



Official hybrid side Event :
“Faith Community is a Blue Community”
22 March 2023, 14.30-16.30, Eastern Time

Venue: UN Church Center, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, United States

Aims of the Session

- Recognise potentials of faith communities to achieve SDG 6
- Highlight faith-based good practices on water justice issues
- Spread the concept of Blue Communities
- Affirm and sign Water justice
- Build synergies and develop networking for faith and interfaith actors attending the UN Water Conference (22-24 March 2023);

[Registration Link](#) ; [Event Page](#)

Agenda

Time	Activity	Speaker	Description
2.30 PM -2.50 PM	Networking over coffee		
2.50 PM – 3.00pm	Welcome and logistics	Rev. Dr. Ryan Smith Programme Executive, Ecumenical Office to the UN, WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brief intro of the UN engagements of FBOs
	Welcome and Orientation	Dinesh Suna (Moderator) Coordinator, Ecumenical Water Network, WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Setting the context of the UN Water Conference 2023 ● Aim of the session

3.00 pm – 3.15 PM	Keynote address (Video message)	Prof. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo UN Special Rapporteur, human right to water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why Blue Communities are answer to global water crisis? • Power and potentials of faith community
3.15pm – 4.05 PM	Interviews of 7 mins each	Rev. Dr Kenneth Mtata Director, Public Witness & Diakonia, WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCC's journey of being a Blue Community • Why faith matters in the water crisis?
		Dr Maude Barlow Founder of Blue Community, Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why and what is a blue community? • PPP: Public –Private vs Public-Public
		Archbishop Prof. Thomas Schirrmacher General Secretary, WEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual significance of water • good practices of WEA in protection of human right to water
		Dr. Iyad Abumoghli Director, Faith for Earth, UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are 5 actions for faith actors in the UN Water conference? • What is Faith for Earth's vision for water for all?
		Christine Moffett Interim Program Director for Environmental Policy, ELCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Creation not for sale" vis-à-commodification, financialization and privatization of water • good practices from the Lutheran community that promotes human right to water

		<p>Bishop Arnold Temple President, All Africa Conference of Churches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation of Human Right to Water in Africa • What is churches' response to protect our waters?
		<p>Jennifer McCarthy Project Manager, PaRD (GIZ)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is PaRD? How it contributes to achieve the SDGs, esp. goal 6? • How can faith community realise its full potentials to address SDG 6
		<p>Iva Markovic Pravo na vodu (Right to Water), Serbia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why a People's Water Forum? • What is the water justice manifesto? • Why faith community must endorse?
4.05 pm – 4.20 pm	Q & A	All speakers	
4.20 pm – 4.25 pm	Summary and closing	Dinesh Suna, Moderator	

Bios of the speakers

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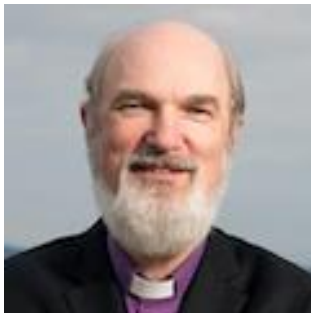
Prof. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. He has served as an elected member (MP) of the Spanish Parliament and is a recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize for his contributions to conservation of water ecosystems and his involvement in water conflicts that affect human rights of communities in vulnerable situations. He has published his work in more than 100 scientific articles in over 70 books. Pedro speaks English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.



Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata is the Director of Public Witness & Diakonia department of World Council of Churches, which encompasses all developmental and humanitarian work of the Council and is based in Geneva. Prior to this he was the general secretary of the ZCC (Zimbabwe Christian Council). He was also the Study secretary of Lutheran Theology and Practice at the Lutheran World Federation from 2006-2016. He was also one of the two candidates selected for the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation.



Dr h.c. Maude Barlow is the national chairperson of the Council of Canadians and founder of the Blue Planet Project. She is a recipient of Sweden's Right Livelihood Award and a Lannan Cultural Freedom Fellowship. Barlow is the author of numerous books—including *Blue Gold* (with Tony Clarke), *Blue Covenant*, and *Blue Future*, the chair of the board of Food & Water Watch, and a board member of the International Forum on Globalization. From 2008 to 2009, she served as senior advisor on water to the 63rd President of the UN General Assembly and helped lead the campaign to have water declared a human right. She lives in Ottawa, Canada.



Archbishop Prof. Thomas Schirmacher is Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance, which connects Protestant churches belonging to 143 National Evangelical Alliances. Before becoming Secretary General, Schirmacher served WEA in various leadership roles over the last two decades. Schirmacher holds the honorary positions of President of the International Council of the International Society for Human Rights (Frankfurt) and of Co-President of Religions for Peace (New York),



Dr. Iyad Abumoghli, Founder and Director of the Faith for Earth Initiative, at UNEP, has more than 38 years of experience with international organizations, the private sector, and scientific institutions. Dr. Abumoghli is the Lead Principal Advisor on Engaging with Faith-Based Organizations at UNEP. Previously Dr. Abumoghli held several leading positions including the Regional Director and Representative of UNEP in West Asia, Director of Knowledge and Innovation at UNDP's Regional Office for the Arab states, Global Practice Manager for the Energy and Environment Group in New York, among others.



Christine Moffett is the Interim Program Director for Environmental Policy of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Christine comes from both environmental science and political science background. She holds a Masters degree in Political Science from the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam with specialization in Global Environmental Governance, Climate Change and Sustainability. She has worked with the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan. Christine has particular interest and research experience in the interconnectedness of environmental issues and how that may influence the “institutional fit” of governance.



Bishop Arnold Temple, former Chair of World Council of Churches Ecumenical Water Network and the President of All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC). He is the Bishop Emeritus of the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone. He is a former member of the WCC Central Committee, highest decision making body of WCC. He has spoken at several global water platforms, including the World Water Week on the Faith and Water segments.



Jennifer McCarthy joined the PaRD Secretariat at GIZ in March 2022. She is originally from Canada but has lived, worked and studied abroad since 2003, and has over 10 years of development practice experience. She has worked with NGOs in Afghanistan, Indonesia, and Myanmar, as well as in the UK and Canada. Her postgraduate research, including her PhD, took place in northern Afghanistan. Her areas of expertise are gender equality, participation, and partnership working. Within PaRD, Jennifer facilitates the Work-Streams and leads organization of PaRD’s major events such as the Annual Forum on Religion and Sustainable Development



Iva Marković is an environmental organizer from Serbia, program director of the Organization for Political Ecology - Polekol, and a co-founder of the initiative - Right to Water. She initiated many networks such as the Women in Environment (Serbia) and Save the rivers of Balkans (region), etc. She is a forestry engineer, a Secretariat member of the European Water Movement, and one of the Obama Foundation's emerging leaders for Europe. She advocates for water as a human right and public good, environmentally protected and socially accessible.



Mr Dinesh Suna is the Coordinator of the Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) at World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva since 2012. He advocates for water justice issues at the WCC. He is a Lutheran and has worked with several ecumenical organizations in his home country in India since the 1990s. Currently he is one of the Co-leads of the PaRD (Partnership of Religions and Sustainable Development) workstream on "Environment, Water and Climate Action" (WeCARE) and a founding member of the People's Water Forum. Mr Suna has a master's degree in Social Work.



Rev. Dr Ryan Smith is the Programme Executive and Representative to the United Nations in New York for the World Council of Churches. Ryan represents the global fellowship of 500 million Christians from 349 global, regional and sub-regional, national, and local churches seeking unity, a common witness, and Christian service in New York. Ryan believes in the unity of Christian witness and understands the importance of the ecumenical movement for global change at the United Nations, in regional and local settings as well as within the fellowship of believers.