Save Children's Lives – Responsible Banking Survival Guide for Faith Actors & Partners

How to use our power as bank clients to stop carbon bombs

Action-oriented seminar for children's and future generations' survival, in light of the latest facts shared by the world's leading scientists.

When? Tuesday 9 May at 2 pm CET.

Where? Online. Please register. Background materials will be shared upon registration.

What is the goal of the event? It is designed to advance and inspire actions of faith-based actors and partners.

What kind of actions? Halting the ongoing increase of CO2 emissions by stopping the financing of new fossil fuel projects.

The event will offer insights since the launch of the appeal in 2022 Climate-Responsible Finance: A Moral Imperative towards Children, and the Faith & Science appeal in 2021, which included the commitment *"to move away from investments in fossil fuels and toward investments in renewable energy(..)".*

Co-Organisers: World Council of Churches, UNEP, Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities, Laudato Si Movement

Invitees: Leaders and decision-makers, Child rights organisations, Young people, Finance specialists, Faith-based actors, Secular partners

Co-Moderator: Jessica Bwali, youth climate champion & journalist (United Church of Zambia)

Coordinator & Co-Moderator: Frederique Seidel, WCC Programme Executive for Child Rights, fse@wcc-coe.org

Draft agenda

Time	Topic	Who	Focus/Take-aways
14:00	**Introduction**	Frederique Seidel, Jessica Bwali	The vision of this initiative
14:01	**Welcome**	Bishop Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Moderator of the WCC central committee - *confirmed* Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Director of the Law Division of UNEP - *confirmed*	Why our organisations invite all participants, i.e. Leaders, decision-makers, child rights organisations, finance specialists, faith-based actors, secular partners and young people to engage with their banks, shifting investments away from fossil fuels and into renewable energies.

14:04	*Survey*	*All participants through Mentimeter*	*How familiar are you with the role of bank clients in responding to the climate emergency?*
14:08	The "what": **The climate emergency & children**	Paloma Escudero, UNICEF Senior Advisor on Climate Advocacy - *confirmed* Kjell Kühne, Founder, Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO) - *confirmed*	**The hidden impact of the climate emergency on children and young people** (physical and psychological) **Carbon bombs:** How financial institutions are continuing massively to invest in new fossil fuel projects.
14:20	The "why": **Why hope comes from financial choices**	Vanessa Fajans-Turner, Executive Director, BankFWD - *confirmed*	**The power and responsibility of asset owners:** Youth activist(s) interviewing expert on climate-responsible finance, on the evidence from the Carbon Bankroll report.
14:30	*Survey*	*All participants through Mentimeter*	*In one word - how do you now feel about engaging with your bank to protect children?*
14:35	The "how": **Inspiring Testimonial by Faith-based actors**	His Excellency Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam, Muslim Council of Elders - *(with translation)* Dahlia Rockowitz, Washington Director, Dayenu - A Jewish Call to Climate Action - *confirmed* Père Matthieu Jasseron, Founder of "Théostream" ("Christian Netflix") and former banker - *confirmed (with translation)*	**What practical actions do faith-based organisations take to manage financial relationships?** - Short Recap on the 2022 May 9 statement and commitments - Testimonials by signatory and partner with experience in implementing the May 9 commitments - Testimonial by former banker who became a priest
15:00	**Overcoming obstacles**	Helena Funk, Oikocredit - *confirmed* Nikki Reisch, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) - fiduciary duty & the climate emergency - *confirmed*	**What are the obstacles faced in managing financial relationships and how do we overcome them?** - Internal obstacles: missing capacity, knowledge or experience to influence financial service providers - Systemic obstacles: outdated interpretations of " fiduciary duty", lack of transparency around investments, insufficient legal frameworks.
15:15	Requests for **clarifications** by participants	Questions from participants, responses in plenary, moderated by Frederique Seidel (WCC)	Questions to be submitted during presentations in the Q&A section of zoom, or ahead of the event to comms@jliflc.com.

15:25	Responsible Banking - a **child protection measure**	Ellyanne Wanjiku Chlystun (12 years), Africa's youngest Climate Finance and Biodiversity Champion, Winner African Voice Achievers Award 2019, Eco Warrior Award 2018 - *confirmed*	Children's message from the African Children's Summit.
15:35	Plenary interactive on **next steps**	Moderation by Frederique Seidel (WCC) with Dr. Iyad Abu Moghli (UNEP)	Participants are asked to engage around the following questions: - **What action(s) will you undertake as a result of this webinar?** - **What support do you need to make these actions sustainable**?
15:55	Way forward	Kirsten Laursen Muth (JLI), Dr. Iyad Abu Moghli (UNEP), Frederique Seidel (WCC) Jessica Bwali	Conclusions & next steps

Biographies

Speaker/Expert	**Bio**
Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm	Heinrich Bedford-Strohm is currently Presiding Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Bavaria and has been Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Churches in Germany from 2014-2021. Since September 2022 he has been moderator of the World Council of Churches. He is Extraordinary Professor at the Theological Faculty of the university of Stellenbosch/South Africa and Honorary Professor at the University of Bamberg/Germany where he held the chair of Systematic Theology 2004-2011 and was founding director of the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Research Center for Public Theology. His research interests are in social ethics, digital ethics, ecclesiology and ecumenical theology.
Prof. Dr. Patricia Mbote	Director of the Law Division of UNEP Patricia Kameri-Mbote is the Director of the Law Division, UNEP. She leads the Division charged with carrying out the functions of UNEP in the field of environmental law, governance, and related policy issues. Patricia has in-depth knowledge of environmental law acquired in research, environmental law and policy making and implementation at local, national, regional and international levels. Patricia was Founding Research Director of the International Environmental Law Research Centre (IELRC) and was Programme Director for Africa for over 20 years. She is a member of the Senior Counsel Bar in Kenya and has been a Professor of Law at the School of Law, University of Nairobi, where she has taught for over 30 years and served as Dean. She has also taught environmental law at Kansas University, University of Zimbabwe and Stellenbosch University. She served as chair of the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in African Universities, an initiative started in collaboration with UNEP to build environmental law capacity through training and research; and has contributed to the development of similar initiatives for North Africa and Middle East and for judges. Patricia holds Doctorate (1999) and Master's (1996) degrees in law from Stanford University and a higher doctorate from the University of Nairobi (2019). These have focused on environmental law and its interactions with other areas of law such as property law and women's law. She also holds a Master's degree from Warwick University (1989)

	and was awarded an honorary degree in law by the University of Oslo (UiO) in 2017 for her work cutting across established fields of Women's Law, Natural Resources Law, Human Rights and Law and Development.
Jessica Bwali (Co-Moderator)	Jessica Bwali is an award winning passionate Christian climate activist, journalist and Tearfund's Global Campaigns Associate from Zambia. Jessica has worked as a newscaster, radio presenter and radio producer. Jessica's climate campaigning work has taken her to COP26 and COP27 climate conferences. She was certified as a Climate Activist by The University of Oxford Climate Society and she has been raising her voice against climate crimes by documenting the effects of climate change on people in the front line and she has witnessed first hand devastating impacts of climate change on people in Zambia and around Africa.
Paloma Escudero	Paloma Escudero is currently UNICEF Global Special Adviser to Advocate for Children and Climate Action. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Escudero had already been well known among the UNICEF family as Director of Communications and Advocacy of UNICEF and as Executive Director of the Spanish National Committee.
Kjell Kühne	Kjell Kühne is the director of the Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO) and has been working with NGOs, communities, governments, companies and academia on the five continents towards a sustainable, post-fossil world over the past two decades. He is German, based in Mexico and also feels at home in Indonesia, China, Brazil, among others.
Vanessa Fajans-Turner	Vanessa is dedicated to driving meaningful climate action across the financial sector. As the executive director of BankFWD, she's focused on accelerating the banking sector's alignment with the Paris Agreement. As a principal with Investable Oceans, she works to drive investment into sustainable ocean start-ups across the blue economy. A native of Ithaca NY, she also advises the city's nation-leading sustainability plan to electrify all buildings by 2030 and is never without her ice hockey skates. Previously, Vanessa held sustainability roles at the United Nations and with James Cameron's climate-focused Avatar Alliance Foundation. She's a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and producer of the Emmy Award-winning documentary series Years of Living Dangerously. She has an MA from Johns Hopkins-SAIS and a BA from Harvard.
His Excellency Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam	His Excellency Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam is Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders, Secretary-General of the Zayed Award for Human Fraternity, a Member of Al-Azhar Center for Interreligious Dialogue, graduate of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif University, co-president of Religions for Peace organization and Secretary-General of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity for a period of 4 years. He served as an advisor to His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Professor Ahmed Al-Tayeb for over eight years. He participated in drafting the Document on Human Fraternity, signed by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Professor Ahmed Al-Tayeb, in Abu Dhabi on February 4, 2019. Awarded papal knighthood - "Knight Commander with Star of the Order of Pius IX" - by His Holiness Pope Francis for his services towards spreading tolerance and interfaith dialogue. He is the first Arab and Muslim to be awarded this accolade from the head of the Catholic Church. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev presented him with the "Astana Medal" in recognition of his efforts in advancing human fraternity and dialogue. In November 2022, the University of Humanities and Law in Kazakhstan (KAZGUU) awarded him an honorary professorship in recognition of his efforts to promote the values of coexistence, dialogue, and human fraternity. Presented the 'Community Service Medal' by the Ministry of Interior of the United Arab Emirates for his commitment and positive impact towards strengthening security in communities. Part of the constitutional assembly charged with developing and amending the new Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt in 2012 and 2013. Awarded the Medal of the Constitutional Court by the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt in recognition of his distinguished representation of the Egyptian judiciary during his time at Al-Azhar and the Constitutional Assembly.

Dahlia Rockowitz	Washington Director at Dayenu. Dahlia Rockowitz believes in the power of everyday people to demand and win inclusive, equitable, and ambitious climate solutions. She previously worked in both the climate and Jewish social justice movements, planning activist trainings for thousands of committed volunteers around the world at The Climate Reality Project and advocating to the US government in support of human rights and climate justice worldwide at American Jewish World Service. Dahlia studied environmental justice and policy at the University of Michigan, where she also co-designed a massive open online course on how to address and respond to climate change.
Père Matthieu Jasseron	Former wealth manager who became a Priest. Founder of Theostream, the “Netflix of faith”. Sometimes nicknamed "TikTok father", Matthieu Jasseron account @perematthieu has gathered 1.2 million subscribers, 20,000 on Instagram and 50,000 on YouTube, in just over two years of activity on social networks. Theosteam makes available videos from Christian YouTubers of all denominations, Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox. The Conference of Bishops in France supports the initiative.
Nikki Reisch	Nikki Reisch is the Director of the Climate & Energy Program at the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), where she works at the intersection of human rights and the environment, overseeing legal and policy advocacy on climate change, its causes, consequences, and responses to it. CIEL leverages research and analysis to hold corporations, financiers, and governments accountable for their contributions to the climate crisis, debunk false climate solutions, increase recognition of climate-related financial risk, and accelerate a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels. Nikki has over 20 years’ experience in environmental justice, corporate accountability, and human rights work. Before joining CIEL, she was the Legal Director at NYU’s Center for Human Rights and Global Justice and a law clerk in the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Ninth and Second Circuits.
Helena Funk	Helena Funk is a specialist on transformative learning, working for the Oikocredit Support Association in Eastern Germany (Ostdeutscher Förderkreis). Oikocredit is an international ecumenical cooperative for social impact investment. Meanwhile, local Support Association offer activities on Global Learning for Transformation to raise awareness for sustainability and global justice – with a special focus on finances. Helena Funk joined the local Support Association of Oikocredit in 2021 and is based in Leipzig, Germany.
Ellyanne Wanjiku Chlystun	Ellyanne Chlystun-Githae Wanjiku is 13 years old, Africa's Youngest Climate Finance & Biodiversity Champion. She started planting trees aged 4 and has planted over 1.3 million trees. An Eco-Warrior Award Winner, in 2018 she was nominated Kenya’s Youngest Mashujaa (Hero) an honor by the Government of Kenya & is Kenya’s Youngest Climate Change Ambassador. Ellyanne talks about her relentless yet focused passion to make the world a green healthy sustainable place. On various platforms she has shared what drives her and she advises children and governments on mitigation of climate change and desertification. She has pivoted her focus to Climate Finance, influencing policy and law makers for a real paradigm shift & sustainable impact for children. Ellyanne wrote a book about faith from a teenager’s perspective, which will be published shortly.
Dr. Iyad Abu Moghli (Co-Organizer)	Dr. Iyad Abumoghli, Founder and Director of the Faith for Earth Initiative, has more than 35 years of experience with international organizations. Dr. Abumoghli’s expertise focus on strategic planning, sustainable development, interfaith collaboration and knowledge and innovation. Previously Dr. Abumoghli held several leading positions including the Regional Director and Representative of UNEP in West Asia, Director of Knowledge and Innovation at UNDP’s Regional Office for the Arab States, Senior Environment Advisor at UNDP’s Sub-Regional Resource Facility

	in Beirut, Global Practice Manager for the Energy and Environment Group in New York, Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP in Jordan. Dr. Abumoghli holds a doctorate degree in Bio-Chemical Engineering from the University of Bath/UK, and an outstanding graduate of the Virtual Development Academy - Johns University.
Azmaira Alibhai (Co-coordinator & expert)	Azmaira Alibhai is the Faith & Ecosystems Coordinator at UNEPs Faith for Earth Coalition. She is responsible for the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and partnerships with the Biodiversity and Ecosystems, and Pollution and Waste Interfaith Working Groups. Azmaira also oversees the communications and partnerships building work at the Coalition, supporting the development of new strategic partnerships and the effective mobilisation of the extensive network.
Kirsten Laursen Muth (Co-Organizer)	Kirsten Muth is the CEO of the Joint Learning initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI). JLI is a leading global provider of research, evidence, learning and capacity sharing that strengthens practical religious engagement strategies for faith and development actors both locally and globally.
Jodie Salter (Co-Organizer and writer)	Jodie Salter is a research advisor with the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI). She has supported their work on a number of projects related to the role of faith actors in climate action and environmental sustainability. Jodie is also a PhD researcher in the Centre for Religion and Public Life at the University of Leeds, where her research focuses on the role of faith-based organisations in climate action in and around the United Nations.
Frederique Seidel (Coordinator & Co-Moderator)	Frederique Seidel is the WCC Programme Executive for Child Rights and Manager of WCC-UNICEF Partnership. Further to the development of the *Churches' Commitments to Children* she coordinates the implementation of child protection, child participation and climate justice initiatives in collaboration with churches and partners in 120 countries. She has worked in various countries for UNICEF, as a Deputy Representative, Child Rights Education Programme Manager, Communication Specialist and Head of Field Office. Earlier she served as a spokesperson for the UN and the OSCE in the post-war Balkans and as a journalist for Deutsche Welle TV in Germany. Her initiative for climate justice for and with children and youth was awarded with the Keeling Curve Prize in 2019. Seidel holds a master's degree of Sociology from the Sorbonne and Freie Universität Berlin and specialized in Educational Science and International Relations at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris.
Joseph D'hallouin	Joseph D'hallouin is the climate and finance campaigner of the Laudato Si' Movement, a global network of organizations and individuals dedicated to the Care for Creation. He has worked for different non-profit and public organizations, dealing with a wide range of topics like sustainable agriculture or transportation.