

## Celebration of world environment day

Date: 31st May 2019

Venue: Desmond Tutu Conference Centre – Nairobi

United Religious Initiative (URI) organized half day Inter-faith meeting to commemorate World Environment day that was to be observed on 5th June. The theme was “Faith for earth – we stand together to save mother earth”. “Together we can beat air pollution”. The meeting started with a prayer for the environment followed by readings related to the environment from scriptures of all religious books.

Organizations present at the meeting were: Inter-religious council of Kenya, Kenya Interfaith Network on Action for Environment, Interfaith Youth Network, Sikh Council of Kenya, Buddhist in Kenya, Baha’i International community (Africa office) and the Brahma Kumaris. The UN Environment was represented by Dr. Iyad Abumoghli and Dr. Gary Luis. The Brahma Kumaris were represented by BK. Jyotsna Patel and Dorcas.

Amb. Mussie Hailu representing United Religious Initiative (URI), Africa noted that URI has taken the initiative to heal the earth, it is not a question of numbers but commitment with passion. URI is promoting a culture of peace, the change we want to see, promoting peaceful co-existence among communities. He thanked Dr. Iyad for his efforts and later presented Dr Iyad with an award. He noted that URI helps us to celebrate our diversity and promote role of religious leaders in environment activities for the Africa we want to see in 2063. Religious leaders have expressed concern for values in environment degradation. URI took the initiative to call upon all organization to work with UNEP to save mother earth. This year 5,000 fruit trees will be planted to commemorate world environment day.

Dr. Gary representing the Director’s office at UN Environment noted that, unmitigated climate change will put humanity and all creatures at risk. The arctic sea is getting warmer and already we are feeling the change. Air pollution is everywhere and 8 out of 10 people are exposed to air pollution. The impact of climate change has already taken root. Action should start with each one of us, let us walk the talk. We humans must live in harmony with nature, we are a creation of God and must be stewards of mother earth. While Dr Iyad in his speech noted that we now have a plan, the sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will guide governments. He further said that we have had an industrial revolution, but now need an ethical, moral revolution. the story of Noah exists now, we need to build a Noah arc by being passionate for how we live, by reducing wastage.

## Pictures



Dr. Iyad and BKs Jyotsna and Dorcas



Group photo



Dr. Iyad receiving an award for his work in environment