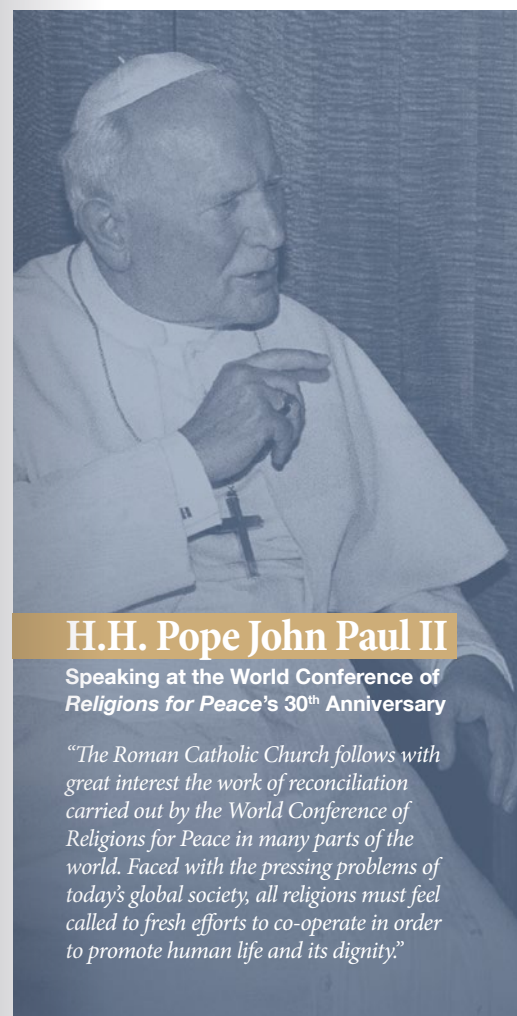
"[RfP] did an outstanding job in talking to the various factions, in reasoning with them. They even went to the bush in some states, sat with them on the floor and socialized with them, and in the process they were able to really educate them on the principles of good living – live and let live. Their contribution to the peace process, in my view, has been inestimable."



Ms. Ann Veneman

Former Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund

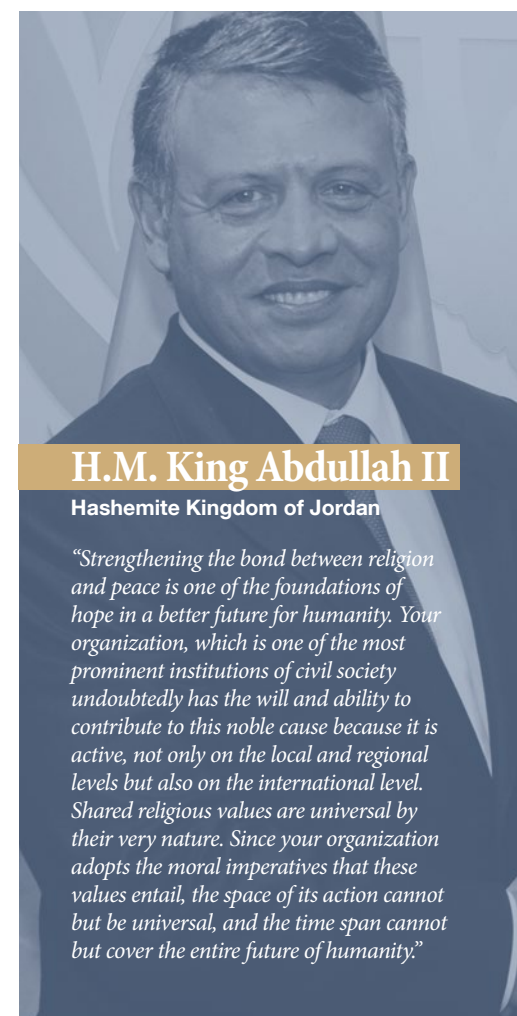
"Religions for Peace and UNICEF have long partnered for children. Working together, we are committed to ensuring that all societies uphold the right and advance the well being of children. In particular, we recognize that religious communities can be unique and irreplaceable agents in protecting and nurturing children. In addition to caring for today's children, religious communities have the capacity to shape the priorities of future generations to uphold children's rights."



H.H. Pope John Paul II

Speaking at the World Conference of Religions for Peace's 30th Anniversary

"The Roman Catholic Church follows with great interest the work of reconciliation carried out by the World Conference of Religions for Peace in many parts of the world. Faced with the pressing problems of today's global society, all religions must feel called to fresh efforts to co-operate in order to promote human life and its dignity."



H.M. King Abdullah II

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

"Strengthening the bond between religion and peace is one of the foundations of hope in a better future for humanity. Your organization, which is one of the most prominent institutions of civil society undoubtedly has the will and ability to contribute to this noble cause because it is active, not only on the local and regional levels but also on the international level. Shared religious values are universal by their very nature. Since your organization adopts the moral imperatives that these values entail, the space of its action cannot but be universal, and the time span cannot but cover the entire future of humanity."



Pres. Laura Chinchilla Miranda

Former President of Costa Rica

"We need better education and awareness-raising campaigns on issues related to nuclear weapons, nuclear disarmament, and peace studies. In this regard, the action of civil society and faith-based communities is critically important. This is why this gathering to launch the Religions for Peace Resource Guide is so important."




Religions for Peace 

© 2019 Religions for Peace

**Religions for Peace
International Secretariat**
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
Phone: +1 212 687 2163
Fax: +1 212 983 0098
E-mail: info@rfp.org
www.rfp.org

PHOTO CREDITS

Partnership with Forum on Migration: Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha 2017
Myanmar (p. 6-7): Courtesy of Religions for Peace Myanmar
Rome meetings (p. 8-9): Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha 2017
Ethics in Action (p. 10-11): Pontifical Academy of Sciences
IRI (p.12-13 + timeline): Courtesy of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative in Peru; [Pope Francis]: Photographic Service L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO/Paolo Todaro
Testimonials (p. 16-17): [Annan] UN Photo/Sergey Bermeiev; [Tutu] Kristen Opalinski/LUCSA; [Tantawi] dpa picture alliance archive / Alamy Stock Photo; [Ban] UN Photo/Mark Garten; [Banyan] Flickr/Foreign and Commonwealth Office; [Pope Francis] UN Photo/Kim Haughton; [Rosen] UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras; [Kabbah] UN Photo/Joshua Kristal; [Veneman] UNICEF/HQ05-0653/Toutounji; [Pope John Paul II] UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe; [Abdullah II] UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe; [Chinchilla] UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe;
Back cover: Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha 2017

-  Religions for Peace International
-  @religions4peace
-  @religions4peace
-  Religions for Peace International
-  Religions for Peace International