

**2019 PaRD General Assembly of Members
May 1st to 3rd, 2019
at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
Eigtveds Pakhus, Copenhagen**

Summary Report: Outcome, Decisions and Recommendations

At the closing of last year's GAM held at Château de Bossey, Switzerland, the PaRD Steering Group gratefully accepted the invitation by PaRD member Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark to hold the 2019 PaRD GAM in Denmark.

Thus, the 2019 PaRD General Assembly of Members (GAM) took place from May 1st to 3rd, 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark in Copenhagen. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Danish Network on Religion and Development including Danmission and DanChurchAid, the PaRD Steering Group and the PaRD Secretariat, organized the conference.

The current 105 PaRD members and observers were invited to participate in a diverse conference. Over 150 representatives of members and observers followed the local hosts' invitation to Eigtveds Pakhus in the Danish capital.

The GAM consisted of **public sessions** (p.1.), PaRD-internal **plenary sessions** (p. 2), **meetings of the PaRD Steering Group** (p. 4) and its **sub-committees** (p. 4), and meetings of the **PaRD work-streams** (p. 6). All agenda items were designed to provide opportunities for discussion, exchange, and mutual learning.

Public sessions

May 1st

1. On the first evening, the annual **fireside chat** titled '*One decade to go until 2030*' set the tone for the conference in an informal atmosphere. Moderated by Prof. Mohammed Abu-Nimer (KAICIID), the evening's guests of honor Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian, Jr., Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, and Ani Zonneveld shared their personal stories as women and men of faith with the participants of the conference. They shared their perspective on sustainable development and on how religious and faith-based organizations contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

May 2nd

2. Mette Thygesen, Head of Department Humanitarian Action, Migration and Civil Society, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, officially opened the GAM and welcomed members and observers to Copenhagen, Denmark. The GAM commenced with the public keynote address *Shrinking Space for Civil Society and the Role of Religious Actors* by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata, General Secretary of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC). The keynote address was followed by an interactive panel between panellists Michael Suhr, Ambassador and Special Representative for FoRB, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Faisal Bin Abdulrahman Bin Muaammar, Secretary General, KAICIID, Gladys Nairuba, Danish Church Aid Uganda, and the public offering their insights on the topic. Birgitte Qvist-Sørensen, General Secretary of DanChurchAid and Moderator of the ACT Alliance, moderated the panel. Please see an in-depth report of the dense discussions [here](#).

3. The “**Gå hjem møde**” “**Go Home Meeting**” is a tradition in Denmark, where colleagues inform each other on their work over coffee after work. In that tradition, the Danish hosts, represented by Andreas Dybkjær-Andersson, Danmission and Jørgen Thomsen, DanChurchAid, brought together PaRD members and interested guests from various Danish organisations to discuss PaRD and the role of religion in development. The event aimed at linking the keynote and its ensuing interactive panel with other participants’ experiences. One common position of all participants was the reminder that religion must not become a mere instrument to deliver development programmes. Instead, each religion’s own distinctive character must be taken seriously.

May 3rd

4. Moderated by Siva Jamal Aziz, Head of Section, Dept. for Hum. Action, Migration and Civil Society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Danish Network on Religion and Development together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented their very co-operative approach to developing the religion and sustainable development agenda: **Co-creation**. Various members of the Danish Network presented examples of co-creation initiatives and discussed these with the conference’s participants.
5. Starting the **interactive discussion on linking research and development practices** Dr. Marie Juul Petersen, Senior Researcher from the Danish Institute for Human Rights, presented the findings from her research on *EU Member State Engagement with FBOs: An ‘Added Value’?* This input was commented and expanded on by Prof. Katherine Marshall/WFDD, Prof. Henning Melber/EADI, Dr. Fabio Petito/Department of International Relations, University of Sussex, and Abozer Elmana Elligai/AU ECOSOCC. The session was moderated by Martin Junge, Lutheran World Federation.
6. Two **Open Fora** on the 2nd and 3rd day of the conference offered space for exchange and networking. Overall, 30 PaRD members seized the opportunity to share and discuss their respective work and positions. Each organisation had the opportunity to hold a small group discussion of 20 minutes each. Inputs and ensuing discussions centred on new approaches and initiatives and how co-operation through PaRD allows scaling and enhancing them.

Plenary sessions

The General Assembly of Members features several plenary sessions, in which PaRD members decide on the future of their partnership and the way forward until the next PaRD GAM. Content and results from these sessions were:

7. Findings from two recent surveys conducted by Emma Bridger/USPG among PaRD members and PaRD members’ partners from around the world informed discussions on the future of PaRD.
 - a. The survey encouraged PaRD members to be confident in their partnership: even if PaRD is a space for ‘conversation only’, it is of high value to its members and their own partners.
 - b. It found high esteem among members for PaRD, since it offers an effective way for different actors to forge partnerships, benefit from mutual learning, and conceptualize their own ideas with others.
 - c. The survey responses emphasized the need for a wider outreach of PaRD to achieve equal representation of different voices from all religions/faiths, and all global regions. It also highlighted the need to include additional topics to meet the needs of all PaRD members.

8. The three PaRD Work-streams updated the members on their activities in the last year. Please see the respective section for each work-stream (p. 6).
9. The Steering Group reported to the members on its activities in the last year. Please see the section on its sub-committees (p. 4) for information on their respective work.
 - a. Currently, PaRD has 105 members. Please see the full PaRD membership statistics in the [conference brochure](#).
 - b. Outside of individual work-streams' engagement, PaRD was present at three key events since the 2018 GAM:
 - The G20 Interfaith Forum in Buenos Aires, Argentina from September 26th to 28th, 2018 (please see additional information [here](#))
 - The Parliament of the World's Religions in Toronto, Canada from November 1st to 7th, 2018; in addition, the Steering Group used this occasion to hold its 2019 midterm meeting (please see additional information [here](#))
 - The Religions and the SDGs Conference in the Vatican from March 7th to 9th, 2019 (please see additional information [here](#))
 - c. PaRD and its knowledge partner the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI) share some members and work on similar topics. To avoid duplication of work and to create synergies, PaRD and JLI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to coordinate their respective work and outline fields of cooperation.
 - JLI supports the PaRD work-streams through its Learning Hubs by conducting research on behalf of the work-streams. Jean Duff/JLI briefed the GAM on the progress of the on-going research on the following topics (links to the report provided, if published):
 - *Scoping Study on Faith Actors Partnerships in Adolescent, Sexual, and Reproductive Health*
(WS Health/SDG3)
 - *Religion, Development and GBV. Recommendations for a Strategic Research Agenda for the PaRD Gender Equality and Empowerment Work-Stream*
(WS Gender Equality and Empowerment/SDG5)
 - *Scoping Study on Partnering with Local Faith Actors to Support Peaceful and Inclusive Societies*
(WS Sustaining Peace/SDG16)
10. The PaRD GAM reaffirmed its three work-streams to continue their work and update PaRD members accordingly on activities and progress.
11. The PaRD GAM was informed about and acknowledged the institution of two new working groups within PaRD, namely on
 - Environment, Water, and Climate Action
 - Capacity Building/Strengthening, which presented a new set of e-learning modules on Religion and Development developed i.a. in PaRD
12. A few members suggested initiating a group of members interested in the broader field of religious freedom and inter-religious dialogue (FoRB/IRD).
13. In its farewell remarks, the Steering Group responded with gratitude to the invitation by PaRD member National Religious Association for Social Development (NRASD) to hold the 2020 PaRD GAM in South Africa from September 2nd to 4th, 2020.

Meetings of PaRD Steering Group

14. During the 2019 PaRD GAM, the **Steering Group** discussed the following issues as priorities for PaRD's way forward:

a. **Communication and Branding**

- The Steering Group recognizes the need to invest more resources in the efficient communication about PaRD; it tasks the secretariat to develop its communication strategy further with particular regards to social media and producing communication materials on PaRD activities, which may be shared easily by all PaRD members.
- The Steering Group tasks the secretariat to develop a branding strategy, which allows activities and products to be labelled as collaborative works within the partnership, but without suggesting the (silent) consent of each member with all activities and products.

b. **The PaRD-UN Advisory Group**

- The Steering Group formally welcomes UN Environment as a member of the PaRD-UN Advisory Group.
- The Steering Group reaffirms its commitment to remain in close contact with UN organs and emphasizes its aspiration to work jointly on shared goals; to that end, the Steering Group has discussed a joint communication strategy, which will be shared and discussed with the PaRD-UN advisory group.

c. **Additional work-streams and working groups**

- The Steering Group recognizes the interest of PaRD members to introduce new topics into the partnership, while it equally addresses the constraints in terms of money and time available to work on additional topics.
- Namely, the following two topics are recognized to be the subject of new working groups within PaRD, which have been inaugurated at the 2019 PaRD GAM and will continue their efforts going forward:
 - Environment, Water, and Climate Action
 - Capacity Building/Strengthening

Meetings of PaRD Steering Group Sub-Committees

15. The **PaRD Membership Sub-committee** met on May 1st; main outcomes of its discussions are:

- a. During the 2018 General Assembly of Members, the sub-committee has been established focusing on growing and broadening the PaRD membership.
- b. The sub-committee consists of Kirsten Evans/USAID, Peter Prove/WCC, Maria Lucia Uribe Torres/Arigatou International, Hellen Mugo/CYNESA, and Thomas Lawo (secretariat).
- c. The members of the committee reaffirm the commitment to grow PaRD, in particular in non-DAC countries.
- d. The sub-committee recognizes all PaRD members' and the secretariat's efforts, which has led to the UAE and the Government of Colombia joining as observers with

- intent to become full members by the 2020 PaRD GAM; the sub-committee welcomes both observers.
- e. In addition, the sub-committee has identified the following countries as focal countries for their efforts to grow PaRD based on contacts established since the last GAM; a particular interest lies in bilateral entities from each of these countries:
 - Indonesia, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique, Kenya, and South Africa
 - f. Regarding DAC-countries, the governments of Italy, France, and the Netherlands have been approached to become PaRD members.
 - g. The sub-committee reaffirms the commission of the PaRD secretariat to continue actively reaching out to CSOs/ROs/FBOs from non-DAC countries; close attention is to be paid to the diversity of religious affiliations within the partnership.
 - h. To advance this outreach, the sub-committee tasks the secretariat to translate the information documents into French, Spanish, and Arabic.
 - i. The sub-committee recommends to the Steering Group and work-streams to increase and actively foster a sense of co-ownership among all members active in PaRD.
16. The **PaRD Budget & Finance Sub-committee** met on May 1st; main outcomes of its discussions are:
- a. During the 2018 General Assembly of Members, the sub-committee has been established focusing on the budget, finances, and broadening the donor base of PaRD, including acquiring funding for specific initiatives.
 - b. The sub-committee consists of Muhammed Abu-Nimer/KAICIID, Atallah Fitzgibbon/IRW, Hanno Spitzer/BMZ, and Ulrich Nitschke (secretariat) with Mercy Niwe/WB and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati (GIWA) joining the sub-committee meeting in Copenhagen.
 - c. The sub-committee recognizes and thanks the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for continuing its core funding for PaRD until 2022.
 - d. The sub-committee expresses its gratitude to all PaRD members who have contributed funding (monetary and in-kind) to PaRD over the last years; a detailed overview of their efforts will be produced by the PaRD secretariat in the follow-up to the 2019 PaRD GAM.
 - e. Despite this funding, the sub-committee emphasizes the need for additional funders; in order to attract interested funders, the secretariat is tasked to provide detailed budgets and options to fund individual activities.
 - f. The sub-committee recognizes the Steering Group's endorsement of the "Faith Works" document (see annex), which serves as an entry-point document to inform potential donors and contributors about the options available to fund PaRD.

Meetings of PaRD Work-streams

17. PaRD continues to work in three areas of engagement: knowledge exchange, capacity building as well as advocacy/policy advice. Members active in the work-streams used the opportunity of the General Assembly of Members to discuss and revise the draft work-plans of the three work-streams, to establish next steps and to identify key advocacy events for each work-stream.
18. **Health/SDG 3** – Co-leads: USAID, World Vision, IRW, WCC
- a. The health work-stream focuses on Universal Health Coverage (SDG 3.8) with two clusters. One working on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (SDGs 3.1/3.2) and the other on Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS (SDGs 3.3/3.7).
 - b. Last year's activity:
 - **Oct. 14-16, 2018: World Health Summit in Berlin, Germany**
 The World Health Summit is the world's most prominent annual forum for addressing global health issues bringing together key leaders from academia, politics, civil society, and the private sector to address the most pressing health-related challenges on the planet. The work-stream hosted a panel discussion with Dr. Azza Karam (UNIATF/UNFPA) and Rev. Phumzile Mabizela, Executive Director of INERELA+ on the role of religion for the human right to health.
 - c. Upcoming activities at key advocacy events: Women Deliver in Vancouver, Canada on June 3rd to 6th, 2019
19. **Gender Equality and Empowerment/SDG5** – Co-leads: GAC, IRW, Side by Side
- a. The work-stream focuses on Sexual and Gender-based Violence. Where possible, the work-stream aligns with relevant SDG 5 (Gender Equality) indicators and targets, most notably 5.1/5.2/5.3. Interconnected issues include early and forced marriage, human trafficking, as well as education opportunities.
 - b. Last year's activities:
 - **November 1st to 7th, 2018: Parliament of the World's Religions in Toronto, Canada**
 Complementary to many members' individual activities, PaRD organized a workshop through its work-streams "Sustaining Peace" and "Gender Equality and Empowerment".
 (Please see the full report [here](#))
 - **November 13th to 15th, 2018: African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum in N'Djamena, Chad**
 The strategic plan of the African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum addresses specific objectives for the engagement of women and youth that outlines desired outcomes, strategies and activities meant for women and youth's participation in the programme. The work-stream participated in order to identify ways of contributing to the strategic plan.
 - **March 2019: Two side events to the 63rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63):**
 - March 15th: Faith, Feminism and Human Rights Frameworks
 - March 18th: Unlocking the Power of Faith-Based Partnerships: Enabling the Right to Social Protection

The PaRD Gender Equality and Empowerment work-stream, led by Side by Side, Global Affairs Canada and Islamic Relief Worldwide, hosted two Side Events. The governments of Canada, Denmark, and the UK, and a group of religious and civil-society organizations sponsored the events.

Over the course of the two events, panelists and participants explored the role faith actors play in advocating for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

(Please see the full report [here](#).)

20. **SDG 16 “Sustaining Peace”** – Co-leads: KAICIID, CRS, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers

a. While all twelve SDG 16 targets address important aspects of the issue, members have identified four in particular as priorities of the work-stream: 16.1/16.2/16.8/16.A.

d. The members have agreed on and reaffirmed their commitment to four core activities:

- Support the implementation of the Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes
- Collaborate to Support SDG16 at the grassroots level in selected partner countries
- Plan for PaRD engagement around the SDG16 review at the 2019 HLPF
- Engage on efforts to prevent violence against children

c. Last year’s activities:

- **October 3rd to 5th, 2018: iDove 2nd Intercontinental Youth Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Built on the conviction that only soft power prevents violent extremism, iDove serves as a unique platform for exchange, joint learning and training. Initiated by the AUC CIDO and BMZ, it connects initiatives in both Africa and Europe supporting young people’s engagement for peaceful societies.

- **October 16th to 18th, 2018: Faith Action for Children on the Move Global Partners in Rome, Italy**

The forum held in Rome brought together representatives from more than 80 religious and faith-based organisations to reflect on and commit to responsibilities as well as forge contributions to ending violence against children and young people who are internally displaced or refugees. The forum’s participants jointly developed and published an action plan with concrete recommendations.

(Please see the full report and plan of action [here](#).)

- **March 6th, 2019: Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland**

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: The Contributions from Religious Communities to End Violence against Children

- **November 1st to 7th, 2018: Parliament of the World's Religions, Toronto**

Complementary to many members’ individual activities, PaRD organized a workshop through its work-streams “Sustaining Peace” and “Gender Equality and Empowerment”.

(Please see the full report [here](#))

e. Upcoming activities at key advocacy events: High-Level Political Forum on July 16th, 2019 at the Church Center, New York City