



**RELIGIOUS AND INTERFAITH BEST PRACTICES IN LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**  
*while advancing the implementation of the SDGs  
and the application of the Istanbul Principles*

SIDE EVENT at the  **HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
Friday, July 15, 2022 1:00-2:30 pm

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Co-Organizers**

Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean  
Latin American Catholic Episcopal Council (CELAM)  
Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean (SELACC)  
Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI)  
Action by Churches Together Alliance (ACT Alliance)  
Central America Program, Lutheran World Federation (LWF)  
Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of Latin America (AIPRAL)  
World Vision  
Regional Ecumenical Advisory and Service Center (CREAS)

**Background**

The Interreligious Alliance for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean has drawn up a mapping of nine best practices developed with the voluntary participation of faith-based organizations (FBOs) in six countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in the framework of the emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which aggravated many pre-existing social problems in the region. These effective interventions, which also advance the implementation of the SDGs and the application of the Istanbul Principles, serve as inputs for the design of national and international public policies, as well as for the improvement of the FBOs to participate in partnerships with governments and international organizations, to build capacity in the people and communities they serve at the grassroots level.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to severely affect the most vulnerable populations in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially groups that have historically suffered from inequality, the absence of the State and various forms of violence, such as women and girls, and Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations. On the other hand, the COVID-19 pandemic has confirmed the significant contribution of FBOs, which promote not only comprehensive, supportive, timely and effective care in emergencies, but also support local development, contribute to social transformation and constitute a space for solidarity reflection and citizen incidence.

In 2014, the Interreligious Alliance for the 2030 Agenda was founded as a network of FBOs in Latin America and the Caribbean working together to promote efforts to address inequality and exclusion in implementing, monitoring and reporting SDGs in the region. It is based on the shared ethical values of faith communities, the human right-based approach (HRBA) and the vision of an “model of inclusive, sustainable and people-centered development”. The 2022 HLPF will be an opportunity to strengthen the engagement of FBOs in the region behind the goal of demonstrating the progress and results in achieving the SDGs by religious communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### Objectives

- a) Acknowledge the efforts of faith communities in Latin America and the Caribbean in developing responses to the emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated extreme poverty and inequalities in the region.
- b) Highlight the multi-religious vision that the 2030 Agenda must translate into a transformative change towards an “inclusive, sustainable and people-centered development model”.

### Format

There will be a presentation by the author of the mapping and then a panel discussion featuring religious leaders, government representatives and UN officials, followed by an open dialogue around the questions of:

- How to strengthen interreligious cooperation to better respond to future emergencies?
- How to improve partnerships with governments and international organizations?

### Participation

The side event shall be open to all HLPF participants and representatives of religious NGOs at the UN.

### Outcome

A summary of the discussions will be used as input to build stronger alliances between FBOs, governments and international organizations to implement SDGs and applicate Istanbul Principles in the region.

