

**UNEA 5.2 Faith for Earth Dialogue
The Power of Faith Partnerships to Safeguard Nature: PaRD a case in point**

Wednesday, 2 March 14.00 – 15.30 (Eastern Africa Time)/ 12.00 – 13.30 CET

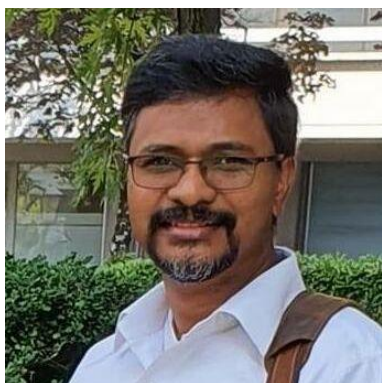
MODERATORS



Joan Okitai-Heisig

Project Manager, World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) Sustainability Centre

Joan Okitai-Heisig is a project manager at the World Evangelical Alliance – Sustainability Center and a freelance communications consultant. She designs and implements communication and social media strategies for both big and small international organizations. Joan is passionate about shifting language in global development from an ‘aid’ narrative to one of solidarity. She has spoken in events organized by Health Poverty Action and USAID to contribute to this long-term process of humanizing the sector. She also co-hosts a monthly space (#Globaldev Communicators Connect) at the Healing Solidarity Collective for communicators in #globaldev with Jennifer Lentfer to reimagine communications and support efforts towards decolonizing development communications.



Dinesh Suna

Coordinator of the Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) at World Council of Churches (WCC)

Dinesh Suna serves the WCC in this position in Geneva since 2012. The Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) is a platform of Christian churches and organizations committed to increasing access to safe drinking water and a dignified sanitation worldwide. He is a Lutheran and has worked with several ecumenical organizations in his home country in India since the 1990s, including the National Council of Churches in India, Church’s Auxiliary for Social Action and Student Christian Movement of India. Currently he is also one of the Co-leads of the PaRD (Partnership of Religions and Sustainable Development) workstream on “Environment, Water and Climate Action” (WeCARE). Mr Suna has a master’s degree in Social Work.

PANELIST



Jean F. Duff

President, Partnership for Faith and Development

Ms Duff works for full engagement of the positive power of local faith actors for the common good. She serves as an advisor to faith groups, and to governmental and private organizations seeking to enhance global and local faith engagement on community development and humanitarian issues. Recent focal areas include Gender, Climate Change, WASH, People on the Move, and principles of effective partnerships. She co-moderated the working group on Gender Equality for the 17 Rooms project, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and Brookings institution. In 2012 she co-founded [the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities](#)

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which she served as CEO until 2020. In 2008, she co-founded the Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty at Washington National Cathedral. Previously, she led the Cathedral's global poverty program as Managing Director of the Center for Global Justice and Reconciliation. In 2008, she co-convoked the Women, Faith and Development Alliance. In 1991 she co-founded the [Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place](#). Previously she led the Campaign for New Community focused on social inclusion and served for many years with Hospice Care DC. Ms Duff holds graduate degrees in Clinical Psychology (University College Dublin) and in Epidemiology (Columbia University, New York) She is a Visiting Research Fellow at Trinity College Dublin, a member of the US Council on Foreign Relations and of A World of Neighbours Practitioner Network.



Prof Katherine Marshall

Director, World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD)

Professor Katherine Marshall is the executive director of the WFDD at Georgetown University. She worked at the World Bank from 1971 to 2006 and has nearly four decades of experience on a wide range of development issues in Africa, Latin America, East Asia, and the Middle East. She led the World faith and ethics initiative between 2000 and 2006. Marshall has written extensively about religion and development, peacebuilding, women, and the fight against poverty.



Peter Prove

Director, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs
World Council of Churches

Peter Prove assumed the office of Director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) at the World Council of Churches in February 2014 and has responsibility for the WCC's programmes in the field of peacebuilding, disarmament, and human rights.

A lawyer by profession, Peter has more than 20 years' experience representing church-based organizations in the international policy arena, including prior to his current role more than 12 years as Assistant General Secretary for International Affairs & Human Rights at the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and 4 years as Executive Director of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA).

Peter has served in numerous leadership roles in UN and civil society contexts, including as President of the NGO Special Committee on Human Rights (Geneva) 2000-2008; as a member of the UN International Task Team on HIV-related Travel Restrictions, the UNCTAD Expert Advisory Group on Promoting Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing, the UNAIDS International Advisory Group on Universal Access, and the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Councils network; and as a founding member of the International NGO Committee on Human Rights in Trade and Investment (INCHRITI) and the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN). He also has extensive experience of interfaith networking for peace and development.

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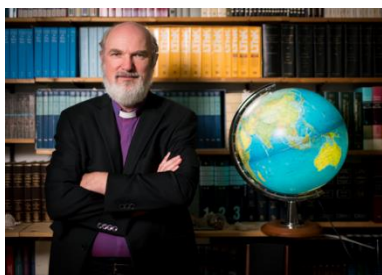
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Prof. Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati

President of Divine Shakti Foundation and Secretary-General of GIWA.

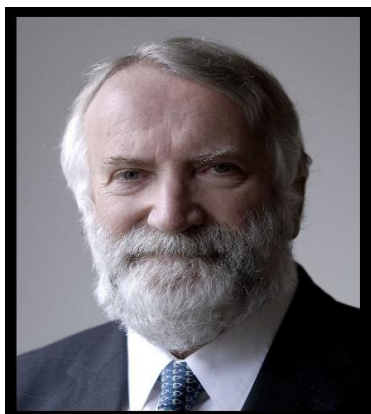
Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, PhD is a renowned spiritual leader and social activist based in Rishikesh, India. Sadhvi has received numerous national and international awards and recognition for her work in the sector of WASH as well as women's upliftment and empowerment, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the President of the United States. Sadhvi has lived on the banks of the sacred Ganga river, in the lap of the Himalayas, in Rishikesh, India for more than 25 years engaged in spiritual service, wisdom teaching, sacred action, and deep spiritual practice. Today she serves as Secretary general of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and as the President of the Divine Shakti Foundation as well as in the United Nations Faith Advisory Council on Religion and PaRD. She is also the author of newly released bestselling memoir, *Hollywood to the Himalayas: A Journey of Healing and Transformation*, as well as *By God's Grace*, a biography of her Guru His Holiness Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and *Come Home to Yourself*, a book of wisdom teachings published by Penguin Random House.



Archbishop Thomas Schirmacher

Secretary General, World Evangelical Alliance (WEA)

Archbishop Thomas Schirmacher (Dr. theol., Dr. theol., PhD, DD) is Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance, which represents Protestant churches belonging to 143 National Evangelical Alliances with altogether 600 million members. He is also Co-President of Religions for Peace (New York). He served WEA in different leadership roles the last two decades, the latest being the Associate Secretary-General for Theological Concerns and Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations. He earned four doctorates in ecumenical theology, in cultural anthropology, in ethics, and in the sociology of religion and is extraordinary professor of the sociology of religion at the state University of the West in Timisoara (Romania) and at the University of Oxford (Regent's Park College).



Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp

Founder, Green Cross International and GIWA

Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, a Jewish leader, was born in The Netherlands in the middle of the second world war and survived as a hidden child through the help of a righteous couple. He has been a human rights advocate, lecturer, writer, environmental activist and civil society champion. He has been a founding member of Green Cross International, an Earth Charter Commissioner, and a founding member of GIWA, the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance. He is also a member of the International Advisory Committee of EcoPeace Middle East.