

Read the Ubuntu Interfaith Summit Highlights and Watch the Event Recording

James Flynn
June 12, 2026
Hyun Jin Moon's Global Peace Foundation



Dear,

On June 4, 2026, the Ubuntu Africa Interfaith Virtual Summit brought together more than **430 attendees**, including faith leaders, traditional authorities, interfaith institutions, peacebuilders, and community leaders, for a timely dialogue on advancing peace, ethical leadership, and sustainable development in Africa through faith, Ubuntu, and the Golden Rule. The summit was co-convened by Global Peace Foundation, United Religions Initiative Africa (URI Africa), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Under the theme “From Dialogue to Transformation: Advancing Peace, Ethical Leadership, and Sustainable Development in Africa through Faith, Ubuntu, and the Golden Rule,” speakers and participants explored how shared values can strengthen social cohesion, encourage ethical leadership, and move communities from dialogue toward meaningful action. Rooted in the spirit of Ubuntu — “I am because we are” — the summit emphasized the importance of collaboration across faith, civic, traditional, and community sectors in building a more peaceful and resilient Africa.



Watch Event Recording

One of the summit’s central questions was how faith and traditional leaders can move communities from dialogue to transformation. Watch the recording to revisit this timely conversation on trust, ethical leadership, and shared responsibility.



56 Countries United for Peace and Ethical Leadership

The Golden Rule was presented as more than a moral principle. It became a foundation for leadership, governance, and interfaith collaboration, connecting shared values with practical pathways for peace across Africa.



Visit the Event Webpage

Learn more about the summit theme, program focus, and event details. Visit the official event webpage on the GPF website.



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Invest in peacebuilding across Africa and the diaspora by supporting values-based leadership, youth empowerment, and collaboration rooted in Ubuntu **(DONATE TODAY)**

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about this growing effort to advance peace, ethical leadership, and collaboration rooted in Ubuntu.

Your continued interest and support help strengthen the African Renaissance Initiative's work across Africa and the diaspora.

Sincerely,

Rev. Fr. Canice Chinyeaka Enyiaka, Ph.D.

Director, African Peace Initiative and Engagement

Global Peace Foundation

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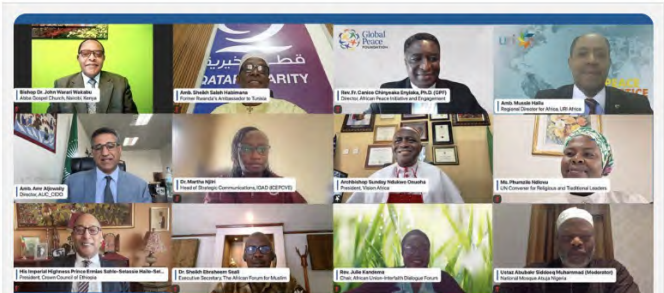




More than 430 participants from 56 countries gathered virtually on June 4, 2026, for the Ubuntu Africa Interfaith Virtual Summit, a landmark convening that brought together faith leaders, traditional authorities, policymakers, youth representatives, civil society leaders, scholars, and development practitioners committed to advancing peace, ethical leadership, and sustainable development across Africa.

Organized through a collaboration between the Global Peace Foundation (GPF), United Religions Initiative (URI) Africa, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, the summit was held under the theme “From Dialogue to Transformation: Advancing Peace, Ethical Leadership, and Sustainable Development in Africa through Faith, Ubuntu, and the Golden Rule.”

The event opened with Christian and Muslim prayers led by Bishop Dr. John Warari Wakabu of Kenya and Ambassador Sheikh Saleh Habimana of Rwanda, setting a tone of unity, mutual respect, and shared commitment to peace. Participants were reminded that Ubuntu – “I am because we are”– offers a powerful moral framework for addressing Africa’s most pressing challenges through solidarity, empathy, and collective responsibility.



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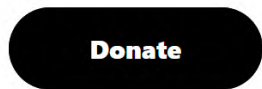
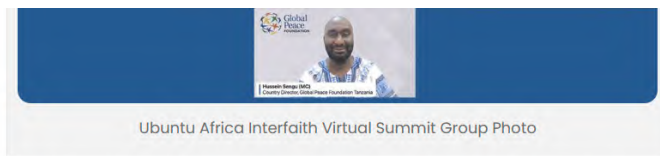
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In his opening remarks, Rev. Fr. Canice Chinyeaka Enyiaka, Ph.D., director of the African Peace Initiative at the Global Peace Foundation, emphasized that Africa’s challenges, including conflict, corruption, social fragmentation, youth unemployment, and declining trust in institutions, require more than political or economic solutions. He called for a values-based approach to peacebuilding rooted in integrity, compassion, justice, responsibility, and respect for human dignity. He challenged religious leaders to reclaim their moral voice and champion ethical leadership, accountability, and social cohesion across the continent, noting that “lasting peace is built not merely through agreements, policies, or institutions, but through the transformation of individuals, families, communities, and nations.”

Representing URI Africa, Ambassador Mussie Hailu highlighted the organization’s longstanding commitment to interfaith cooperation and peaceful coexistence. He noted that the principles of Ubuntu and the Golden Rule provide practical solutions to contemporary challenges such as hate speech, discrimination, xenophobia, and violence. He further called for stronger collaboration among faith communities to promote understanding, empathy, and inclusive development.

Dr. Martha Njiiri, head of Strategic Communication at the IGAD Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, highlighted the critical role of faith leaders in fostering peace and resilience. She emphasized that preventing violent extremism requires strengthening social cohesion, ethical leadership, and shared responsibility. Dr. Njiiri also highlighted the growing challenge of misinformation and hate speech in digital spaces, urging faith leaders to champion responsible communication, digital literacy, and truth-based leadership.

Delivering the keynote address, Ambassador Amr Aljowaily, African Union Commission director for Citizens and Diaspora Organizations Directorate (CIDO), connected the summit’s themes to the aspirations of the African Union’s Agenda 2063. He described Ubuntu and the Golden Rule as ethical foundations for advancing peace, governance, and sustainable development. He also highlighted the African Union’s ongoing work through the Interfaith Dialogue Forum and other initiatives that engage faith communities as essential partners in peacebuilding, social cohesion, and development. Emphasizing the need to move beyond discussion, he stated that “Africa’s spiritual and ethical traditions can be mobilized not only to inspire, but also to organize action.”

A high-level panel discussion brought together respected religious, traditional, and civic leaders from across the continent. Speakers explored practical ways to translate the values of Ubuntu and the Golden Rule into action by addressing corruption, strengthening moral leadership, empowering youth,

promoting interfaith cooperation, protecting human dignity, and fostering social justice.

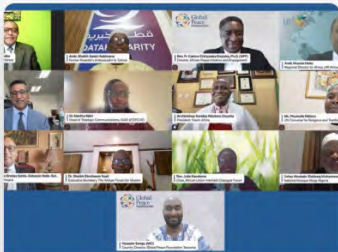
Archbishop Sunday Ndukwo Onuoha of Nigeria stressed the moral responsibility of faith leaders to confront corruption, injustice, and division, arguing that religion must move beyond dialogue and become a force for transformation. Ms. Phumzile Ndlovu of South Africa called for stronger implementation of policy commitments and greater investment in youth opportunities, while His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie of Ethiopia highlighted the role of traditional leadership in preserving cultural values and amplifying community voices.

Other panelists stressed the importance of youth empowerment, ethical leadership, community service, and institutionalized interfaith collaboration. Dr. Sheikh Ebraheem Ssali of the African Forum for Muslim Councils urged faith communities to move from being commentators on conflict to active agents of peacebuilding. “Dialogue without action cannot transform societies,” he said, calling for sustained partnerships, joint programs, and collective service that embody both Ubuntu and the Golden Rule. Rev. Julie Kandema, Chair of the African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum, emphasized mentorship, entrepreneurship, and character formation as key to raising a new generation of ethical leaders.

Building a peaceful, prosperous, and resilient Africa requires ethical leadership, active citizenship, strong families, interfaith cooperation, and communities united by shared values. Reflecting the Global Peace Foundation’s commitment to values-based peacebuilding, the summit called on leaders, faith communities, and citizens alike to translate the principles of Ubuntu and the Golden Rule into practical initiatives that strengthen social cohesion, restore trust, and advance sustainable development.

Learn more about how GPF is working with partners around the world to build peaceful and flourishing societies: [What We Do](#) | [Global Peace Foundation](#).

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Ubuntu Africa Interfaith Virtual Summit 2026

June 4, 2026 All Day Event
Theme: *Advancing Peace, Ethical Leadership, and Sustainable Development in Africa through Faith, Ubuntu, and the Golden Rule*



June 4, 2026



Virtual



8:00 AM Washington, DC

3:00 PM East Africa | 1:00 PM West Africa

June 4, 2026

Ubuntu Africa Interfaith Virtual Summit 2026

Africa's rich spiritual and cultural heritage offers a strong foundation for peace and progress. The Ubuntu Africa Interfaith Virtual Summit will bring together leaders and changemakers to foster ethical leadership, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

About this event

Africa is rich in human capital, natural resources, culture, and youthful dynamism. Yet the continent remains at a crossroads, facing persistent challenges including violent conflict, governance deficits, youth unemployment, climate vulnerability, fragile institutions, and socio-economic inequality.

To reposition Africa toward sustainable peace and development, intentional and structured diaspora engagement is essential. Anchored in the African philosophy of Ubuntu — “I am because we are” — such engagement emphasizes solidarity, shared humanity, ethical leadership, and collective responsibility.

The African Diaspora, estimated at over 170 million people globally, represents one of Africa’s most powerful yet under-coordinated strategic assets. Through remittances, intellectual capital, entrepreneurship, philanthropy, policy influence, and advocacy, the Diaspora contributes billions annually to African economies and development initiatives. The African Union recognizes the Diaspora as Africa’s “Sixth Region” under Agenda 2063. However, a structured, values-driven, and impact-oriented framework is urgently needed to harness this potential effectively.

The Ubuntu Africa Diaspora Summit seeks to mobilize the African Diaspora and friends of Africa into a coordinated

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The Power of “I Am Because We Are”...



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African Diaspora and friends of Africa into a coordinated movement that advances peacebuilding, sustainable development, and socio-cultural renewal. Grounded in Ubuntu principles, the Summit will move beyond rhetoric toward practical collaboration, institutional partnerships, and measurable commitments. It will promote ethical leadership and foster intentional engagement between diaspora communities, governments, civil society, youth networks, and the private sector.

Overall Goal

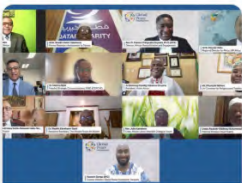
To mobilize faith leaders, traditional authorities, elders, and interfaith institutions across Africa as coordinated, ethical, and proactive partners in advancing peace, security, and sustainable development rooted in Ubuntu values.

Objectives

The summit seeks to:

- Promote interfaith cooperation in addressing insecurity, conflict, and violent extremism.
- Strengthen faith-based advocacy for ethical governance, **transparency**, and accountability.
- Equip religious leaders with practical tools for conflict prevention, mediation, and **reconciliation**.
- Empower youth and women to serve as peace ambassadors within faith communities.
- Foster strategic collaboration between faith institutions and development **partners**.
- Develop an Ubuntu Interfaith Action Framework to ensure sustained engagement and **long-term impact**.

Event highlights



Ubuntu Africa Interfaith...

By Wairimu Mwangi | June 9, 2026
Community-driven Peacebuilding, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, United States

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Agenda

 Virtual - Zoom

JUNE 4, 2026

THURSDAY
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM



Ubuntu and Youth Empowerment: GPF...



Global Peace Leadership...



Ubuntu Track: GPLC Africa 2024



GPF Chairman Interview on the...

8:00 AM – 8:05 AM: Welcome by the MC and Invocation

- Bishop Dr. John Warari Wakabu–Abba Gospel Church, Nairobi, Kenya
- Amb. Sheikh Saleh Habimana–Former Rwanda’s Ambassador to Tunisia

8:05 AM – 8:20 AM: Opening & Welcome Remarks by Conveners

- Rev. Fr. Canice Chinyeaka Enyiaka, Ph.D.–Director, African Peace Initiative and Engagement, Global Peace Foundation
- Amb. Mussie Hailu– Regional Director for Africa & Representative to African Union & United Nations Office in African, United Religions Initiative – Africa
- Dr. Martha Njiri– Head of Strategic Communications, IGAD Center of Excellence for Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE)

8:20 AM – 8:35 AM: Keynote Address

Keynote Speaker: Ambassador Amr Aljowaily, Director, Citizens and Diaspora Directorate, African Union Commission Chair African Studies Department, Howard University

8:35 AM – 9:15 AM: Panel Discussion

Theme: “From Dialogue to Transformation: Advancing Peace, Ethical Leadership, and Sustainable Development in Africa through Faith, Ubuntu, and the Golden Rule”

Moderator: Ustaz Abubakr Siddeeq Muhammad– National Mosque, Abuja Nigeria

9:15 AM – 9:30 AM: Audience Q&A

- Interactive session with panelists
- Questions from attendees

9:30 AM: Action Commitments & Closing Reflections

- Key takeaways
- Thank you note
- Closing

Speakers

Moderator



**Ustaz
Abubakr
Siddeeq
Muhammad**

Deputy Secretary
General of the
Supreme Council
for Shariah in
Nigeria

Keynote



Ambassador
Amr Aljowaily

Director of the
Citizens and
Diaspora
Organizations
Directorate
within the
African Union
Commission

Panelist



Rev. Julie
Kandema

Chair, African
Union
Interfaith
Dialogue Forum



Phumzile
Ndlovu

Founding
Director of
Bridging the Gap
South Africa and
Eastern and
Southern Africa
United Nations
Convener for
Religious and
Traditional
Leaders in South
Africa Kwazulu
Natal



Dr. Sheik
Ebraheem
Ssali

Executive
Secretary, the
African Forum for
Muslim Councils



Bishop Dr.
Isaiah Majok
Dau

Former General
Overseer of the
Sudan
Pentecostal
Church



Prince Ermias
Sahle-
Selassie

President of the
Ethiopian Crown
Council



Archbishop
Dr. Sunday
Ndukwo
Onuoha

President Vision
Africa;
Executive
Director of the
Nigerian Inter
Faith Action
Association
(NIFAA)

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Support the African Renaissance

*Empower Leaders. Strengthen
Diasporas. Inspire Unity.*

Across Africa and the diaspora, young leaders, faith communities, families, and civic partners are seeking new ways to work together for peace, ethical leadership, and sustainable development.

A new generation of leaders is rising—rooted in the timeless value of Ubuntu: “I am because we are.”

Your support helps ARI provide the spaces, tools, and partnerships needed to turn shared values into meaningful action.

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Monthly ♥

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The African Renaissance Initiative is led by the Global Peace Foundation, an international nonprofit working with partners around the world to advance peacebuilding, leadership, family strengthening, and community-driven development.

Together, we can help build a more peaceful, united, and prosperous Africa.

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Provides online networking and engagement opportunities for African impacts the cause.

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Supports online webinars with faith leaders, civil society leaders, and representatives from African embassies.

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Helps fund local community-led summits that address urgent local issues and advance sustainable peacebuilding.

\$1,000_{USD}

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Supports high-impact community dialogues and forums that create space for interfaith collaboration, ethical leadership, and family strengthening.

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Community dialogues



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Diaspora networking



Family strengthening

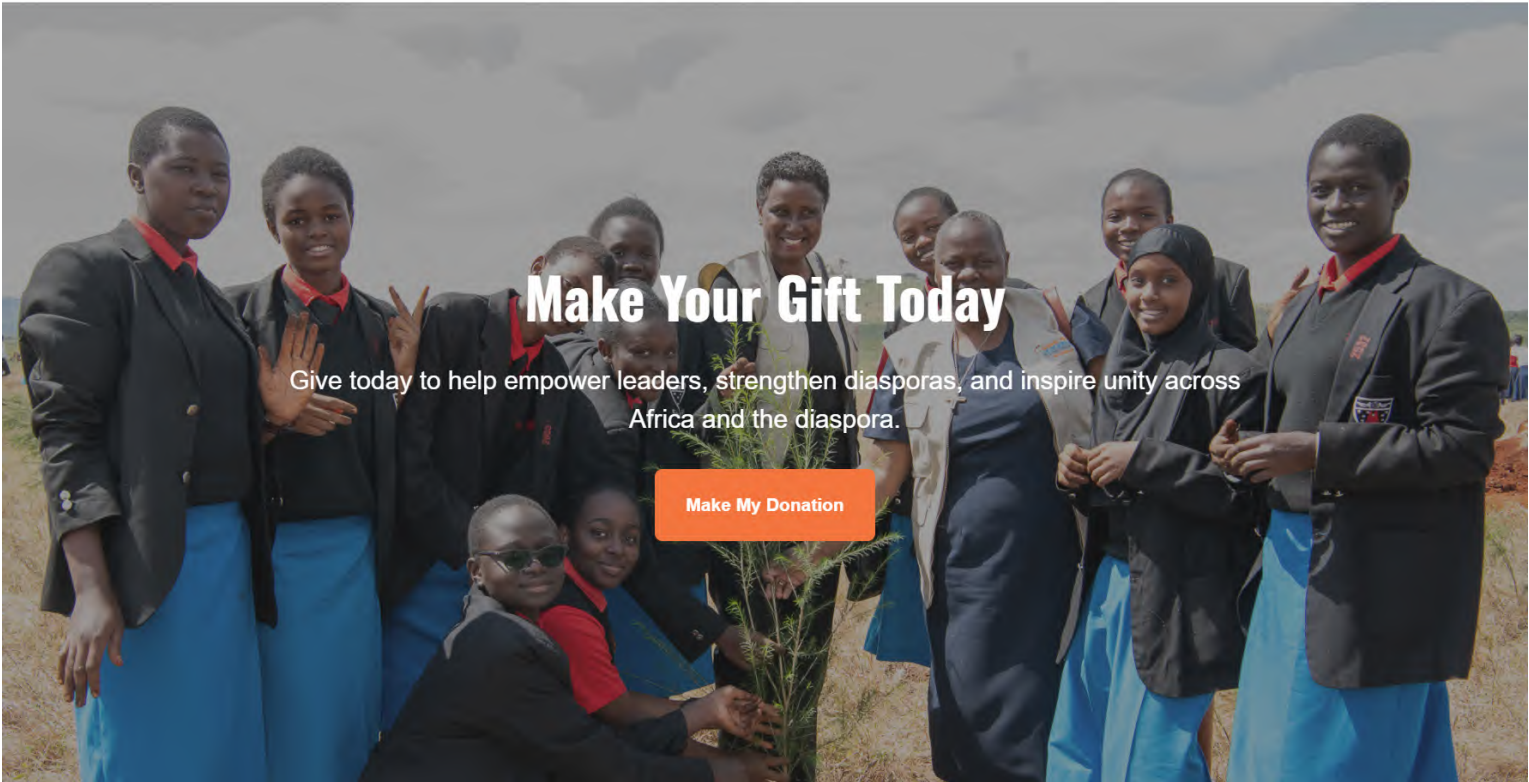


Interfaith and cross-sector collaboration

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Activity

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