

Voices from Religions on Sustainable Development

Published by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Religion is sometimes seen as a hindrance to development and peace. This book shows that religion can be part of the solution to the global challenges we face. It brings together the multifaceted wisdom of religions and indigenous traditions on sustainable development. More than 25 inspiring followers, theologians, practitioners and academics from the Bahá'í Faith, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Indigenous traditions, Islam, Judaism, and the Sikh Religion share their spiritual and religious insights on the five dimensions of the new Agenda 2030: Planet, People, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. Without claiming any form of representative authority, their authentic contributions increase our knowledge of religions and describe how religious actors promote development. The book demonstrates that common spiritual values are at the heart of all religious and indigenous traditions – and that bringing these virtues to life can contribute to overcoming environmental destruction, poverty, forced migration, corruption, terror, discrimination and injustice. The authors give cause for optimism that the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030 signed by 193 nations at the United Nations in September 2015 can be achieved through a conscious individual and collective effort – provided we ourselves are willing to change in the first place.

To order a book, please send an email to ReligionMatters@giz.de

Press release: BMZ strategy religion and development

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2016/februar/160217_pm_015_Minister-Mueller-presents-new-strategy-on-cooperation-with-religious-communities-Achieve-more-by-working-together/index.html

Strategy in English

http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/information_flyer/information_brochures/religionen_als_partner_en.pdf

International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development – PaRD

<http://partner-religion-development.org/>

The new International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD) aims to strengthen and institutionalise cooperation between governments, multilateral organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), academia, and religious actors working in the fields of development, peace, interreligious dialogue and humanitarian assistance.

- Membership is open to all bilateral donors (OECD and new donors) and multilateral organizations
- Members contribute by core-funding, funding for single activities/in-kind contribution, and/or their experiences/networks
- Non-governmental actors can become associated partners
- Decisions are taken by all members

- Decisions include: annual working program and admission of associated partners
- Associated partners can provide input and feedback to annual working program

Criteria for selection of associated partners (work in progress)

- Focus on development or humanitarian assistance
- Commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Impartiality towards target groups
- No proselytism with ODA or public funds
- Transparency and accountability
- Check of track-record of intended associated partner and past working relationships with PaRD members

New short film on Religion and Development

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWYQ3dpoTHU>