

Press Release:

Faith Pavilion Debuts at WUF12 With A Bold Call to Action

November 6, 2024, Cairo, Egypt — The Faith Pavilion (<https://www.faithforcities.org>), a collaborative multi-faith initiative by Faith for Cities and partners, made its debut at the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF12) hosted by UN-Habitat. This ground breaking pavilion provides a dedicated space for faith-based organizations and other governmental and civil society organizations “to meet, share, learn, and build partnerships, united in the shared mission of localizing the SDGs for the common good.”

The Faith Pavilion’s participation responds to UN-Habitat’s call for a “whole-of-society” approach, recognizing that faith communities—representing 84% of the global population—are integral to addressing global urban challenges. The pavilion builds on a decade of trust building with UN-Habitat, marking a significant milestone in faith-based engagement in World Urban Forums.

“The Faith Pavilion represents a historic step in faith-based urban engagement,” said Dr. Chris Elisara, Director of Faith for Cities and the World Evangelical Alliance’s Special Envoy for Environment, Climate, and Cities. “We are demonstrating that faith communities and faith-based organizations are powerful partners in sustainable city-building, bringing moral clarity and a deep-rooted commitment to the common good.”

A Covenant of Collaboration

The Faith Pavilion’s multi-faith approach is grounded in covenantal pluralism, which fosters collaboration across faiths while respecting diverse traditions. As a platform for dialogue, the pavilion has encouraged cooperation among faith-based, governmental, and civil society organizations, unified in the mission of achieving the SDGs through local action.

Recommendations for Action

The Faith Pavilion put forth seven calls to action: widen the tent for greater inclusion of faith communities, build cross-sector partnerships, educate faith leaders on the New Urban Agenda and SDGs, consult on trust-building best practices, support sustainability-focused faith statements, develop actionable faith-based plans, and encourage multi-faith collaborations on short-term projects. This agenda focuses on fostering trust, sharing best practices, promoting sustainability, and creating actionable plans—aligning diverse faith communities in advancing local efforts for sustainable cities.

Looking Forward

Following the enthusiasm at WUF12, the Faith Pavilion will continue its mission with a planned Urban Thinkers Campus in 2025, paving the way for an expanded Faith Pavilion at WUF13 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

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