



Leave No One Behind: The Well-Being of the Planet and Its People The 2024 G20 Interfaith and PaRD Annual Forum on Religion and Sustainable Development

August 19–22, 2024 Hotel <u>Royal Tulip Brasília Alvorada</u>, Brasilia, Brazil

The G20 Interfaith Forum (IF20) and the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD) are co-organizing their respective Annual Forums from August 19 to 22 in Brasilia, Brazil. The gathering will bring together a diverse array of stakeholders, including from various faith and Indigenous traditions and other civil society organizations, representatives from governments, multilateral entities, academia, and developmental experts.

The Annual Forum is inspired by <u>Brazil's G20 theme</u>: "Building a just world and a sustainable planet". Its key topics are aligned with the priority areas of the 19th G20 Summit, to be held on November 18 and 19, 2024 in Rio de Janeiro: 1) fighting hunger, poverty and inequality, 2) the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental), and 3) global governance reform.

OBJECTIVES

The IF2O and PaRD Annual Forum aims to contribute to building a just world and a sustainable future, drawing on and enriching the multifaceted ideas, experiences, activities, and contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of religious and faith actors across the world. The Forum will foster practical approaches to challenges ranging from economic and social inequality, climate change, flagging trust, to rising polarization and violence.

The gathering offers the opportunity to harness the transformative potential of religion and faith-based actors in advancing global sustainable development agendas. The Forum will serve as a catalyst for policy change amongst G20 countries, especially where there is openness to strategic cooperation among state and religious actors. By harnessing the collective wisdom, resources, and networks of diverse stakeholders, especially religious and Indigenous actors, the Forum aims to inspire concrete actions towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. It aims to foster a more just, equitable, and sustainable world by focusing on advocacy efforts and actions that build on rich experience at local, national, and international levels.

The primary objectives for the joint event are to:

Objective 1: Foster inclusive dialogues to address flagging trust, rising polarization, hate speech and violence by supporting collaboration, and collective action focused on governments and faith actors from Latin America with a view to supporting long term partnerships.

Objective 2: Provide participants opportunities for networking and sharing of experiences and good practices especially of multi-stakeholder collaborations with faith and Indigenous actors.

Objective 3: Build links to the work of G20 Engagement Groups (civil society, think tanks, women, youth, business, and others) and relevant Working Groups of the **G20 Sherpa Track** (notably Anti-Corruption, Climate and Environmental Sustainability, and Health), and to link to various G20 constituencies in preparation for the **Social Summit** (November 15–17, 2024).

Objective 4: Participants, relevant decision makers at policy level, advocacy groups, development experts, and press receive key messages about the Annual Forum, particularly about the concrete contributions of faith actors to the SDGs and humanitarian work.

Objective 5: Develop recommendations on actions that support the world's most vulnerable groups, including children, amidst challenges such as poverty, violence, forced migration, and climate change.

PRIORITY AREAS

Aligned with the priorities of Brazil during its G20 Presidency 2024, and with the key themes of both PaRD and IF20, the joint event will contribute to all three priority topics identified by the G20 Presidency:

- 1) Fight against hunger, poverty, and inequality, including food security, health equity including mental health, children's well-being, gender equality, human trafficking, and Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB).
- 2) Three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental), including environmental stewardship, crisis response and preparedness, reforming economic and prosperity paradigms as well as education systems to strengthen values that foster holistic well-being, cyclic thinking and social cohesion.
- **3) Reform of the global governance system,** including the G20 common framework on debt, anti-corruption efforts and climate finance.

BACKGROUND ON ORGANIZERS

The G20 Interfaith Forum (IF20) offers an annual platform where a network of religiously linked institutions and initiatives engage on global agendas, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The G20 process has evolved since it was established, with various platforms that allow different sectors and communities to present ideas and recommendations to global leaders. Since 2014, the IF20 aims to contribute meaningful insights and recommendations that respond to and help shape the G20 and thus global policy agendas. The IF20 builds on the vital roles that religious institutions and beliefs play in world affairs, reflecting their rich diversity of institutions, ideas, and values. These include interfaith and intercultural organizations, religious leaders, scholars, development and humanitarian entities, and business and civil society actors. The agenda for each Annual Forum is framed considering the annual G20 priorities (outlined each year by the host government), together with topics that the various networks of religious actors recommend that the G20 leaders address.

The International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD) convenes governments, multilateral entities, academia, religious and other civil society actors on a long-term basis to amplify contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and make them visible at a global level. PaRD offers a safe space that provides continuity for global dialogue, learning, sharing of good practices and evidence, and collaboration to better inform policy and practices through recommendations and practitioners guidelines. In Workstreams and Taskforces, the over 170 PaRD members engage on Food Security (SDG 2), Health (SDG 3), Gender Equality and Empowerment (SDG 5), Environment, Water and Climate Action (SDGs 6, 13, 14, 15), Localisation, Sustaining Peace (SDG 16) and Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB).