

# The Faith Pavilion

A hub for faith-based engagement at the World Urban Forum. Where religious and non-religious communities and practitioners can meet, share, learn, and build partnerships, united in the shared mission of localizing the SDGs for the common good



Faith is a formative and enduring dimension of human life and community, and has a significant impact on the built environment we all share. As cities grapple with urgent challenges like housing, essential services, and social cohesion, faith communities offer a unique ability to bridge divides and engage in local solutions.

The Faith Pavilion at WUF13 provides a dedicated space to highlight the contributions of faith-based organizations and leaders to urban development, sustainability, and community resilience, while fostering meaningful engagement among faith communities, local governments, civil society, and other urban stakeholders. Our presence at WUF13 serves two primary goals: first, to strengthen the capacities of religious

organizations committed to urban development; and second, to build bridges across sectors and communities that might otherwise overlook one another, enabling greater collaboration and helping cities recognize and leverage the transformative potential of faith-based organizations and networks as essential partners in shaping more vibrant, resilient, and inclusive urban futures.

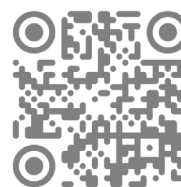
Our approach to multi-faith collaboration is founded on covenantal pluralism<sup>(1)</sup> which means supporting diverse faith communities in maintaining their unique identities while working together to build sustainable, inclusive cities. We summarize this perspective as "rooted and linked"—firmly rooted in our own faith traditions, yet open and eager to connect with others for collective action.

## Faith Pavilion WUF13 Call To Action On Housing

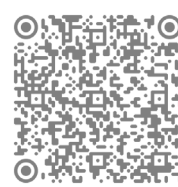
The WUF13 Faith Pavilion Call to Action on Housing is a multi-faith statement that brings together faith leaders, faith-based organizations, practitioners, and partners from around the world to advance more just, inclusive, affordable, and sustainable housing systems. Rooted in

the shared moral conviction that housing is foundational to human dignity, community flourishing, and the common good, the Call to Action highlights the unique contributions faith communities can make through their relationships, land, institutions, moral

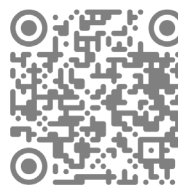
leadership, and long-term presence in neighborhoods and cities. It invites collaboration across sectors to address the global housing crisis and help build resilient, compassionate, and lifegiving communities for all.



More about Faith for Cities



Faith Pavilion Schedule



Resources Page

## Resources for Reflecting, Collaborating, & Acting

For WUF13, the Faith Pavilion has developed a resource page featuring free studies, guides, and other practical tools intended to inspire deeper reflection, collaboration, and action—especially around SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. These

resources, all free, are not presented as uniform approaches, but as examples of how different faith traditions are translating global challenges into their own theological, ethical, and spiritual languages. Our hope is that they encourage faithful engagement, shared

learning, and practical responses that contribute to the flourishing of communities and the well-being of creation around the world. Faith for Cities is a collaborative Initiative developed by Thriving Cities Group, Synergine, and the Templeton Trust.



The Call to Action Statement



Endorse the Statement!

## A Fact Sheet /Why Engage Faith Communities in Urban Development?(2)

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) are key global stakeholders, possessing substantial resources and far-reaching influence. With approximately 84% of the global population identifying with a religion—and projections indicating that religious affiliation will grow, particularly across Africa and Asia<sup>(3)</sup>, through 2050—faith groups hold immense potential to drive transformative progress toward sustainable urban development and thriving communities for all.

**Financial Influence:** Religious institutions manage significant assets and investments worldwide, positioning faith communities as powerful contributors to impactful urban solutions.

**Buildings & Facilities:** Faith communities own millions of buildings worldwide, from churches and mosques to temples and community centres, cafes, hotels etc. These spaces can serve as valuable resources for urban development, social services, and community gatherings.

**Education:** Faith-based organizations operate half of all schools globally, including 64% in sub-Saharan Africa. The Catholic Church, for instance, manages the largest non-governmental school network worldwide, fostering educational access across both urban and rural areas.

**Healthcare Provision:** Religions deliver 30–50% of health services in many developing countries. The Catholic Church alone accounts for over a quarter of healthcare facilities in Africa, especially in HIV and AIDS initiatives.

## Faith, SDGs, and Cities

Faith-based organizations play a crucial role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in urban contexts.



- **SDG 1 /No Poverty**  
FBOs provide essential services and support for the urban poor.
- **SDG 3 /Good Health and Well-being**  
Many faith groups run healthcare programmes to reduce health disparities.
- **SDG 11 /Sustainable Cities and Communities**  
Faith groups advocate for inclusive urban planning, affordable housing, and public spaces.
- **SDG 16 /Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**  
Faith networks work towards fostering social cohesion, civic engagement, and conflict resolution.

The Faith Pavilion exhibits how faith-aligned urban development contributes to creating the cities we need and highlights partnerships that enable us to “do better together.” By connecting practitioners and communities who may otherwise struggle to engage, we champion localised solutions that build thriving, sustainable cities for all.



<sup>(1)</sup> [Multi-Faith Covenantal Pluralism](#)

<sup>(2)</sup> Information adapted from FaithInvest @ <https://www.faithinvest.org/why-work-with-faiths>

<sup>(3)</sup> Pg 17 The Routledge Handbook of Religion and Cities & <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/12/21/key-findings-from-the-global-religious-futures-project/>

## Faith Pavilion Sponsors

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