

Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 55th Session

Panel discussion on countering religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (HRC res. 53/1)

8 March 2024

Delivered by Markus Hofer

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance and our members, the National Evangelical Alliances in more than 140 countries, are committed to multi-faith engagement that counters religious hatred and incitement.

Our members contribute to various multi-faith councils and forums, such as the Inter-religious Council of Kenya, the Interfaith Peace Platform in the Central African Republic, the Council of Confessions in Uzbekistan, and the Swiss Council of Religions. In Sri Lanka, the National Christian Evangelical Alliance recently brought together lawyers from all religious communities to advocate jointly for religious freedom for all communities.

Our Peace and Reconciliation Network equips Christian leaders for inter-religious and inter-political peacemaking and resources community leaders to respond to conflict and hate that divides communities and nations.

At the international level, the World Evangelical Alliance is a key stakeholder in the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development. The European Evangelical Alliance contributes to the European Platform against Religious Intolerance and Discrimination.

We appeal to States and religious communities to pursue and strengthen national and international multi-faith forums. We look forward to ongoing dialogue and collaboration with all religious communities to counter hate speech while upholding freedom of religion and expression.

Thank you.