

# 64. INCLUSIVE AND ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS FOR RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

ACTION AREA	UNIVERSAL FOOD ACCESS TO BUILD RESILIENCE
SOLUTION CLUSTER	ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS
THEMATIC AREA	ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS
SUBMITTED BY	BUDDHIST TZU CHI FOUNDATION & INTERFAITH COALITION

## SUMMARY

Recognizing the need for a whole of society approach to address an equitable and just transition towards local and resilient food systems, and the critical role that behavior change plays in this process, *Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation and Interfaith groups propose to establish a Coalition of Interfaith groups that could bring forwards, aspirational and inspirational game changing solutions, uniting faith and spiritual voices, in order to provide insights for new narratives based on ethical development pathways for Resilient Food Systems and a Just Recovery.*

## THE MAIN ACTION TO BE PROPOSED: WHAT IS IT?

Building a coalition of faith leaders to shift narratives around food as a human right, and around ethical food consumption and production and zero food waste, building upon the outcomes of the UNFSS.

## WHO WOULD IMPLEMENT IT?

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation and an Interfaith Coalition composed by members including (TBC) The Center for Earth Ethics, World Evangelical Alliance, Bhumi Global, Interfaith Public Health Network, Parliament of the World's Religions and Islamic Medical Association North America (TBC).

## WHO WOULD FUND IT?

The coalition will be looking for Innovative Funding (for example by investing on recycling initiatives such as the transformation of food packaging/plastic into items for medical use or to support humanitarian rescue and recovery).

## HOW WOULD BE DONE?

The coalition building process will be based on sharing aspirational and inspirational common goals and faith actions that diverse communities can adopt, in the areas of:

1. Change of Narratives around food, as a common good, a human right, as a medicine or a sacred good (e.g. Indigenous Groups).
2. Reflecting on how to shift away from the extractive and exploitative models we currently have with both people and planet, applying a moral and ethical dimension to the act of consumption and production of food, waste reduction and resilient development (for example Tzu chi composts food, reuses utensils, recycles and transform packaging etc.)
3. Highlighting religious teachings from major faith traditions that align with the universal human right to food and sustainable relationships with food and how this is applied in practice in hospitals, schools, Humanitarian assistance, disaster recovery.
4. Spotlighting key innovative faith based actions that can be adopted widely in diverse communities of faith that build Pandemic Resilient Food Systems (e.g. the compassionate quarantine) or Climate resilient food systems.

#### WHO WILL BE THE BENEFICIARIES?

Faith leaders in local communities around the world that have new frameworks for holding conversations in their houses of worship and the constituents of faith communities. Around the right to food, ethical consumption and production of food, and zero food waste..

#### IN 2 LINES, DEFINING THE TITLE THAT WILL IDENTIFY THE SOLUTION

Building a coalition of faith leaders at international level to strengthen faith advocacy around sustainable climate friendly food systems and building capacity of faith leaders to engage with ethical and localized production and consumption of food.

#### WHICH ORGANIZATIONS/COUNTRIES/REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS/NETWORKS ARE PROPOSING THE SOLUTION?

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation and all the potential members of the coalition...  
Regional ...

#### EXISTING ACTION THAT DESERVES TO BE SCALED UP (MASSIVELY), APPROACH OR NEW INNOVATION

The existing interfaith coalition consists of religious institutions that are already inline with the narrative of multilateralism and coexistence in the interest of creating a more sustainable future. The new approach is to engage faith groups that are against these notions and to create a greater mutual understanding of the gaps and needs of these communities and create inclusive and transformative strategies that allow for a shift in narrative.

#### MAIN OUTCOME EXPECTED IF SCALED UP OR IMPLEMENTED AS REQUESTED

A stronger alliance of faith based organizations sharing solutions at a local level, and resilient communities around the world that have access to healthy food systems.

Greater number of persons of faith committed to personal change in attitude and behavior in support of sustainable and healthy food systems.

#### HOW THIS SOLUTION IS STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE IN FOOD SYSTEMS?

Faith communities work in the most marginalized communities around the world. By coalescing faith leaders' wisdom and insights, while sharing frameworks for ethical consumption and production of food, local faith leaders will gain insights into sustainable interventions that ensure vulnerable communities' food security and resilience to economic instability.

### WHAT RISK, SHOCK, STRESS IS THE SOLUTION TRYING TO ADDRESS?

Ethical frameworks of consumption and production shifts our viewpoint away from the extractive and exploitative relationships with have with people and planet within our food systems, providing an alternative narrative to unsustainable growth, ensuring that the most vulnerable have access to food, building peace, addressing economic instability, and strengthening our resilience to pandemics.

### HOW THE SOLUTION IMPROVES/ENHANCES RESILIENCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS?

Is the solution relevant to the resilience track? Is it targeting one of these capacities?

- a) Anticipate shocks/risks/stress and/or reduce vulnerability
- b) Manage risks
- c) Prevent (reduce exposure)

In what realms of intervention is the solution designed to act on resilience?

- a) At individual level
- b) At household level
- c) At community level
- d) At institutional level

### HOW CAN THIS SOLUTION ADDRESS THE PROBLEM?

Theory of Change: IF persons of faith, particularly those of conservative and traditional values, can be convinced to align morally with environmentalism, multilateralism, and sustainability, THEN systemic changes that align with these values will have an increased likelihood of success and faith communities empowered to act in alignment with 2030 Agenda.

- ASSUMPTION 1: Mindset and attitude of a population is instrumental in the success of the implementation of a policy
- ASSUMPTION 2: Religious constituents has a significant influence on public opinion
- ASSUMPTION 3: Persons of faith have the ability to listen to logic and reasoning and willingness to change their attitudes and behaviours towards the benefit of all.
- ASSUMPTION 4: Religious leaders are willing to adopt faith inspired actions into their teachings.

### WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE GENERATED IN THE FIELD OR IN ACADEMIA TO SUPPORT THIS IDEA?

In the United States, of the people who deny anthropogenic climate change, 86% of them are Christian (citation: [Rutgers](#)). Religious teachings have a risk of creating a bipolarization of public opinion regarding environmental policies and necessary actions to take for sustainability. Additional Evidence:

[\(Pew Research: Religion and Views on Climate and Energy Issues\)](#)

[\(PLOS ONE: Religion Does Matter for Climate Change Attitudes and Behavior\)](#)

### HOW WILL YOUR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT THIS IDEA?

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation and other members of the coalition are part of the United Nation's Multifaith Advisory Council, Committee of Religious NGOs, and other interfaith networks and can explore having other international stakeholders champion this idea moving forward to help scale outreach and impact.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEADING THIS SOLUTION AND ADVOCATING FOR A COALITION OF THE WILLING?

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation is co-leading a coalition of faith based leaders in engaging with the Food Systems Summit and could expand this coalition in service to the vision of an ethical framework for consumption and production and zero food waste.

IS THIS A NEW CONCEPT OR HAVE YOU ALREADY DISCUSSED IT WITH OTHER MEMBER STATES OR PARTNER?

This is the only proposal to the UNFSS for a Coalition of Faith Based Leaders as a Game Changing Solution for more resilient and ethical food systems.

IS THIS SOLUTION APPLICABLE AT GLOBAL LEVEL (WITH ADAPTATIONS TO SPECIFIC LOCAL CONTEXTS) OR IS IT MEANT TO BE APPLIED IN SPECIFIC CONTEXTS OR PARTICULAR COUNTRIES?

Solution is meant for faith communities around the world to integrate into their unique contexts.

FINANCIAL SOURCES THAT ARE CURRENTLY SUPPORTING (OR MAY PROVIDE SUPPORT) TO THIS IDEA. ADDITIONAL OPTIONS TO EXPLORE TO RAISE FUNDS (PUBLIC, PRIVATE FUNDS, INNOVATIVE FINANCING MECHANISM)?

The coalition will explore Innovative Funding Mechanisms with additional funding being possible from Private donors, philanthropy + foundations.

HOW DOES THIS SOLUTION CONTRIBUTE TO (A) EMPOWER WOMEN AND COMBAT GENDER INEQUALITIES, AND (B) THE FULFILMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND THE RIGHT TO WATER, (C) MAKE USE OF INNOVATIONS (TECHNOLOGIES, INSTITUTIONS, PROCESSES)?

If Faith leaders are equipped with frameworks that blend religious wisdom with scientific data, we can shift the narrative on our consumption and production patterns, through religious influence, to emphasize gender equality, our intrinsic human rights, and the rights of all sentient beings, and empower local communities to reexamine their relationship with food, creating space for faith inspired actions to emerge that strengthen resilience, food security, and food sovereignty.