

## Faith, Governance and Multilateralism

An Expert Roundtable in Support of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism

**Date:** Thursday, 30 June 2022

**Time:** 9 am – 11 am EDT ([local time here](#))

**Link:** [Faith, Governance and Multilateralism](#)

**Background:** In order to provide members of the UN Secretary-General's [High Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism](#) (HLAB) with a richer understanding of how religious dynamics and multireligious collaboration intersect or inform strategic areas of concern for HLAB, *Religions for Peace* is working with the HLAB Secretariat and United Nations University to organise an expert roundtable on faith and multilateralism. The objective of this consultation is to elicit concrete suggestions from members of the *Religions for Peace* on how to improve governance arrangements for the [delivery of global public goods and protection of the global commons](#), with a particular focus on how multi-religious collaboration contributes to strengthened multilateralism, especially in the areas of peace and security and the environment.

**Structure:** The roundtable discussion will begin with two religious leaders framing and providing context for the engagement of faith communities in discussions concerning effective multilateralism, followed by a response from the HLAB co-chairs. The discussion will be an open dialogue between religious leaders and HLAB members which will be facilitated by Prof. Azza Karam.

As the discussion is meant to be interactive and dynamic, it is requested that participants refrain from giving lectures or speeches.

During the open discussion, religious leaders will provide answers to the following questions:

1. **How do faith communities contribute to efforts to equitably address climate change or promote peace and security?**
2. **How does multireligious collaboration support and enhance these efforts?**
3. **What are unique, faith-based perspectives that can contribute to the HLAB's task of making concrete suggestions to improve international governance through effective multilateralism?**

According to the UN Secretary-General's [Our Common Agenda](#) report, improvements in the domains of Climate Governance and Peace and Security are envisioned as the following:

### Climate Governance

- Supporting countries heavily affected by climate emergencies
- Preserving a functioning ecosystem for succeeding generations
- Equipping communities to adapt and be resilient to climate change impacts

- Transforming food systems for sustainability, nutrition and fairness
- Preventing, protecting and resolving situations of environmental displacement

### **Peace and Security**

- Reducing strategic risks (nuclear weapons, cyberwarfare, autonomous weapons)
- Strengthening international foresight
- Reshaping responses to all forms of violence
- Investing in prevention and peacebuilding
- Supporting regional prevention
- Putting women and girls at the centre of security policy
- Guaranteeing peaceful use of outer space

Simultaneous translation will be available in Arabic, Chinese, French, and Spanish.

### **AGENDA**

9:00 – 9:05	Opening and introduction by Prof. Azza Karam
9:05 – 9:15	Framing by H.E. Bishop Gunnar J. Stålsett and Hon. Ela Gandhi
9:15 – 9:25	Response from HLAB co-chairs
9:25 – 10:55	Open discussion with religious leaders and HLAB members
10:55 – 11:00	Concluding remarks by Prof. Azza Karam