

International Environment Forum

29th Annual Report

5 October 2024 – 29 November 2025



28th IEF GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Last Year's!

28th IEF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

The 28th General Assembly of the International Environment Forum was held over the Internet on the Zoom platform on 5 October 2024. The meeting was held twice to accommodate members and associates from different time zones. Altogether, there were **19 participants from 8 countries**

2024 IEF Board Election

25 ballots were cast, 2 ballots were spoiled, as not all names were IEF members.

The following IEF members were elected to the **Governing Board**:

Arthur Dahl (Switzerland), Christine Muller (USA), Sylvia Karlsson-Vinkhuyzen (Netherlands), Wendi Momen (UK), Victoria Thoresen (Norway), Halldór Thorgeirsson (Iceland), and Laurent Mesbah (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the same as last year.

IEF GOVERNING BOARD

The IEF Board voted for Arthur Dahl as President and Christine Muller as General Secretary. At its first meeting, it decided to appoint 2 non-voting board members for wider involvement and the strengthening of IEF: Monica Maghami and Nava Khorram. It held 8 meetings during the almost 13 months covered by this report. Each Board meeting consisted of online consultations over an average of two weeks and a Zoom consultation.

MEMBERSHIP

The Board has approved 18 new member and 17 associate applications during this reporting period. These numbers are higher than last year's 15 new members and 9 associates. The number of newsletter subscribers increased substantially. There are now 555 members, 184 associates, and 112 newsletter subscribers, all together representing 96 countries.

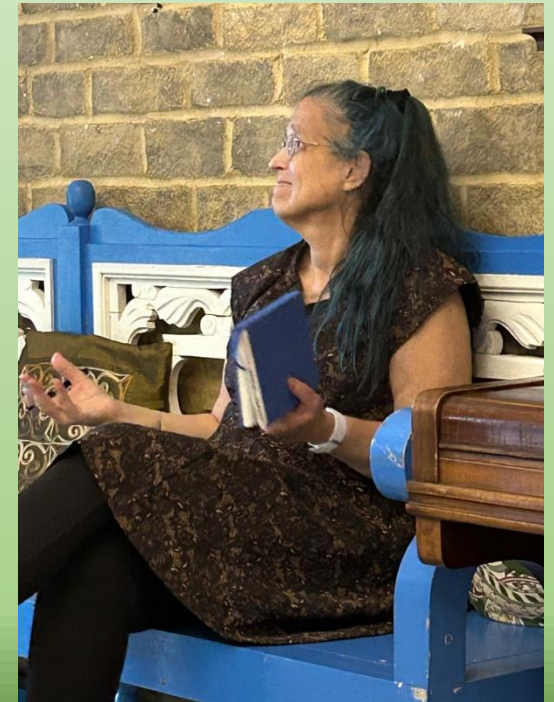
IEF 29th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

After a series of virtual annual conferences, the International Environment Forum was excited to hold again an in-person conference. It took place at the Baha'i Training Centre near Oxford, UK, on 26 - 29 June 2025.



IEF 29th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The majority of participants came from the UK, but there were also representatives from Austria, Belize, Bosnia Herzegovina, France, Germany, Republic of Ireland, Latvia, The Netherlands, Norway, Puerto Rico, Serbia and Montenegro, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, and Yemen. The total number of participants was 65, with 38 staying for the entire conference.



IEF 29th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The overall conference topic was **Building Capacity for Sustainability Discourse and Action.**

The program included study sessions, discussions, outdoor activities, and a hybrid panel.



IEF 29th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The participants expressed how much they enjoyed the conference and the opportunity to meet in person.



Check out the report on the website which includes thanks to many volunteers who made the conference happen. Here we just mention Manijeh and David Smith, the custodians at the Baha'i Training Centre, and Wendi Momen, UK NSA member and IEF board member, who cooked all the meals together with Kian Golestani.

IEF WEBSITE AND MEMBERSHIP DATA BASE

Michael Semple, more recently supported by Jeffrey Barnes, keeps the content management system software up-to-date and generates the mailing lists and directory of members.

Alexander Dahl has hosted the website and email servers from the very beginning. Without them, IEF would not exist.

Arthur Dahl reorganised the website content, so only the most recent postings are on the home page, and the approximately 1,500 pages are linked from one or more issue or content pages.

IEF NEWSLETTER LEAVES

The newsletter was published every month with the collaboration of Christine Muller (editor), Arthur Dahl (advisor), Todd Chirko (language editor for non-native English contributors), Bill Edgar (layout of the pdf version), Michael Semple (email list), and Michael Richards (mailing).

Many thanks go to Tom Richards, son of IEF member Michael Richards, for his hard work dealing with technical problems with our mailing system!

IEF WEBINARS

IEF member Khela Baskett facilitated an IEF Webinar on the topic of *Global biodiversity patterns, spiritual values, and transformative change* on April 6. The speaker was IEF member Cedric Åkermark from Sweden who participated at the IPBES youth workshop in Namibia 6-9 December 2024.

IEF VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

IEF member Aaron Kelly has been editing all the videos produced for the IEF. We greatly appreciate his professional expertise and generosity with offering his time. Check out the [IEF YouTube channel](#).

IEF YOUTH TEAM

During the IEF annual conference in Bicester some of the youth participants met and planned to restart regular online youth gatherings. They have met a few times in small gatherings for study.

IEF SOCIAL MEDIA

The IEF is represented on three social media platforms. Kiara Ehsani manages the IEF [Instagram](#) page, Rebecca Teclemariam Mesbah the IEF [Linkedin](#) page, and Christine Muller the IEF [Facebook](#) page. We are looking for volunteers who can help with regular postings of relevant items.

IEF CLIMATE CHANGE COURSE

The IEF offered a free online course on the Scientific and Spiritual Dimensions of Climate Change. It took place 1 September – 9 November 2025.



IEF CLIMATE CHANGE COURSE continued

There were 102 participants from 32 countries! Course participants met in weekly Zoom meetings to discuss the week's topic of study. Two meetings were held for each unit to accommodate participants living in different time zones.

Faculty members were Christine Muller, Arthur Dahl, Laurent Mesbah, and Nava Khorram. The IEF thanks the following additional facilitators who assisted with the course: Hedieh Badavam, Keith Metzner, Leslie Cole, and Nava Sarracino.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN PROSPERITY COURSE

The IEF uploaded on its website the [materials](#) of this six-unit course which anyone can study and use. It is planning to offer it as an online course in 2026.

GLOBAL ETHICAL STOCKTAKE

The Global Ethical Stocktake Circle and the Brazilian Presidency of COP30 invited reflections on the values, behaviors, and responsibilities that must be transformed so that the commitments made at the UN Climate Conferences become a reality. The IEF invited some of its members around the world to organise dialogues around the five questions proposed by the Brazilian Presidency.

- [The Future We Want: From Bangsar to Belem](#), a dialogue in Malaysia on 21 September
- [Aotearoa New Zealand GES Consultation](#) on 21 September
- [Environment Forum Dialogues](#) for GES, in Ottawa 27 September and the Americas 28 September.
- [A Collective Reflection On How to Build a Fairer and Safer Future for All](#), an online consultation on the GES with 250 participants organized by the Bahá'í Academy in Panchgani, India, on 29 October

For **more details and other GES events** initiated by IEF members, see the Annual Report and the more comprehensive report on the IEF website.

GLOBAL ETHICAL STOCKTAKE continued

A picture from the dialogue in Malaysia on 21 September: (Thank you, Yuet Mee Ho!)



GLOBAL ETHICAL STOCKTAKE continued

The IEF also **compiled Baha'i texts** that relate to the questions discussed at the dialogues: <https://iefworld.org/GlobalEthicalStocktake>

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MATERIALS

Discourse for Youth

Arthur Dahl prepared presentations on issues relevant for youth which can be studied in about a half hour.

Transformative Change: A Bahá'í Perspective on the IPBES Assessment

Arthur Dahl reported on this important assessment and prepared a compilation that shows how this expert scientific view is completely compatible with Bahá'í principles.

IEF ENDORSEMENTS AND SIGN-ONS

The IEF endorsed or signed-on to the following initiatives:

- **Protecting Our Common Climate System: Earth Governance for a Sustainable Future**
- **Multifaith Triple Call to Action**
- **Fairer Financing for the Future**
- **UNOC3 Multifaith Declaration**
- **Joint Appeal for Nuclear Abolition Day**

IEF MEMBER COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The IEF has been collaborating with

- **G20 Interfaith Forum**
- **Mobilizing an Earth Governance Alliance**
- **UN Charter Reform Coalition**
- **International Partner Network of the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Lifestyles**
- **National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO)**

OTHER ITEMS IN THE IEF ANNUAL REPORT

IEF ARCHIVES TO AFNAN LIBRARY

IEF MEMBERS INVOLVEMENT WITH BIHE

IEF MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS BY IEF MEMBERS

You can read the more detailed IEF Annual Report on the IEF Website:

<https://iefworld.org/report2025>

We will put the link into the chat. It is also included in the invitation to this meeting.

The Annual Report contains links to all activities and resources mentioned.

Please, keep the IEF secretariat informed of all your relevant activities so that they can be included in next year's report!