CONCEPT NOTE

The Global Interfaith Convention 2027

24-27 May 2027 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Every two years, Faith to Action Network convenes its members, partners and allied faith actors in a flagship gathering that renews our shared vision, strengthens our solidarity, and shapes our collective agenda. Following the network's fifteenth-anniversary milestone, the Global Interfaith Convention 2027 comes at a time of significant change in the global development and financing landscape. Traditional funding for health, gender justice and civil society is contracting and shifting, while community needs remain high. Faith-based and civil-society organisations are therefore being challenged to diversify resources, adapt their approaches and sustain impact amid uncertainty.

Faith to Action Network, in partnership with our member, the **Ethiopia Interfaith Forum for Development, Dialogue, and Action**, will co-host the 5th Interfaith Convention in **Ethiopia** from **24–27 May.**

Ethiopia's rich religious diversity and Addis Ababa's diplomatic significance provide a strategic setting for the Global Interfaith Convention 2027. EIFDDA, a national consortium of ten faith-based development institutions, brings extensive grassroots networks and interfaith experience. Its longstanding partnership with F2AN since 2012 and co-hosting of the African Women of Faith Conference provide a strong foundation for a successful and impactful Convention among others.

The Global Interfaith Convention Theme, Rooted and Rising: Grounded in Faith; adapting, innovating & sustaining Impact, responds directly to that reality. Rather than treating the changing landscape as a threat to be endured, it invites the network to meet the moment with innovation, creativity and resolve to reimagine how faith communities sustain the response on health, gender justice and peace, and how the network itself becomes more resilient, resourceful and self-reliant for its next phase.

Hatheru Court | Hatheru Road (Lavington) | Nairobi, Kenya | P.O. Box 2438-00202 |
Website: www.faithtoactionetwork.org Email: convention@faithtoactionetwork.org
Twitter | Facebook| Youtube| Linkedin| Instagram|

The Convention will create a space to examine how these assets can be harnessed responsibly and strategically, while recognizing that faith communities are themselves diverse, and that faith can either reinforce or help transform harmful social norms.

About Faith to Action Network

Faith to Action Network is a global interfaith network of faith organisations from Bahai, Buddhist,Confucian, Hindu, African Traditional, Christian and Muslim faiths. It offers faith organisations a platform to engage on issues they are grappling with, in particular, women's rights and gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, peaceful, just and inclusive communities.

Our members' faith traditions call on us to uphold human dignity, human wellbeing and social and gender justice. Sometimes, our diverse faith teachings lack answers to the everyday challenges faced by communities. However, we all have a mutual interest in finding solutions to shared problems and articulating a compassionate voice. We look for opportunities to engage in brave debates, mutual learning, increased collaboration, while partnering constructively with other faith organisations, governments, and other stakeholders. We are convinced that when we all join hands, we can exert powerful influence on leaders and communities for better health, gender justice and peaceful coexistence. Faith to Action Network brings together diverse faith actors and faith institutions – clergy, lay, youth, women and men - to engage in dialogues that addresses the day-to-day issues of all communities in safe spaces. A foundation laid in interfaith partnership and collaboration to address shared challenges and advance common good is key in harmonious living.

Convention Objectives

The objectives of the Global Interfaith Biennial Convention 2027 seek to stimulate participants to better understand, engage and plan action on:

- Innovation and creativity in faith-led action to advance family health and wellbeing, gender justice, peaceful and inclusive communities, and climate justice.
- Sustainable resourcing of faith-led interventions in a changing financial landscape.
- Building a stronger faith actors' movement through interfaith collaboration, cross-regional learning and collective advocacy.
- Strengthening strategic partnerships to advance sustainable development and collective action.
- Shaping the Network's future direction through shared priorities and practical commitments.

The Convention will seek to generate tangible outcomes beyond the event itself, including:

- Innovation and creativity in faith-led action to advance family health and wellbeing, gender justice, peaceful and inclusive communities, and climate justice.
- Sustainable resourcing of faith-led interventions through diversified financing, domestic and faith-based resource mobilization, strategic partnerships, and localization.

Hatheru Court | Hatheru Road (Lavington) | Nairobi, Kenya | P.O. Box 2438-00202 |
Website: www.faithtoactionetwork.org Email: convention@faithtoactionetwork.org
Twitter | Facebook| Youtube| Linkedin| Instagram|

- Sustaining and scaling impact by strengthening interfaith collaboration, protecting gains, and adapting effective approaches to changing development and funding contexts.
- Building a stronger faith actors' movement through cross-regional learning, youth leadership, collective voice and strategic partnerships.
- Shaping the future of the Network through shared priorities, practical commitments, and a collective agenda for the Network's next strategic phase.

Participants

The Convention will bring together the breadth and diversity of the Faith to Action Network and its wider ecosystem. It will bring together approximately **150-200** in-person participants, alongside a wider virtual audience. Participants will include Network member organisations and partners from across 38 countries and seven faith traditions; faith leaders, faith-based practitioners, women and youth; government representatives, donors and philanthropic organisations; technical and development partners, civil society organisations, researchers and academia; and private-sector actors and social innovators working in technology, financing, communications and community solutions.

Structure and Methodology

The Convention is planned as a three-day hybrid convening, offering an engaging and inclusive platform to showcase the contributions of the international interfaith community to achieving SDG 3 Good health and wellbeing, SDG 5 Gender equality, SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions, SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals. It, further contributes to the Inner Development Goals (IDGs), strengthening participants' transformational skills for sustainable development.

The Convention will adopt a participatory, creative, and forward-looking approach, moving beyond the traditional conference format to serve as a global platform for learning, innovation, collaboration, and collective action. Focus will be placed on interfaith, intersectional and international approaches to the three sub-themes of **Innovation and Creativity, Resourcing the Future, and keeping the Mission Alive and Growing.**

The programme will combine high-level opening and keynote conversations, strategic plenaries, interactive workshops and learning labs, an innovation marketplace and demonstrations, faith leader and youth dialogues, partner and donor roundtables, resource mobilisation and investment discussions, cross-regional learning exchanges, storytelling and impact showcases, networking opportunities, and digital participation. Participants will also collaboratively develop practical commitments and the Convention outcome statement.

Sub-themes

These sub-themes are the lens; the substance of the Convention is the network's core work. Across all three, the Convention will engage in four crucial thematic areas and emerging area of climate justice agenda through dedicated tracks on:

Hatheru Court | Hatheru Road (Lavington) | Nairobi, Kenya | P.O. Box 2438-00202 |
Website: www.faithtoactionetwork.org Email: convention@faithtoactionetwork.org
Twitter | Facebook| Youtube| Linkedin| Instagram|

- Family health and wellbeing: including SRHR, RMNCAH and adolescent health.
- Women's rights and gender justice: including the prevention of gender-based violence and child marriage.
- Peaceful, just and inclusive communities: including freedom of religion or belief and social cohesion.
- Climate justice as an emerging priority: including faith-led climate action, resilience and eco-theology.

1. I**nnovation and Creativity**

This sub-theme will explore bold, practical and creative approaches to faith-led action, including digital and AI-enabled tools, youth-led media, storytelling, social innovation, new models of community engagement and innovative approaches to social and gender norms change.

2. R**esourcing for the Future**

This strand of the Convention will explore practical pathways for sustaining impact through diversified resource mobilisation, domestic and faith-based giving, philanthropy, enterprise and social enterprise, blended financing, partnerships, localisation and stronger institutional resilience.

3. K**eeping the Mission Alive and Growing**

This subtheme will explore how the network and its partners can protect gains, sustain movements and scale what works across health, gender justice, peace and inclusion and climate action while strengthening solidarity, learning, partnerships and collective voice.

The Opportunity

The Global Interfaith Biennial Convention 2027 brings together a community already working across faith, geography, generations and sectors to ask: How do we remain rooted in what gives our work meaning while becoming more innovative, sustainable and equipped for the future?

The Convention will connect faith with innovation, evidence with lived experience, and communities with resources turning relationships into partnerships for action. It will celebrate achievements while exploring what must change, showcase innovation grounded in community realities, and engage donors and partners as co-creators of a more resilient ecosystem for faith-led action. Together, the Network will shape its next chapter.
This concept note will be refined as planning progresses. Faith to Action Network welcomes partners, donors and allies to shape, co-host, sponsor or otherwise support this milestone gathering. For more information or to explore partnership, sponsorship or participation opportunities, please contact the Faith to Action Network Secretariat.

Hatheru Court | Hatheru Road (Lavington) | Nairobi, Kenya | P.O. Box 2438-00202 |
Website: www.faithtoactionetwork.org Email: convention@faithtoactionetwork.org
Twitter | Facebook| Youtube| Linkedin| Instagram|