



## **Oral Statement**

Human Rights Council 62<sup>nd</sup> Session

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity

17 June 2026

Delivered by Jean-Noël Fermaud

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance welcomes the Independent Expert's report; standing in support of its message of solidarity, peaceful dispute resolution and inclusion.

We urge governments to remain committed to impartiality and justice towards all religions, as we believe that it is essential for peace. With 315 million Christians facing persecution worldwide, we encourage the Independent Expert to recognize violations against Christians alongside antisemitism, Islamophobia, misogyny and xenophobia.

We raise concerns about polarization and violence; advocating for interfaith dialogue, inclusion and reconciliation measures; especially in countries such as India, where documented incidents of violence against religious minorities, discriminatory legal measures, and rhetoric associated with religious nationalism have contributed to community tensions and undermined the equal enjoyment of freedom of religion or belief.

We urge all States to respect rights and dignity through interfaith social cohesion and peace education initiatives; especially those still allowing forced marriage of young women and girls from religious minorities for the purpose of conversion.

We welcome the emphasis on the vital role of women in peacebuilding, especially women faith leaders. We commit to and call on other religious actors to commit to stronger recognition of faith-based female leadership in reconciliation, mediation, and community healing.

Thank you.