

## Vision and Mission

PEACE is a common aspiration for Humanity, a shared value for religions and a core goal of the United Nations.

### Vision

The long-term vision is for a **genuine and lasting peace** based on:

- **Based on more equitable, fraternal and harmonious societies**
- **That fully respect human rights and all manifestations of life**
- **In which sharing is more important than competing**
- **Where dialogue replaces all forms of violence for resolving conflicts**
- **Where cultural and religious diversity are appreciated, and**
- **Where peace is deeply rooted in people's cultures and in the hearts of all human beings.**

### Mission

This ambitious vision requires concerted action with **effective social impact**; high level meetings and wise declarations are not enough. Consequently, the MISSION of this DECADE is to better **mobilize the immense spiritual, human and organizational resources** of the religious communities, interfaith organizations, spiritual traditions and movements, traditional indigenous groups, and other aligned values-based civil society organizations in the pursuit of pertinent **UN objectives**, such as the Millennium Development Goals, human rights (including the rights of women, children and youth, refugees and migrants), gender equity, decent work for all, dialogue among civilizations, promoting a culture of peace and nonviolence, peace-building and shared security.

This should be undertaken in **partnership** with the United Nations, its member states and specialized agencies and other constituencies of civil society.

### Expected outcomes

We expect that by 2020, as the DECADE comes to a close, the proposed interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation will have **significantly contributed to** the achievement of meaningful goals toward **sustainable peace** in the world, such as:

- **Ending extreme poverty and hunger**
- **Making basic education –including education for peace– universal**
- **Enhancing the respect for the rights of all human beings –particularly those of women, children, youth, migrants, refugees and displaced people**
- **Making available decent jobs for all those who want to work and abolishing any form of child-labour abuse and slavery**
- **Developing social institutions and attitudes in the people that facilitate inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue and cooperation as well as the peaceful resolution of conflicts at all levels**
- **Developing a responsible behaviour towards the environment.**

A long-lasting culture of cooperation among religious communities and individuals at all levels is also expected to flourish from this DECADE.

## The Partners

As other UN activities, the DECADE is conceived as a tripartite venture, with the active involvement of UN Member States, UN Agencies and Programs as well as religious communities, interfaith organizations and other pertinent social actors of the civil society.

In March 2009, at Maryknoll, near New York, a COALITION in support of the proposed UN Decade was launched, which is coordinated by a Steering Committee. The following organizations have expressed their support to the DECADE Initiative and are joining the Coalition:

### Interfaith organizations

- CONGO's Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns CSVGC Geneva
- CONGO's Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns CSVGC New York
- Council for the Parliament of World Religions – CPWR
- Interfaith Encounter Association – IEA (Israel)
- Interfaith International
- Interfaith Peace Building Initiative
- Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC)
- International Association for Religious Freedom – IARF
- Minorities of Europe
- Monastic Interreligious Dialogue
- North American Interfaith Network (NAIN)
- Religions for Peace – WCRP
- Religions for Peace, European Women of Faith Network EWFN
- Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies (Jordan)
- Shumei International
- The Inter-confessional Religious Forum for the Great Lake region
- The Temple of Understanding
- The World Faiths Development Dialogue
- United Religions Initiative – URI
- World Congress of Faiths
- World Council of Arya Samaj

### Faith-based organizations

- Al-Hakim Foundation
- Bahai International Community
- B'nai B'rith International
- Brahma Kumaris Spiritual University
- Canadian Council of Muslim Women CCMW
- Caritas International
- Chief Rabbinate of Israel
- Federation of Islamic Associations of Senegal
- FEZANA Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America
- Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha
- Indigenous People's Spiritual Ancestral

### Council

- International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations IJIC
- Konko Church of Izuo
- Lama Gangchen World Peace Foundation – LGWPF
- Lutheran World Federation
- Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
- Muhammadiyah (Indonesia)
- Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony in the United Kingdom
- Network of Engaged Buddhists
- Rishsho Kosei-kai
- Santi Pracha Dhaman International Network of Engaged Buddhists
- Shanti Ashram
- Sikh Dharma International
- Soka Gakkai International
- The Rwanda Muslim Association
- The Union of Muslim Councils for east central and southern Africa
- Union of Reform Judaism
- Union Theological Seminary
- USG/UISG Unions of Superior Generals of religious men and women Orders and Congregations of the Roman - Catholic Church
- Won Buddhism International
- World Alliance of Reform Churches WARC
- World Council of Churches
- World Fellowship of Buddhists
- World Islamic League
- World Subud Association
- World Zarathushti Cultural Foundation

### Values-based organizations

- Children of the Earth
- Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CONGO)
- Earth Charter Initiative
- Global Family for Love and Peace – GFLP
- Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Ethic
- Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)
- World Alliance of YMCAs
- World Organization of the Scout Movement
- World Young Women Christian Association – World YWCA

The **UN Decade** Initiative at the  
*2009 Parliament of World's Religions*

*Symposium: Feeding a plan of action for the UN Decade of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace*

*First session:*

**Sunday 6 December**  
2:30–4:00 p.m.

- (a) Introducing the proposed UN Decade
- (b) Presenting successful stories of partnership between Faith-based Organizations and UN agencies and Member States around Millennium development goals
- (c) Interactive sharing of experiences with the participants. Suggestions for the Plan of Action of the DECADE

*Second session:*

**Tuesday 8 December**  
2:30–4:00 p.m.

- Presenting successful stories of partnership (continue) on:
- (d) Human rights (with emphasis on social, economic and cultural rights)
- (e) Preventing and healing religiously motivated conflicts
- (f) Interactive sharing of experiences with the participants. Suggestions for the Plan of Action of the DECADE

*Main organizer of the Symposium:*

Dr. Gerardo Gonzalez (Chile), Executive Secretary, Coalition in support of the proposed DECADE.

*Presenters:*

- For (a): **Stein Villumstad** (Norway), Deputy Secretary General of Religions for Peace and Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Coalition in Support of the Proposed UN Decade.
- For (b): **Dr. Gerardo Gonzalez** and **Serigne Mansour Sy** (Senegal), President of the Federation of Islamic Associations of Senegal and member of the Steering Committee of the Coalition.
- For (d): **Dr. John Taylor** (UK), Representative of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) in Geneva, Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee of the Coalition
- For (e): **Mussie Hailu** (Ethiopia), Coordinator of URI in Africa, Chair of the Board of the Interfaith Peace Building Initiative of Ethiopia.

*You are cordially invited to share your own experiences and make suggestions for the plan of action of the proposed DECADE*

*Contact information*

Chairperson Steering Committee:

Stein Villumstad

Deputy Secretary General

Religions for Peace

777 UN Plaza New York, NY 10017 Tel: 1-212-687-2163

E-mail: [svillumstad@wcrp.org](mailto:svillumstad@wcrp.org)

Executive Secretary Steering Committee

Dr. Gerardo Gonzalez

Via Esmeralda 9440, Vitacura, Santiago, CHILE.

Tel: 56-2-2185578 and 2180620, mobile: 56-99-8889749

Personal e-mail: [gerardo.gonzalez@mi.cl](mailto:gerardo.gonzalez@mi.cl);

Institutional e-mail:

[executivesecretary@faithdecadeforpeace.net](mailto:executivesecretary@faithdecadeforpeace.net)

*Learn more on this UN Decade Initiative and express your support in:*

[www.faithdecadeforpeace.net](http://www.faithdecadeforpeace.net)

**Initiative** for a **“UN Decade**  
of Interreligious and Intercultural  
Dialogue, Understanding and  
Cooperation for Peace”  
(2011-2020)

*Building SUSTAINABLE PEACE  
by practicing united the GOLDEN RULE  
all over the world*

“You are coming to the United Nation with a proposal for partnership with a vast constituency –the Brothers and Sisters of the religious communities, faith-based organizations and value-based secular groups around the world. I am convinced that partnerships between our 192 Member States and organized civil society are the only way we are going to successfully meet the overwhelming challenges that threaten our very existence here on our dear, abused Mother Earth.”

*H.E. Miguel D'escoto Brockmann, President of the United Nations General Assembly, in his message at the launching of the Coalition in support of this proposed UN Decade. New York 4 March 2009.*