



Wilton Park



Report

Women, Religion and Climate Change: Working together to move faster on climate change

Wednesday 6th – Friday 8th September 2023 | WP3297

In association with:





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In association with Global One, the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID), the Qatar Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Partnership for Faith and Development (PFD), International Learning Movement UK and The Stirling Foundation.

The immediate prospect of a catastrophic climate crisis calls for an urgent increase in the scale and impact of action to achieve carbon emissions targets and biodiversity goals. Women are leading climate action at national and local levels, and in both faith and secular contexts, women's powerful influence and leadership is key to going further, faster on climate action.¹

Acknowledging how siloed climate action is within and between the faith and secular 'worlds', this event will focus on the urgent priority of greater collaboration on climate action and particularly on scaling up women's leadership by drawing women of faith and women leading in secular contexts into closer collaboration.²

This Wilton Park Dialogue recognises the significant role that women can play as agents of climate change and how providing opportunities for women to participate in decision making can contribute to the development and implementation of efficient and long-lasting climate resilient policies. To that end, it will provide a safe space for in-depth conversation among diverse climate activists from international institutions, indigenous communities, academia, civil society and the private sector to promote such collaboration in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

In particular, participants will identify and plan specific upcoming advocacy moments to amplify the voices of women on climate action and achieve greater visibility for women's leadership. Specific actions and strategies will be selected and developed on themes ranging from climate justice, mitigation and adaptation, interfaith dialogue and climate financing with the aim of rapidly increasing the impact of women's influence on climate action.

¹ Dimensions and examples of the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, the role of women as agents of change and opportunities for women. Synthesis report by the secretariat UNFCCC. Secretariat 01 Jun 2022

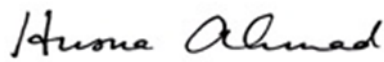
² <https://www.brookings.edu/project/17-rooms/>

Preface

It has been our honour to curate this event from concept to reality in partnership with Wilton Park and the Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue [DICID]. We are at a critical moment in time where we are facing the triple planetary crisis and yet the substantial influence and power of women - both faith-inspired and secular- remains largely disconnected from the activities and advocacy being led by other stakeholder communities. In exploring the nexus between faith, gender and climate change we have identified a series of recommendations to scale up radical collaboration among women of faith, and between them and secular women's, youth and indigenous peoples' movements.

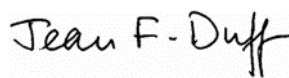
We could not have chosen a better partner than Wilton Park with its experience in managing and facilitating sensitive conversations and its strong institutional connections to the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, FCDO.

Our process facilitated a deep dialogue about possibilities for scaling up impact on climate goals among women leaders and their male allies, representing 15 countries including the global south. Whilst we have just begun to scratch the surface at this event we can see the beginnings of a radical collaboration within a framework which is broad and comprehensive. We pray that the diverse and specific action recommendations proposed by the participants develop into a concerted effort for harnessing the influence of women of faith globally for urgent impact on climate and biodiversity goals.



Dr Husna Ahmad OBE

Global One 2015.



Ms Jean Duff

The Partnership for Faith and Development

Acknowledgements

We wish to recognise the huge contribution to the success of this event both financial and substantive by our partner the Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue [DICID], the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Qatar and the Embassy of Qatar to the United Kingdom. We also recognise our partners International Learning Movement ILM, UK; and Stirling Foundation, USA who have also been generous with their time and financial support.

We wish to acknowledge particularly the wonderful input, time, commitment and creativity and tireless efforts of the following individuals: HE Dr Ibrahim Al Naimi, Alison Hilliard, Wendy Head, Jordan Coates, Ines Belliard, Abbie Holford, Nadia Al Ashqar, Dr Sekou Marafe Toure, Cindy Orvin and Zahra Ahmad.

1. Background

The June 2022 UNFCCC report clearly highlighted how women are influencing climate change. The report draws attention to the interplay of gender and social norms that results in women being more vulnerable to climate change impacts than men, while emphasising the important role that women and marginalised groups can play in mitigating and adapting to climate change. It discusses how allowing women and marginalised groups who participate in decision-making can contribute to the development and implementation of effective and durable climate-resilient policies.

While we recognise the widespread engagement of faith actors with the climate change agenda, we also see how siloed climate action is within and between the faith and secular 'worlds'. The urgency and scale of the need insists that we examine what more we can do together. We believe greater collaboration across sectors will accelerate climate action, and that women's powerful influence and leadership is key to going further, faster.

Women are leading climate action at the national and local levels, as well as in religious and secular contexts, in areas including education, food security, social and behavioural change, policy advocacy, innovative financing, communications, sustainable environment, access to clean energy, and more.

Vast climate action is being undertaken across the world within religious, indigenous, women's and youth 'worlds'. But it is plainly not enough.

This event was carefully curated at the beautiful building and grounds of Wilton Park bringing together 46 women leaders and their male allies for a three-day residential meeting to discuss the critical question of how to scale up women's leadership and impact at the nexus of climate change and faith.

Mary Robinson, Chair of the Elders, enunciated our rationale clearly:

“We are on the cusp of a catastrophe and efforts are often siloed, and separated by politics, profit, culture, resource limitations, and even plain old competition.

We now need women to lead by changing behaviour in the family, in the community and in the country. We need women to act and lead locally, nationally and internationally. And these actions will make a difference. Working together we can make a difference. We need to work together to move faster and further on climate change because we're not winning this battle for a clean energy, safe climate world. This is on our watch now and we must do it.”

The idea for this event was originally conceived by Jean Duff and Husna Ahmad and developed with Wilton Park and the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue [DICID].

Jean Duff and Husna Ahmad are two women leaders who have been forging SDG-related multi-faith and cross-sectoral collaborations at the community, national and international level for over thirty years. Both women took part in the 2022 "17 Rooms" process, an initiative of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Brookings Institution which resulted in a series of recommendations to scale up collaboration between the religious and secular worlds for impact on climate goals. Experts in the "Room 17" process identified four areas with potential for near-term impact, including the empowerment of women leaders and closer collaboration between women of faith and women leaders in secular contexts.

“We need to be attentive to the kind of leadership we need. This is about the leadership of listening, and about giving hope and inspiration. It's about putting community, compassion and inclusivity at the heart of all we do.”

The objectives of this meeting were:

- Strengthen collaboration and forge collaborations between religious adherents and committed individuals and women leaders, civil society groups, and human rights organisations on climate change issues.
- Facilitate women leaders joining forces across sectoral lines ---linking women of faith networks with women leaders in secular contexts.
- Create a cultural and scientific platform for discussing relevant issues and providing a safe space for in-depth dialogue among climate actors in international institutions, academia, civil society, and the private sector, and inspiring, hopeful, and determined global and local leaders on climate, religious, and women's issues.
- Align women's leadership with the ongoing efforts of youth, indigenous people and others stakeholder groups
- Identify and plan specific upcoming advocacy moments to amplify the voices of women on climate action

Our process for this meeting was designed to surface specific actions and strategies that will support collaboration and move climate action further and faster. Participants explored how faith can add value and how best to bridge the divides, the territorialities, lack of resources and visibility, and how to collaborate for impact on a much larger scale.

Whilst this report is one of the outcomes from the meeting, the meeting itself surpassed our expectations and went beyond our other expected outcomes which were:

1. A cohort of women leaders and male allies bonded in friendship through the exchange of ideas, and their affirmations of common cause and common action
2. Greater visibility at UN 'moments' of women's leadership on key climate action advocacy strategies
3. Better joining up of often siloed environmental initiatives with specific plans to link women, youth, faith and indigenous led initiatives
4. Specific Plans for Joint action and communications –supporting each other's campaigns

5. Present concrete plans for joint actions, build networks, and support the campaigns of active institutions.
6. Broadened base of support for ongoing climate action

The immediate prospect of a catastrophic climate crisis requires urgent strengthening of the scale and impact of action to achieve carbon emissions and biodiversity targets. Enlightened, effective leadership is needed now more than ever! Moreover, given the urgency and magnitude of the need, we must examine what more we can do together. We believe that greater cross-sector collaboration will accelerate positive climate action and that women's strong influence and leadership are key to accelerating progress.

Pre-event material in the form of a concept note, agenda, participant biographies and briefing papers were provided so that participants could have some preparation for the discussion. The briefing papers were titled "Decarbonizing our Future, The Role of Finance and Subsidies" by Earth Ethics, and "Why Faith Matters in Women's Advocacy around the Climate Crisis: Religion as Opportunity, not Obstacle" by the University of Birmingham, UK. Please see the annex to this report for the briefing papers.

A pre and post meeting survey was issued for the participants to provide anonymous feedback. We were very pleased to see the overall satisfaction among the participants with the event.

"Openness, collaborative & passionate spirit of participants - openness to new ideas, collaborative to solve problems and passion to find solutions to go even faster." *(Anonymous post-survey feedback)*

"The group that was assembled was great - diverse, committed and rich in experience - and that was a brilliant starting point for a powerful discussion." *(Anonymous post-survey feedback)*

2. Key points

The richness and breadth of the discussions was very impressive and what we have tried to capture in this report is the key points which came out. There were many similar themes which kept coming to the fore as well as some uncertainty about how to move forward. Because the residential meeting offered a safe, confidential space for exchange, delegates were able to move away from mere rhetoric and be more candid and honest with their interventions. The breakout groups also helped to enable smaller groups to explore certain themes in more depth.

The key points that came out of the discussions were around the importance of identifying tangible actions to amplify the voice of women leaders, more fully engage women of faith, and forge collaboration among them and between them and other stakeholder groups.

Why women? Climate change has a woman's face

During periods of conflict, climate change impacts, and forced migration, women, children and indigenous groups are disproportionately exposed to the most vulnerable and adverse consequences. The UN estimates that 80% of those displaced by the effects of climate change are women and the importance of their voices and recognition of their work is crucial to combating climate change.³

The UNFCCC highlighted the pivotal contribution that women can make in addressing climate change, given their expertise in local knowledge and sustainable resource management. Recent research by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security indicates that women have the potential to contribute to more sustainable peace, and their leadership has resulted in enhanced outcomes in the realm of climate action.⁴

"Climate change is impacting vulnerable populations; it is especially hurting women the most."
(Dr Ibrahim Al Naimi)

³ OHCHR, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2022/07/climate-change-exacerbates-violence-against-women-and-girls>

⁴ The Climate-Gender Conflict Nexus Amplifying women's contributions at the grassroots; Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Climate-Gender-Conflict-Nexus.pdf>

2.1. Tangible Actions

The goal of the event was to find new ways to go beyond the boundaries of our constituencies and projects and amplify each other and encourage and advocate for mass mobilisation for climate action.

Mary Robinson kicked off the event by calling participants to urgent specific action. [Project Dandelion](#), presented by Mary Robinson at the meeting, is an example of how engaging women leaders can lay the foundation for a mass mobilisation of women from all walks of life including the faith and secular worlds advocating for climate action.

The representatives from the Qatar government were also able to present their work on Qatar's National Environment initiatives, demonstrating the importance of women's leadership.

A substantial range of climate action is being undertaken within religious groups, but it is clearly not enough. Efforts are often siloed, and this conference aimed to highlight how to best bridge the divide.

What are the transformational solutions we would like to see? How can we scale up on projects to move further and faster with a focus on concrete action?

The participants proposed the following tangible actions to push women leadership faster, further in the climate change space:

- **TRAINING:** Importance of training and mentorship for young people to build the next generation of leaders.
- **CAPACITY-BUILDING:** Faith and inter-faith institutions to be empowered and capacity built on climate change issues.
- **MAINSTREAMING AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AT ALL LEVELS:** Strengthening role of women at all levels - engaging women leaders in building resilient communities and nations through the inclusion and empowerment of women.
- **ROLE MODELS AND REPRESENTATION:** Examples of inclusion of women in leadership were given and also the importance of having decision-making powers rather than a token presence.
- **KNOWLEDGE-SHARING:** The importance of knowledge sharing on climate issues and promoting intergenerational inclusion – elders and youth.
- **CREATION OF MEDIA NETWORK:** Developing a media network to connect faith groups and climate-action groups - collaboration to promote messaging and campaigns. Media has an important role to play, especially in attracting & engaging with younger audiences looking for solutions to our planetary crisis issues.
- **CREATING AND GIVING SPACE FOR A NEW NARRATIVE:** Importance of storytelling and providing a platform to marginalised voices - women, women and faith, female indigenous leaders.
- **CREATE A MASS COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN:** Pursuing this through networks of female representatives of faith with simple and powerful messaging.
- **REPOSITORY OF RESOURCES:** Access to case studies would be important for a leadership programme. Coordinate to simplify resources on issues and solutions to make it accessible – highlighting of efforts, filling education gap on issues around climate change.
- **MAPPING EXERCISE:** Mapping of the landscape of the religious environmental field. In the past decade, there has been the proliferation of faith-based efforts on the environment without learning from the past and strengthening work. Identification of gaps and opportunities is key.
- **DEVELOPMENT OF COALITION/PLATFORM:** Defining terms, language, value proposition and what we are working towards - climate action, biodiversity loss, stewardship, women empowerment etc.

- **DEVELOP POLICY:** A statement about the importance of women's leadership in promoting climate action and climate justice would be important. Participants were encouraged to push for the implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity framework [CBD], adopted in Montreal in 2022.

2.2. Amplifying women's voices on climate action: the importance of women's leadership

"The leadership chasm still exists – for faith communities, and women."

The event emphasised the imperative for greater inclusivity and empowerment of women. Women tend to be more acutely aware of the impacts posed by climate challenges and are often more engaged in processes related to healing, caregiving, and emotional support. Providing women with decision-making power is essential to achieving our climate action objectives. Women play a central role in guiding households, communities, as well as working at the local, regional and international level.

"Mainstreaming of women and female involvement is essential - not merely 'women groups' or 'women's committees', but women need to be given a seat at the table and included at decision-making levels."

The special values and styles embodied in women's leadership were affirmed in the discussions "People in this room know how to get things done and are not afraid to speak the language of love, kinship and common concern. The change we want to see is already visible in this room."

Participants stressed the need to be attentive to the kind of leadership that was necessary, differentiating between leadership and decision-making power. Attention also needed to be paid to alternative forms of women's leadership, possibly with a seat at a different table of decision making. It was suggested that having targets for the inclusion of women, as in the Global Biodiversity Framework, might be one strategy in harnessing the power of women and their leadership, given women have so few high-level leadership roles in religious organisations. For others, there was a need to redefine leadership as the leadership of listening and the function of leadership to give hope and inspiration, putting community, compassion and inclusivity at the heart of all we do. And for others, leadership centred around challenging the traditional patriarchal leadership that exists in many faith structures and institutions.

"We don't want women of faith to be the handmaidens of patriarchal privilege."

"The change we want is already here among us."

"Let us not be bound to the tyranny of the tangible."

2.3. Alignment of women's leadership with cross cutting themes and climate related efforts

The event, at the nexus between women, faith and climate change, highlighted the importance of aligning women's leadership with the ongoing efforts of youth, indigenous people, faith groups and other stakeholder groups.

In this section we highlight some of the contributions faith communities, youth and indigenous communities bring to the table to tackle the planetary crisis:

Faith and indigenous communities: Faith communities create an important space, where climate change can be addressed from a moral perspective and received with compassion and empathy. A number of the participants spoke to the need to recognise and uplift the importance of diverse religious teachings, spiritual and indigenous traditions which frame and share an ethical and moral imperative to people of faith to protect nature and the environment. Indigenous spirituality and faith traditions adopt a similar duty of care to the environment. For example, the Hindu understanding that the Earth is a goddess and the Hindu world view that the masculine and feminine are always considered to be equal and together brings a different perspective to understanding our relationship with the environment and climate action.

The common commitment across all religions to caring for the earth is reflected in the “Joint Appeal” signed by the leaders of all the world’s key faith traditions convened by the Vatican in October 2021, as a message to world leaders at COP 26. The importance of interfaith work in combating climate change was underscored at the event. For example, the chair of DICID, Dr. Ibrahim Al Naimi, believed that interfaith dialogue is crucial to serve humanity and address the most important ongoing human issues.

“There is an ethical and moral imperative to protect the earth. This is ordained by God, to be proliferated by religious leaders. Islam teaches us to protect human beings, and the earth.”

Professor Aisha Yousef Al-Mannai

The role of spirituality and faith in emotional wellbeing and coping with the stress of climate catastrophe has been an anchor for so many and was also highlighted at the event.

The delegates recognised the importance of publicising localised examples of environmental faith-based initiatives because they can inspire people to do more. Examples given included:

1. The Blue Mosque project, a collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), exemplifies an innovative environmental faith-based initiative. This initiative focuses on reducing water consumption in the iconic Blue Mosque in Istanbul. By implementing sustainable practices such as rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation systems, and public awareness campaigns, the project not only demonstrates a commitment to preserving the environment but also aligns with the mosque's religious and ethical values, emphasising the responsible stewardship of natural resources as an integral part of their faith. This holistic approach showcases how faith-based institutions can lead by example in promoting environmental sustainability and inspire positive change within their communities and beyond.
2. The Green Ramadan Initiative in Malaysia is a testament to the power of faith-based initiatives in promoting eco-awareness and inspiring positive change within the community. This project resonates deeply with the country's Muslim community, emphasising the importance of eco-consciousness during the holy month of Ramadan. By encouraging practices like reducing single-use plastics, conserving water and energy, and promoting sustainable food choices, the initiative beautifully integrates Islamic values with environmental responsibility. It fosters a sense of spiritual connection and ethical obligation, emphasising that the faithful have a duty to protect and preserve the environment as an integral part of their religious devotion.
3. [Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth UNEP](#) which is being launched at COP28 presents an Islamic outlook of the environment in a bid to strengthen local, regional, and international actions that combat climate change and other threats to the planet. It is a global endeavour to engage Islamic scholars and Muslim institutions in the development and adoption of this Call.

4. EcoSikh - Sustainable Amritsar, the Golden Temple, receives a substantial daily influx of visitors, approximately 60,000, which surges to around 100,000 on holidays. Within this vast operation, one of the most extensive facilities caters to the sustenance needs of a significant portion of the populace through langar, communal meals. In addition to the substantial quantities of food cultivated, prepared, and served by Sikhs, the langar serves as a pivotal site for the integration of renewable energy. Amritsar made the strategic decision to install 30 concentrated solar dishes, which harness solar energy to provide heat for cooking, thereby substituting nearly half of the liquid petroleum gas previously used in the langar with a sustainable energy source, thereby promoting improved health, sustainable land use, and support for local farmers. We need to emphasize the role of women within specific faith groups. In the Sikh faith, women are the backbone of society. In the gurdwaras, places of worship, women are sustainably sourcing food and finding sustainable ways to dispose of materials.

There is power in Faith Action. We need to engage women's leadership in finance and in faith institutions for climate solutions. One concrete area of action discussed is the ongoing work to promote the divestment of faith owned assets relating to fossil fuels and carbon emissions, and to support the efforts of faiths to redirect investments towards climate solutions. And here again women's leadership was mentioned as a catalyst for divestment. The potential of working together to advance climate financing was emphasised, alongside building on women-led local initiatives that could have global impact and speaking out together on phasing out fossil fuels alongside asking faith and religious institutions to lead by example.

“Don't underestimate how radical the power of women and faith is in bringing about change”.

Youth: The younger generation will bear the brunt of the most detrimental consequences in the future, yet they are enthusiastic about acquiring knowledge and desire their voices and contributions to be acknowledged.

Furthermore, the voices of youth have raised awareness about the climate crisis's potential impact on mental health, giving rise to climate anxiety and climate grief. Climate anxiety is even influencing some young people's decisions not to have children.

The paralysing nature of climate anxiety underscores the urgent need for increased collective action. It is vital for youth-led movements to have impact in influencing policy.

3. Reflections

It was clear that there was a wealth of expertise in the room at Wilton Park - from governments, international institutions, INGOs, academia, the private sector, philanthropic organisations and diplomats.

There were also moments when the sombre reality was presented to the delegates. DICID's Professor Aisha Al Mannai set the tone by stating that millions of people were displaced due to the impact of the climate crisis; Out of 10 million displaced persons in the world, 50% are women and girls, and we really needed to understand the scale of the task ahead of us all. What was obvious was that today, there are 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10-24 years old —they are the largest generation of youth in history. Close to 90 per cent of the youth live in developing countries, the global south, where they make up a large proportion of the population.

How do we initiate the Reversal of the Anthropocene? How do we remind ourselves that we are merely stewards or caretakers of this beautiful planet? How do we remain spiritually connected whilst also being involved politically in the temporal world such as joining the COP discussions? Accountability of leadership, the need to tame greed and want, and the issue of colonialism and imperialism vis a vis the loss and damage fund were all highlighted as critical issues that needed to be addressed through the lens of justice and fairness. These questions were all debated during our time together.

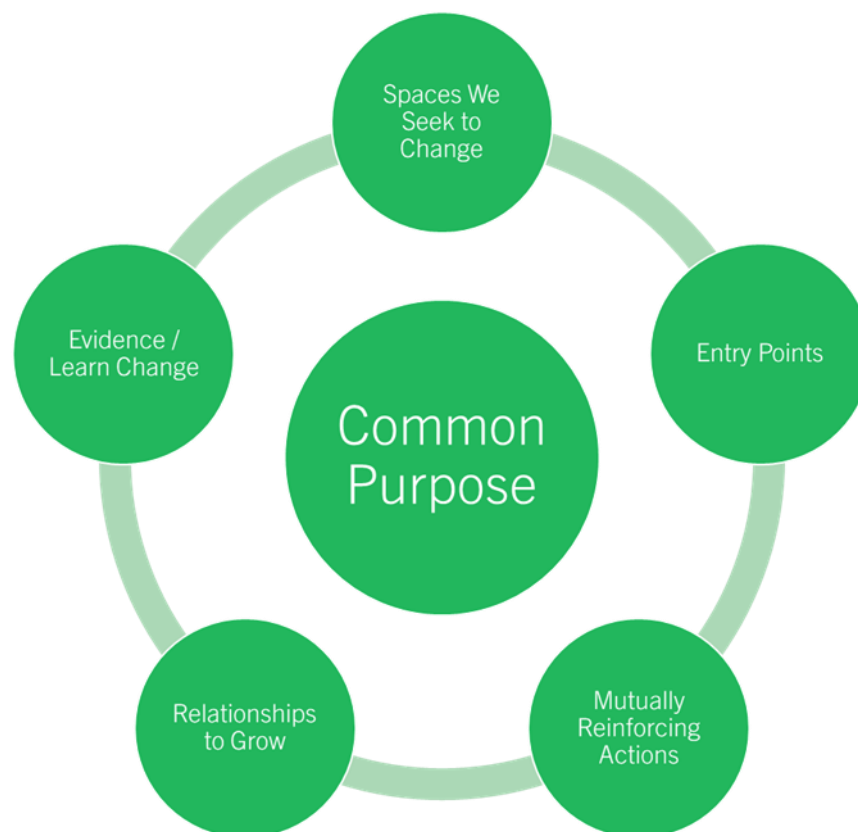
“Colonialism and imperialism have played a large role in the climate crisis.”

The simple answer was to be inclusive, to have a wide reach and diverse players and to build our own narrative and story, based on our faith traditions and indigenous traditions as a rich source of storytelling about our precious planet.

Only by systemic changes can we see a shift in gender dynamics. International institutions including those focusing on climate change need to understand that 84% of the planet are adherents of a faith, and with the majority of them based in the global south; it is imperative that policy considerations on gender and climate change from a faith perspective are promoted. It was also clear that the faith institutions or faith leaders did not have all the answers and that there were new opportunities for partnership and working together to be explored, perhaps using new technologies like AI to accelerate women's leadership in the climate space.

The participants also acknowledged that there is often a lack of desire to build partnerships when there are groups created to empower certain groups / voices, but it was essential that a collaboration of some sort be initiated. To that end, a **Framework for Radical Collaboration** was developed on the last day of the event which was a way to harness the energy that came from the room, from the women leaders and their male allies.

“We want a new women-led faith-inspired framework of radical collaboration.”



4. Outcomes Achieved

Whilst this report is one of outcomes from the meeting, the meeting itself surpassed our expected outcomes which were:

- A cohort of women leaders and male allies bonded in friendship through the exchange of ideas, and their affirmations of common cause and common action.
- Greater visibility at UN 'moments' of women's leadership on key climate action advocacy strategies.

- Better joining up of often siloed environmental initiatives with specific plans to link women, youth, faith and indigenous led initiatives.
- Specific plans for joint action and communications –supporting each other’s campaigns.
- Present concrete plans for joint actions, build networks, and support the campaigns of active institutions.
- Broadened base of support for ongoing climate action.

We were able to achieve the event objectives because the delegates were all passionate and forthcoming with their interventions and showed true leadership with the tasks that were set. Even during the preparation of this report, we have some tangible outcomes to report on which have come directly out of this meeting.

Event Objectives	Outcome Achieved
<p>1. Strengthen and forge collaborations between religious adherents and committed individuals and women leaders, civil society groups, and human rights organisations on climate change issues.</p>	<p>Interfaith Dialogue: the conference promoted interfaith dialogue and discussions that focused on environmental stewardship and climate action.</p> <p>Advocacy: This event enabled various delegates to share their advocacy efforts and emphasised the importance of utilising our collective influence of religious adherents, indigenous communities and civil society to push for climate action.</p>
<p>2. Facilitate women leaders joining forces across sectoral lines, linking women of faith networks with women leaders in secular contexts.</p>	<p>Participants took advantage of the ample opportunities for networking during the conference.</p> <p>DICID intends to convene its own yearly meeting to continue to build on these important issues of climate, faith and women.</p>
<p>3. Creating a cultural and scientific platform for discussing relevant issues and providing a safe space for in-depth dialogue among climate actors in international institutions, academia, civil society, and the private sector, and inspiring, hopeful, and determined global and local leaders on climate, religious, and women's issues.</p>	<p>A mapping exercise has been initiated.</p> <p>Initial steps have been taken to create an academic repository providing climate action resources.</p>
<p>4. Align women’s leadership with the ongoing efforts of youth, indigenous people and other stakeholder groups</p>	<p>A framework for radical collaboration has been initiated which will explore further ways to align of women's leadership with the efforts on other stakeholders</p>
<p>5. Identify and plan specific upcoming advocacy moments to amplify the voices of women on climate action</p>	<p>Dr. Husna Ahmad will be one of the women leaders at the Global Faith Leaders' summit for Planetary Resurgency (6/7th November 2023) hosted by the COP28 Presidency, UNEP and the Muslim Council of Elders. She will be leading a session titled the “Role of Women in driving action on climate change and integrating gender.”</p>

	<p>At COP28, an important advocacy moment will be a side-event which will include the Dandelion Project, DICID, Prof Jagbir Jhutti and moderated by Dr. Husna Ahmad. The side-event is titled "Harnessing Diversity: Gender, Faith, and Climate Change – Uniting for a Sustainable Future."</p> <p>The G20 Interfaith Forum to consider an environment track at the next G20 gathering in Brazil 2024.</p>
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5. Next Steps and Recommendations

1. Build on the Radial Collaboration framework that has emerged from the meeting.
2. Develop a Declaration that outlines the goals and objectives of engaging with women faith leaders on environmental issues.
3. Conduct a mapping exercise about current initiatives among the participants at the event on the nexus of women's leadership in the faith and climate change and biodiversity loss space.
4. Develop a repository of resources on the work being carried out by women faith leaders in the climate change and biodiversity loss space. Include training resources and multilingual resources.
5. Increase the visibility of women leaders particularly women from the global south and indigenous women leaders through the media.
6. Convene representatives of women's networks from all key faith traditions to discuss radical collaboration for global mobilisation.
7. Build on existing interfaith initiatives including the Joint Appeal Faith and Science: Towards COP26 and The Charter of Makkah.
8. Consider aligning with global initiatives, statements and agreements.
9. Encourage further theological reflection and renewal on our relationship with nature and duty to care for the earth. Move away from what is often a patriarchal and colonial framing of the environment existing for man's use.
10. Train both faith and non-faith actors on climate literacy.
11. Participate in a series of advocacy events where the voices of women of faith are amplified in discussions on climate change and biodiversity loss.
12. Develop a communications campaign to support a mass mobilisation of women of faith action on climate change and biodiversity loss.
13. Develop a documentary film illustrating faith leadership for climate change.
14. Break through the siloes and foster greater collaboration amongst the various stakeholders including indigenous women and youth.
15. Encourage female leadership in all aspects of climate action by bridging the "gendered leadership chasm in faith communities" and getting women to the decision-making table.
16. Support youth leaders with mentoring and training, recognising that climate anxiety is a real phenomenon today.

Annex

Briefing papers:

[Decarbonizing Our Future: The Role of Finance and Subsidies for a Sustainable World – Earth Ethics](#)

[“Why Faith Matters in Women’s Advocacy around the Climate Crisis: Religion as Opportunity, not Obstacle” by the University of Birmingham, UK](#)

Inès Belliard and Zahra Ahmad

Wilton Park | 18.10.2023

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