

Faith-Based Solutions for the Pact for the Future and Beyond



Organizers and participants of the imPACT Coalition side event.

On **Friday, September 20th**, the ImPACT Coalition on Faith-based Solutions held a Side Event to the Summit of the Future, co-sponsored by the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and the UN Multi-faith Advisory Council (MFAC). A variety of Network members participated in the event including the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the Global Interfaith Network (GIN-SSOGIE.) The side event was a chance for faith actors to share insights, best practices, and actionable recommendations aligned with the Summit's objectives, in support of a more equitable and sustainable future.

The event featured moderator **Celine Bankumuhari**, Head External Relations and Advocacy, Faith to Action Network and panelists: **Dr. Husna Ahmad**, CEO of Global One 2015, **Jamil Ahmad**, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, New York Office, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and **Jessica Roland**, Senior Inclusive Peace Specialist, Peacemakers Network.

Dr. Ahmad emphasized that, while the Pact recognizes the importance of intersectional work in the pursuit of inclusive just societies, faith communities are uniquely positioned to espouse those values, fostering greater trust and communication within the multilateral system. Jamil Ahmad further supported the role of faith-based organizations as key contributors and facilitators of action on the ground, and their distinct position to encourage their governments to action, making them valuable

partners in environmental agreements. Jessica Roland discussed the Peacemakers Network's ongoing work bolstering young people of faith to create better partnerships in the peacebuilding space and support capacity-building. Roland highlighted the value of interfaith dialogue in a multi-stakeholder environment and precluded the Summit's **Opening Ceremony** with a rousing reminder that if, *"people of faith are the sound of civil society, young people are the drumbeat of that sound ... they keep us going."*

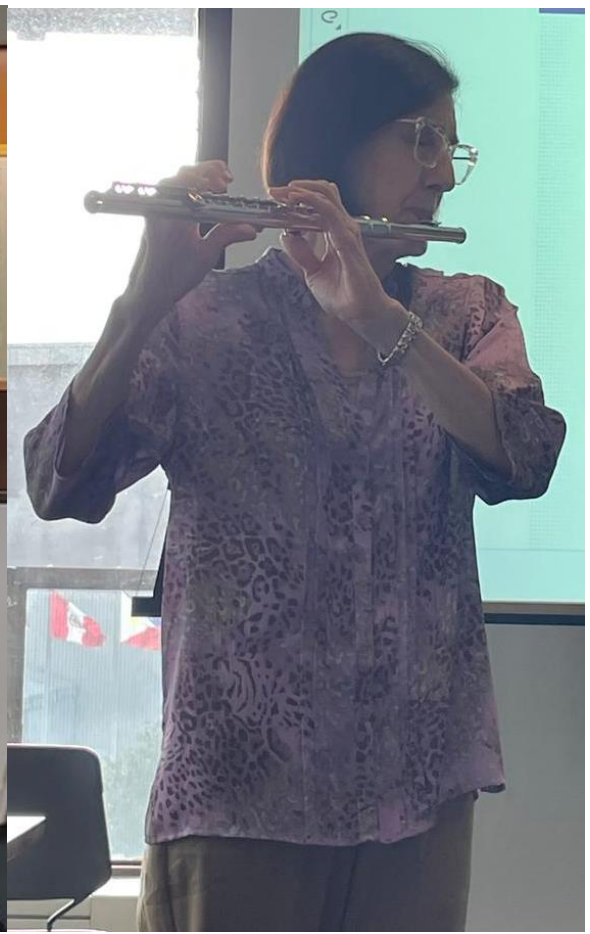
(Reference: <https://www.peacemakersnetwork.org/peacemakers-network-engagement-at-the-79th-session-of-unga/>)



Two youth respondents, **Karol Arámbula**, Programme Management Officer on Human Mobility and Climate Justice, ACT Alliance Latin America and the Caribbean, and **Allen**, Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA), shared their views on the subject. They reminded us that we need to be catching up with the climate crisis and that we have no reason not to do so. Allen stated that compassionate listening is vital if we want to involve youths in the conversation. He stressed that faith leaders and policy makers need to *"prepare the future versus preparing for the future."*

This was followed by the presentation of the Joint Statement by the Faith-based Solutions ImPACT Coalition: "From Greed to Deeds-A Call-to-Action from the Faith Community to Global Leaders". The Statement is advocating for an intersectoral approach in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, urging leaders to take bold collective actions with a focus on trust, respect, tolerance, and peace. To read more, see the full statement linked [here](#).

The event closed with a meditation led by **BK Sabita Geer**, a representative of the Brahma Kumaris at the UN, guiding all to envision a world where there is harmony, inclusivity, and acceptance of all life on the planet. A profound minute of silence ensued which was accompanied by flute music played by **Carolyn Steinberg**.



BK delegation that attended the Summit for the Future Action Days, September 20-21: Julia Grindon-Welch (NY), Sabita Geer (NY), and Sakshi Satish Kamlapure (India).

