



British Embassy
Holy See



Ambasciata d'Italia
Santa Sede

Together with:



Holy See

Programme

Faith and Science: Towards COP26

Monday 04 October 2021 |

Rome

Context

The climate summit COP26, which will take place in Glasgow in November, will be a defining moment in our fight against climate change. Against a backdrop of worsening extreme weather patterns as global temperatures rise, we need to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero. With present National Determined Contributions (NDCs) for emissions reductions, the temperature will rise by 3 degrees, which will be catastrophic for the entire planet - humans, animals, and plants - especially the marginalised and poorest communities. COP26 aims to galvanise action to limit the rise to 1.5 degrees.

Governments, international organizations, businesses and civil society are all key in this endeavour. We need a whole-of-society approach if we are to succeed. Faith leaders have a special part to play as the repositories of our moral values, the guides of our ethical action, and pioneers of change to make the management of their land, buildings and investments sustainable.

The British and Italian Embassies to the Holy See, and the Holy See itself, are inviting faith leaders and some prominent scientists to an event on 4 October in Rome to give a lead on climate change. In a series of preparatory meetings throughout 2021, the faith representatives and scientists discussed their theology of care for the earth, action they have taken to protect the environment, and what is needed now. At the meeting on 4 October, the faith leaders and scientists will launch an appeal to COP26, asking governments to take ambitious action. They will consider the role of the faithful as leaders of change. And they will hear from youth representatives what the younger generation hopes for from them and from other world leaders.

Faith leaders have long raised awareness of the dangers of climate change. They played a key role in building momentum for COP21 in 2015. The faiths have recognised the need to come together to address major global challenges, as set out by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al Azhar in the *Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together*. The earth needs their leadership. We hope this event will provide the platform for that.



Wilton Park

Sunday 3 October 2021 (times in CET)

International participants arrive at hotel, Villa Aurelia, Via Leone XIII

Transport will be provided from Villa Aurelia to Villa Wolkonsky – departure time 1845

1930

Welcoming dinner

Hosted by:

Chris Trott, British Ambassador to the Holy See

With the participation of Archbishop Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury

Venue: Villa Wolkonsky, Via Ludovico di Savoia

Monday 04 October (times in CET)

0800

Travel to Vatican

Transport will be provided from Villa Aurelia to the Vatican

0810

Arrival at the Vatican – Venue: **Aula delle Benedizioni, Palazzo Apostolico**

0830

Welcome by Matteo Bruni Holy See's Spokesperson

0833

Reading of the executive summary of Faith Leaders' Appeal to COP26 and signing of the Appeal by the Faith leaders and their representatives

0857

Photo

0900

Moment of prayer in silence

0901

Greeting from His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State

0905

The youth perspective: Youth4Climate participants. Daniele Guadagnolo and Federica Gasbarro to present the message from Milan to Faith leaders.

0910

Address by His Holiness Pope Francis

0920

Pope Francis presents the Appeal to Alok Sharma, COP26 President, and Luigi Di Maio, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Brief remarks from both

0935

Brief interventions by the Faith leaders and their representatives.

1020

Address by the President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Prof. Joachim von Braun, and the President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, Prof. Stefano Zamagni, representing all the scientists participating in the process

1025

Concluding remarks from Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States

1028

Faith leaders and scientists, with a small gesture, to contribute for planting an olive tree in the Vatican gardens and screening of videos of some Faith leaders

1050

Departure from the Vatican

Transport will be provided from the Vatican leaving at 1110

1130-1300

Guided tours of the Mausoleum of Augustus and the *Ara Pacis* Museum

1300	Transfer to Italian Embassy to the Holy See, Palazzo Borromeo
1300-1350	Informal media moment with media pool (for those who wish to engage) Refreshments
1350	Light buffet lunch

The Appeal in Practice: Inspiring Action

Venue: Palazzo Borromeo, Italian Embassy to the Holy See

1500	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p>Pietro Sebastiani Italian Ambassador to the Holy See, Rome</p> <p>Discussion facilitated by:</p> <p>Alison Hilliard Programme Director, Wilton Park</p>
1510-1615	<p>1. Plenary discussion: Faith and Science: How to Increase Awareness</p> <p>Discussion introduced by:</p> <p>Dr Carmody Grey Assistant Professor of Catholic Theology, Durham University</p> <p>Professor Hans Joachim Schellnhuber Director Emeritus, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research</p> <p>Professor Riccardo Valentini Professor of Forest Ecology, University of Tuscia</p>
1615-1630	Tea/coffee
1630-1730	<p>2. Plenary discussion: Faith, Science and Future Cooperation: the way forward</p> <p>Discussion introduced by:</p> <p>Dr Hoesung Lee (Video presentation) Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</p> <p>Dr Ismahane Elouafi Chief Scientist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</p>
1745-1800	<p>3. Concluding remarks</p> <p>Pietro Sebastiani Italian Ambassador to the Holy See, Rome</p> <p>Chris Trott British Ambassador to the Holy See</p> <p>Archbishop Paul Gallagher Secretary for Relations with States, Holy See</p>
1800	Meeting concludes

1815	Group photograph
1830-1900	Drinks reception
1900	Buffet Dinner. His Excellency Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani, Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education, will be present to introduce the event “Religions and education: Towards a Global Compact on Education” that will be held in the Vatican on 5 October.
2015	Participants return to hotel

Tuesday 5 October

International participants depart to airport or stay on for the Global Compact on Education event.