

إقليم الأسكندرية للكنيسة الأسقفية الأنجليكانية
Anglican Province of Alexandria



Centre of Christian-Muslim Understanding & Partnership

المركز المسيحي الإسلامي للتفاهم والشراكة

“The Role of Religious Leadership in Preserving the Environment”

Conference Summary

May 29 - 30, 2023

On May 29th and 30th, the Centre for Christian-Muslim Understanding and Partnership (CCMUP) in the Anglican-Episcopal Diocese of Egypt organized a significant conference under the theme, “The Role of Religious Leaders in Preserving the Environment.” The conference convened in All Saints Cathedral Hall in Zamalek and was supported by a diverse set of sponsors and partners, including Al-Azhar’s Islamic Research Academy (*Majma‘ al-Buhūth al-Islāmiyya*), the Egyptian Ministry of the Environment, the Egyptian Family House (*Bayt al-‘A‘ilah al-Misriyya*), the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion (U.K.), SAT-7 Media, and *Dialogue Across Borders*, among several other organizations. The primary objective of the conference was to build on the momentum of the 2022 U.N. Climate Conference (COP27), held in Sharm el-Sheikh last November, with a special focus on religious leadership and interfaith engagement in Egypt.

The opening session on Monday morning featured remarks from Dr. Naẓīr ‘Ayyād (President of Al-Azhar’s Islamic Research Academy), Counselor ‘Adlī Hussein (Former governor of al-Minūfiyya governorate), Ambassador Ra’ūf Sa’d (Egyptian Ministry of the Environment), Bishop Armīā (General Secretary of the Egyptian Family House and President of the Coptic Orthodox Cultural Centre), Father Rafīq Greish (Catholic Church

in Egypt), Archbishop Samī Fawzī (Anglican-Episcopal Province of Alexandria), and Archbishop Emeritus Mouneer Anīs (Anglican-Episcopal Province of Alexandria), among other leading figures. During the opening session, Rev. Dr. Matthew Anderson, CCMUP academic director, explained that the conference presented a strategic opportunity for building on the momentum of COP27 while promoting climate and environment as important arenas for interfaith engagement and cooperation.

The first afternoon session was led by Professor Robert White (FRS) of Cambridge University and the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion. Professor White presented a detailed overview of contemporary climate science and the emerging impact of climate change on the environment. The second afternoon session featured Dr. Sāmih Rīād, director of the Alexandria region for the Egyptian Ministry of the Environment, who presented on the impact of climate change and environmental degradation in the region around Alexandria, a vitally important agricultural and economic zone in Egypt. The day concluded with interfaith conversations over lunch.

The first session of the second day featured Ambassador Ra'ūf Sa'd from the Egyptian Ministry of the Environment who presented on the accomplishments of COP27, including the establishment of the loss and damage fund through which wealthy nations with high carbon emissions can help finance economically disadvantaged nations who often suffer most from climate stress.

The second morning session focused on theological perspectives on the environment and featured presentations from Muslim and Christian theologians. Father Rafīq Greish and Professor Robert White both presented a Christian theological vision of the environment, while Dr. Ismā'īl 'Abdullāh, professor of Islamic studies in the Department of German at al-Azhar, and Dr. Maḥmūd al-Hawārī, assistant dean at the Islamic Research Academy, presented Islamic perspectives.

The afternoon sessions returned to more practical emphases. In the first afternoon session, Dr. Layla Iskander, former Minister of the Environment in Egypt, presented an overview of environmental pressures and proactive responses in Egypt. Her presentation was followed by several civil society organizations which presented their ideas and work to the conference. These included [Banlastic](#), [Greenish](#), and [Evergreen Energy](#), among others. Both the presentations by Dr. Iskander and the various organizations provided important practical insights into the challenges and potential solutions Egypt faces at present. The final session of the conference involved interfaith working groups, including NGOs' representatives, which discussed a variety of practical ideas and proposals. These ideas were documented and then presented before the conference, forming the basis for a follow-up mechanism to build upon and continue the conference momentum to have an effective long-term grassroots impact in Egyptian society.

Among the key developments to come from the conference, and to build upon its momentum, is that the CCMUP plans to initiate an Egyptian Network for Interfaith Engagement and the Environment in the coming weeks. This multi-stakeholder network will serve as a key resource for long-term awareness and action for religious actors and the environment in Egypt, in cooperation with relevant public, civil and private environmental organizations. Mr. Kareem Gerges, CCMUP Director for International Partnerships and Public Policy, will be leading this new initiative.

We are extremely grateful for the following sponsors and partners:



Event Photos















١- ما هي السمات الأساسية لطيف حياة النبي صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم؟
٢- ما هي السمات الأساسية التي تجعله من النبوة؟
٣- ما هي السمات الأساسية التي تجعله من النبوة؟
٤- ما هي السمات الأساسية التي تجعله من النبوة؟
٥- ما هي السمات الأساسية التي تجعله من النبوة؟
٦- ما هي السمات الأساسية التي تجعله من النبوة؟
٧- ما هي السمات الأساسية التي تجعله من النبوة؟
٨- ما هي السمات الأساسية التي تجعله من النبوة؟
٩- ما هي السمات الأساسية التي تجعله من النبوة؟
١٠- ما هي السمات الأساسية التي تجعله من النبوة؟