

ICCGC-CoNGO 2024



Global Citizens Pursuing a Just, Peaceable, Inclusive, and Sustainable Future:

An ICCGC-CoNGO Collaborative Conference

ICCGC-CoNGO 2024

26-27 August 2024

Church Center for the United Nations

Global Action on Peace, Sustainability, and Prosperity

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Interfaith Coalition Conference for Global Citizenship (ICCGC)
Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CoNGO)

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The ICCGC-CoNGO Global Futures Conference, scheduled for August 26 and 27, 2024, at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City, marks a significant assembly at the nexus of religion and civil society, dedicated to charting pathways toward a globally harmonious, just, peaceable, and sustainable future for people and their communities, the planet, and the entire ecological system.

The New York Conference is a collaboration between the Interfaith Coalition Conference for Global Citizens (ICCGC) and the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) to collectively pursue peace, human security, dignity, and planetary sustainability. This collaboration emphasizes local and global cooperation and solidarity across cultures and religions while remaining mindful of diverse and uneven economic, social, and political conditions.

This conference aims to ignite transformative dialogues and initiatives on various pressing issues locally and globally. Building on the foundation laid by previous conferences in Seoul, this gathering in New York seeks to continue and deepen the discourse and action between Seoul and New York.

The ICCGC 2023 convened in Seoul with the theme “Shaping Our Future Together: Engaged Spirituality in the Era of Crisis.” Reflecting on the Concept Note of ICCGC 2023, it stated, “The Interfaith Conference for Global Citizens (ICCGC) aims to promote the spread of global citizenship education through ethics, diversity, global issues, and sustainability, and operating global-civic exchange programs to strengthen mutual trust and enhance cultural diversity. The ICCGC is a platform that opens the dialogue among global citizens through which morality and science, spirit and matter, and religion and politics join forces and advance together.”

With the collaboration of ICCGC and CoNGO in this 2024 conference, the number of participating organizations and individuals has increased, and the conference's thematic scope and coverage have broadened. ICCGC 2024 is convening in New York to intentionally connect with a global, multilateral effort to assess current challenges and, in doing so, forge a path toward a just, peaceful, and sustainable future for both people and the planet. The convergence of efforts from Seoul and New York brings the conference to a pivotal point where religion and spirituality (Seoul) intersect with and inform global governance and multilateralism, like the UN [Summit of the Future](#) scheduled to meet on Sept. 20-21 (Action Days) and Sept. 22-23 (Summit) at the UN Headquarters.

2024 is pivotal to local, national, regional, and global governance. However, it is multilateralism at the UN in New York, where diplomats will gather at a high level to “forge a new international consensus on how we deliver a better present and safeguard the future.”

The New York conference will engage the Summit of the Future by intentionally reviewing the relevant documents related to the Summit, including the UN Secretary General’s [Our Common Agenda](#), the [Pact for the Future](#), the [Declaration on Future Generations](#), the [Global Digital Compact](#), and [A New Agenda for Peace](#).

Texts and declarations from religions and cultures will be welcome as references so that the ethical and religious dimensions of the future(s) can be equally examined for their contribution towards a just, peaceable, inclusive, and sustainable future. Other texts include the [UNESCO Declaration on the Responsibilities of the Present Generations Towards Future Generations](#) and proposals like [The Maastricht Principles on the Human Rights of Future Generations](#).

Through a carefully curated program featuring keynote speeches, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, participants—from leaders and practitioners within religious communities, civil society organizations, academia, and the public sector—will examine critical topics such as ethical leadership, environmental stewardship, social justice, and global governance. These discussions will be framed within interfaith and civic values, engagement, and action principles. The role of religious and faith-based actors in national and multilateral (global) governance will be discussed at this conference.

Embracing the theme "Global Action on Peace, Sustainability, and Prosperity," this conference lays out a bold vision, urging global citizens to actively participate in sculpting a future that transcends mere aspirations and moves into actionable projects that secure the future for today and for future generations yet to be born. It seeks to imagine and realize a world where peace is the bedrock of our global community, environmental stewardship is a universal commitment, and prosperity is shared by all, regardless of geography or background. This is a call to action for everyone to contribute to a legacy of harmony, sustainability, and shared wealth, creating a world that future generations will inherit with pride.

We invite you to attend this pivotal event in New York. Together, we will lay the foundations for a just, peaceable, and sustainable world and planet, propelling us toward an era of inclusivity and abundant prosperity for all.

Day 1 (26 August 2024)

12:30-13:00 **Arrival and Registration**

13:00-14:20 **Opening Session**

Emcees: Rev. Dionne P. Boissiere (Chaplain, Church Center for the United Nations)

Rev. Dr. Grace Song (Won Buddhist Studies Department Chair, Won Institute of Graduate Studies)

Moment of Silence

Opening Video

Opening Remarks: Dr. Sunggon Kim (Co-chair, ICCGC)

Welcoming Remarks: Rev. Dr. Liberato Bautista (President, CoNGO)

Congratulatory Address: Dr. Francis Kuria Kagema (Secretary General, Religions for Peace)

Peace Message: Mr. Phallop Thaiarry (President, World Fellowship of Buddhists)

Keynote Speech: "Pact for the Future: Global Action on Peace, Sustainability, and Prosperity"

Dr. Irina Bokova (Former Director-General, UNESCO and Kyung Hee University Miwon Scholar of Practice)

Response to Keynote Address: Ven. Chung Ohun Lee (Former Chair, Committee of Religious NGOs at the UN)

Peace Song: Mannam Quartet

Singers: Ven. Sungjin, Pastor Jin Kim, Fr. Sung-Yong Ha, Rev. Se-Woong Park

Group Photo

14:20-14:40 **Networking Coffee & Tea**

14:40-16:10 **Panel Session 1. Global Ethics & Global Citizens**

Topic: "Ethical and Global Citizen: Not Whether, But How?"

How do we bring together world leaders, political, religious, activist, and others, on a common ground for Global Ethics? As global citizens, we have a responsibility to work with others across diverse traditions and cultures to form common bonds and a shared vision. For example, we have the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. While this is laudable as a declaration, what additional resources are needed to bring together people in community and action? Where the focus may differ (justice, religious harmony, climate change, etc.), how can we harness the synergy of the global community to empower one another? How can we gather locally to act globally?

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Mark Unno (Professor, University of Oregon)

Panelists: Prof. Fadi Daou (Executive Director, Globethics - Geneva)

Rev. Dr. Kwangsoo Park (Emeritus Professor, Wonkwang University)

Dr. Kusumita Pedersen (Professor Emerita, St. Francis College)

Dr. Kunihiro Terasawa (Associate Professor, Wartburg College)

16:10-16:20 **Networking Coffee & Tea**

16:20-17:50 **Panel Session 2. Towards a Global Peace: For People and Planet**

Topic: "We Want Peace: How Can We Promote and Build Peace in Our World?"

This panel discussion, themed "Towards a Global Peace: For People and Planet," delves into the critical role of global cooperation and understanding in fostering peace across borders. We will explore effective conflict resolution strategies, the impact of cultural diplomacy, and the contributions of faith leaders, governments, and NGOs in creating a harmonious world. By highlighting key peacekeeping successes, the session aims to provide actionable insights for fostering worldwide peace and unity.

Moderator: Rev. Doyeon Park (Co-Chair, Committee of Religious NGOs at the UN)

Panelists: Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer (Executive Director, Interfaith Center of New York)
Mr. Garry Jacobs (President and CEO, World Academy of Art and Science)
Dr. Carolyn Medine (President, Society for Buddhist Christian Studies)
Mr. Elias Szczytnicki (Regional Secretary-General, Religions for Peace, Latin America and the Caribbean)

17:50-18:00

Closing Session (Day 1)

Rev. Young-In Sa (Co-chair, ICCGC)
Idanont Thaiarry (Secretary General, World Fellowship of Buddhist Youth)
Dr. Wonsun Oh (President, Won Institute of Graduate Studies)

Day 2 (27 August 2024)

10:30-12:00

Panel Session 3. Dialogue Between Religions and Civil Society

Topic: "Aspirations for the Common Good: Working Together for Shaping a Brighter Future"

This session will explore the collaborative efforts needed to create a future that benefits everyone. We will discuss how collective aspirations for the common good can drive positive change, focusing on the roles of different sectors, including faith-based organizations, governments, NGOs, and communities. By sharing insights and strategies, this session aims to inspire cooperative action and foster a shared commitment to building a brighter, more equitable, and sustainable future for all.

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Leo Lefebure (Professor, Georgetown University)

Panelists: Imam Saffet Catovic (Director, UN Operations for Justice for All)

Dr. Julius-Kei Kato (Associate Professor, King's College-Western University)

Ms. Maddalena Maltese (New York Representative, New Humanity of Focolare Movement)

Rev. Margaret Rose (Deputy, Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations for The Episcopal Church)

12:00-13:00

Lunch Break

13:00-13:30

Special Address

Topic: "Religious Role and Responsibility for Peace on the Korean Peninsula"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Taesung Kim (Secretary General, Korean Conference of Religions for Peace)

13:30-13:45

Networking Coffee & Tea

13:45-15:00

Panel Session 4. Youth for Climate Action

Topic: "Youth in the Age of Climate Disaster: How Youth Can Impact the Future"

This session will explore how youth-led initiatives significantly impact environmental policy, sustainable practices, and community awareness. Participants will share stories of collaboration, innovation, resilience, and collaboration that illustrate the power of youth engagement in tackling global climate challenges. The session aims to inspire further action and highlight how young leaders can mobilize communities and influence decision-making for a sustainable future.

Moderator: Ms. Kristine Leonardo (Programme Associate, Religions for Peace)

Panelists: Mr. Steve Chiu (Youth Representative, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation)

Ms. Kehkashan Basu, M.S.M. (Founder-President, Green Hope Foundation)

Ms. Darren Namatovu (Founder & Executive Director, Phoenix Children Foundation)

15:00-15:15

Networking Coffee & Tea

15:15-16:45

Panel Session 5. Global Citizenship Education for Future Generation

Topic: “The Next Generation of Global Citizens: GCED for an Inclusive and Sustainable World”

Global citizenship education (GCED) is needed to face the challenges of the 21st Century and the challenges of the VUCA world, which is volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous. Global Citizenship education encourages global citizens to be independent, develop global perspectives, build harmony among people from other countries and ethnic groups, understand diversity through cross-cultural education, respect the Earth and all living beings, and promote global well-being while enriching their lives. To learn to create imaginative solutions to world problems, to help solve diverse global issues, and to become active citizens who can make changes in society for the good of everyone. In this session, panelists will discuss the following: how global citizenship is practiced in real life, what GCED is to the individual panelists, how GCED is implemented in their specific role and environment, and what message each panelist has for the youth and our future leaders.

Moderator: Dr. Kathy Matsui (Professor, Seisen University)

Panelists: Dr. Roberto Catalano (Professor, Sophia University Institute, Italy)

Dr. Janet Gerson (Education Director, International Institute on Peace Education)

Dr. Russell Pearce (Professor, Fordham University)

Rev. James Lynch (Representative to the United Nations, Rissho Kosei-Kai)

16:45-17:00

Networking Coffee & Tea

17:00-17:15

Special Intervention

Topic: “Toward an Integral Rejection of War and a Strategic Mobilizing for Peace and Life”

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Riccardo Petrella (Professor Emeritus, Catholic University of Louvain)

17:15-17:30

Closing Session (Day 2)

Reading of the ICCGC-CoNGO Declaration on the 2024 UN Summit of the Future

Rev. Dr. Liberato Bautista (President, CoNGO)

Ms. Christina Lee (Inter-religious Dialogue Advisor, Focolare Movement)

Rev. Yoshiharu Tomatsu (Executive Council Member, World Fellowship of Buddhists)

Dr. Julius-Kei Kato (Vice President, Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies)

Partners

Hosts

- Interfaith Coalition Conference for Global Citizens (ICCGC)
- Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO)
- Won Buddhism

Organizer

- ICCGC-CoNGO Organizing Committee

In Collaboration with

- Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations
- Corps. Peace
- Faith-Based Solutions ImPACT Coalition
- Focolare Movement
- Globethics
- Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
- Institute on Religion, Law and Lawyer's Work, Fordham University
- Interfaith Power and Light
- Korean Conference of Religions for Peace
- Mannam Quartet

- Parliament of World's Religions
- Phoenix Children Foundation
- Religions for Peace
- Research Center for Religions, Wonkwang University
- Rissho Kosei-Kai
- Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies
- Temple of Understanding
- United Women in Faith
- World Academy of Art and Science
- Won Buddhism UN Office
- World Fellowship of Buddhists
- World Fellowship of Buddhist Youth

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- Yojin Construction & Engineering
- Kiss Group

Resources

- UN Summit of the Future



- Our Common Agenda



- Pact for the Future



- Maastricht Principles on the Human Rights of Future Generations



- Declaration on Future Generations



- Global Digital Compact



- A New Agenda for Peace



- UNESCO Declaration on the Responsibilities of the Present Generations Towards Future Generations



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