

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Advocacy Pillar Working Group for the Implementation of the Faith-based Action Framework to End Extreme Poverty and Advance the Sustainable Development Goals

BACKGROUND

In April 2015 over 40 global religious and faith-based organization leaders issued a “Moral and Spiritual Imperative to End Extreme Poverty” in an event sponsored by the World Bank Group.

A diverse group of multi-faith leaders, the World Bank Faith Initiative and the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development worked collaboratively to develop a Faith-based Action Framework to End Extreme Poverty and Realize the SDGs, which outlines a series of strategies that faith leaders and communities are committed to in order to help end the scourge of extreme poverty and advance sustainable development. The Framework was discussed and affirmed during a strategy session of FBO and religious leaders on the 24 September 2015 in New York. It was organized around three core commitments that emanate from the moral imperative statement: 1) generate and be guided by evidence, 2) advocate around implementation and to increase accountability, 3) foster effective and greater collaboration. One of the outcomes from this event was to establish **3 working groups** to discern on the best way to engage a broader array of faith leaders, faith-based organizations and religious communities to share in the responsibility of implementing the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, in the monitoring and evaluation of progress, and ensuring the universal application and ultimate success of the SDGs by 2030.

PURPOSE OF THE WORKING GROUPS

The intention of the Working Groups is to foster collaboration among key Faith-based leaders and organizations, World Bank and UN agencies to discern the best way to implement the Faith-based Action Framework to End Poverty and Advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Working groups shall design general strategies to implement the objectives and actions included in the Framework at regional (when appropriate) and national level.

The work of the working groups is around the 3 pillars of actions stated in the Action Framework: **Evidence, Advocacy** and **Collaboration**.

STRUCTURE OF THE ADVOCACY PILLAR WORKING GROUP

The Advocacy Pillar Working Group (“Working Group”) will be comprised of a maximum of 20 people, mainly representing faith leaders or organizations. Each organization should also indicate a “proxy”. The proxies shall receive the same information as the main representatives to ensure they are up to date and equipped to make contributions. In addition, UN, World Bank and government representatives are also invited to join the Working Group. The Working Group will appoint a moderator and a vice-moderator, who will have the responsibility to convene and moderate the meetings. The vice-moderator should be from a different faith from the

moderator to keep the spirit of interreligious diversity in the Working Group. The moderator and vice-moderator are also responsible for coordinating the implementation of the work plan developed by the group. A moderator shall represent the group in the Steering Committee of the Moral Imperative Process. The mandate for both moderator and vice-moderator will be for one year, with possibility of re-appointment.

WORK PLAN

The Advocacy Pillar Working Group will:

1. Review and refine the objectives and actions of the Advocacy pillar of the Action Framework
2. Develop strategies to implement the objectives and actions included in the Framework at national, regional, and global levels (if appropriate)
3. Identify additional specific, advocacy-related objectives or projects of interest to members, and connect members pursuing those projects with resources and contacts

A work plan will be developed and will specify:

- Specific objectives and scope of work of the Working Group
- Actions to be taken by the Working Group members
- Timeline
- Responsibilities

PARTICIPATION

Membership of the group can be extended based on the personal or institutional interest, taking into account the limit of 20 people. Interested people or organizations should contact the moderator of the Working Group to request membership.

Working Group member organizations should not miss more than 2 consecutive meetings without given advance notification to the moderator; otherwise they will lose their seats to allow other people to join the WG.

A membership email list will be maintained by the moderator. All members will have access to this email list.

MEETINGS

Virtual meetings will take place on a monthly basis, using Skype/WebEx/phone conference facilities. The moderators are responsible for the technical arrangements for the call, as well as for drafting the agenda of the meeting. Brief minutes, taken by an appointed member at each meeting, will be shared with the Steering Committee and other Working Groups.

Quorum: The minimum number of members of the working group that must be present at any

of its meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid are as follow:

- a) 1/3 for discussions and recommendations
- b) 50% for decision on proceedings

If a decision needs to be made in a meeting with quorum lower than 50%, the moderator will send an email to all members of the group presenting the issues and the recommendations made by the people who attended the meeting. At least 5 working days will be giving to allow members to express their votes/approval.

This suggestion raised other issue related to “qualifying” quorum, e.g. Religion representation. It was recognized that this kind of discussion should take place at the SCMI, as this may be also an issue for consideration for other WGs.