

## **UN ENVIRONMENT JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST**

### **General Information**

Post Title: Partnership and Communication Specialist

Office/division/MEA: Law Division

Unit: Faith for Earth

Location: Nairobi

Duration: 2-3 years

### **Background information on UN Environment and the requesting Unit**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

The global Agenda 2030 can only be achieved by engaging and empowering stakeholders, mobilizing partnerships, and engaging untapped innovative approaches. While it is widely acknowledged that the role of civil society and non-government organization is crucial, the full spectrum of such organizations has not been adequately addressed including those organizations based on faith, values, culture, and indigenous knowledge. Building on the cultural diversity is significant and fulfills the fourth dimension of sustainable development as called for in Rio Summits.

Faith-Based Organizations (FBO) have been recognized by the UN system as key and important players in eradicating poverty, improving people's health, protecting the environment, and thus achieving sustainable development. In many countries, spiritual beliefs and religion are main drivers for cultural values, social inclusion, political engagement, and economic prosperity. Utilizing the dynamics of these beliefs at the local level and the role of faith actors is crucial for sustainable development. Conserving the environment has not been absent from the focus of faith-based organizations.

For UN Environment, the integrated approach should facilitate the integration of religious and cultural values to ensure inclusive green and transformative development through adopting lifestyles that are informed by faith-based values and behaviors to achieve sustainable consumption and production. For this purpose, UN Environment has launched in 2017 the global Faith for Earth initiative to strategically engage with faith-based organizations with a mission to *"To Encourage, Empower and Engage with Faith-Based Organizations as partners, at all levels, toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfilling Agenda 2030."* In doing so, UN Environment is engaging with faith-based organizations to realize an impact on local communities' sustainable livelihoods based on common spiritual values. The Strategy focuses on mobilizing faith communities and faith-based investments in supporting SDGs implementation while greening their assets and providing the needed knowledge for effective messages of faith leaders with decision makers and the public. The three overarching goals of the strategy relate to 1) Leadership for policy impact; 2) Green Faith-Based Financing to achieve the SDGs; and 3) Knowledge-based decision support system.

This JPO is located within the Law Division Faith for Earth special initiative based in Nairobi.

The Faith for Earth initiative has been very active within the faith community but also

intergovernmental organizations willing to engage with faith-based organizations such as the EU, AU and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

One major objective of the Faith for Earth is to establish a global coalition on Faith for Earth mobilizing faith leaders as well as young leaders to be vocal but also act on achieving the SDGs.

The JPO will support the implementation of the goals of the initiative and the identification of relevant entry points for UN Environment in supporting programmes, initiative, and countries in the implementation of the engagement strategy as well as provide support to communicating environmental faith-based messages. The JPO will be part of the secretariat of the Coalition facilitating memberships and partnerships.

### **Why is the Junior Professional Officer requested/needed?**

The JPO will be needed for 2-3 years where S/he will be contributing to realizing the objectives of the strategy by engaging with faith leaders as a mechanism to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2030. This is an initiative that will be a great learning experience for the JPO but also will contribute to the realization of the Programme of Work of UNEP by working with faith leaders and communities in the implementation process. Partnership building and communications are essential for the initiative with FBOs, UN organizations, Intergovernmental organizations, Donors, and member states. The JPO will contribute to partnership building and interaction with the wide constituency.

### **Supervision**

The JPO will be under the direct supervision of the director of the initiative and principal coordinator and will be an integral part of the Law Division.

### **Content and methodology of the supervision**

The JPO will be subjected to an adequate induction period at the beginning to learn about the UN, UNEP and the programme.

The JPO will be part of the Faith for Earth team attending weekly exchange meetings, but also will be part of the division attending monthly meetings.

The Director of the Initiative will be responsible for the daily work, assignments and learning of the JPO with documented progress reporting and achievements recordings.

An individual annual work plan will be developed and monitored on regular basis.

Capacity building opportunities will be sought and provided for the JPO.

First appraising officer: Mr. Iyad Abumoghli

Title first appraising officer: Principal Coordinator

Unit first appraising officer: Faith for Earth

Location first appraising officer: Nairobi

Second appraising officer: Ms. Patricia Mbote

Title second appraising officer: Director

Unit second appraising officer: Law Division

Location second appraising officer: Nairobi

## **Duties, responsibilities, and output expectations**

### **Terms of reference**

- Assist in implementing the Faith for Earth Strategy and project by supporting the principal coordinator in the research of linkages between different faiths and environment conservation, designing guidelines and approaches of engagement.
- Research, structure, and tabulate different approaches by FBOs to environmental organizations on the wide spectrum on environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity protection, water management and sustainable consumption and production.;
- contribute to organizing global meetings on Faith for Earth.
- Assist in the production of content to enhance partnerships with FBOs and other entities in relation to the global Faith for Earth Coalition.
- Lead the communication channels and communications strategy for the initiative in collaboration with the communications division;
- Support in connecting and communicating with faith-based environmental organizations;
- Support in the writing of different progress reports and articles on linkages between faith, values, and beliefs to environmental conservation.

### **Output expectations**

- A partnership strategy for the initiative
- Communication channels effectively used.
- Member states increased interest in supporting the initiative.

## **Travel**

### **Missions and costs of travel envisaged during first year of assignment**

At least 2 travel assignments one on capacity building and the other on contributing to workshops or conferences presenting the case and successes of the initiative with a total cost of US\$ 3000

### **Missions and costs of travel envisaged during second year of assignment**

At least 2 travel assignments one on capacity building and the other on contributing to workshops or conferences presenting the case and successes of the initiative with a total cost of US\$ 3000

### **Missions and costs of travel envisaged during third year of assignment (if applicable)**

At least 2 travel assignments one on capacity building and the other on contributing to workshops or conferences presenting the case and successes of the initiative with a total cost of US\$ 3000

## **Training and Learning Elements**

Different training methodologies will be provided including and induction course, webinars, on-the-job training, attending conferences, as well as online courses provided by the UN and the initiative.

### **Learning elements:**

After one year the Junior Professional Officer is able to:

Explain about and engage with faith-based organizations on their contribution to environment-related contribution of FBOs to achieve the SDGs. Write assessment reports, assess project proposals, draft project budgets according to UN standards, formulate job-descriptions and project documents, monitor progress in solving problems, formulate remedial action proposals.

After two years the Junior Professional Officer is able to:  
Engage and design partnership and communication strategies

After three years (if applicable) the Junior Professional Officer is able to:  
Lead discussions and design projects on integrating faith in environmental projects.

### ***Qualifications and experience***

#### ***Qualifications***

#### ***Skills***

Education: Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in the related field for environmental programme area in which the post is assigned (e.g. natural resources, law, sociology, planning, economics, communications, etc.). A first-level university degree in combination with two years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Work Experience: Length and type of practical experience at the national, and if so required, at the international level: At least 2 years at the national level, or 1 year at the international level e.g. in sustainable development and implementation of environmental related programmes, projects and activities is required.

Languages: English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the position advertised, fluency in English (oral and written) is required. Any other UN language is an additional advantage.

### ***Competencies***

Excellent communication skills

Excellent writing skills

Excellent Analytical Skills

### ***Living conditions at duty station***

Normal living conditions for developing country in Africa.