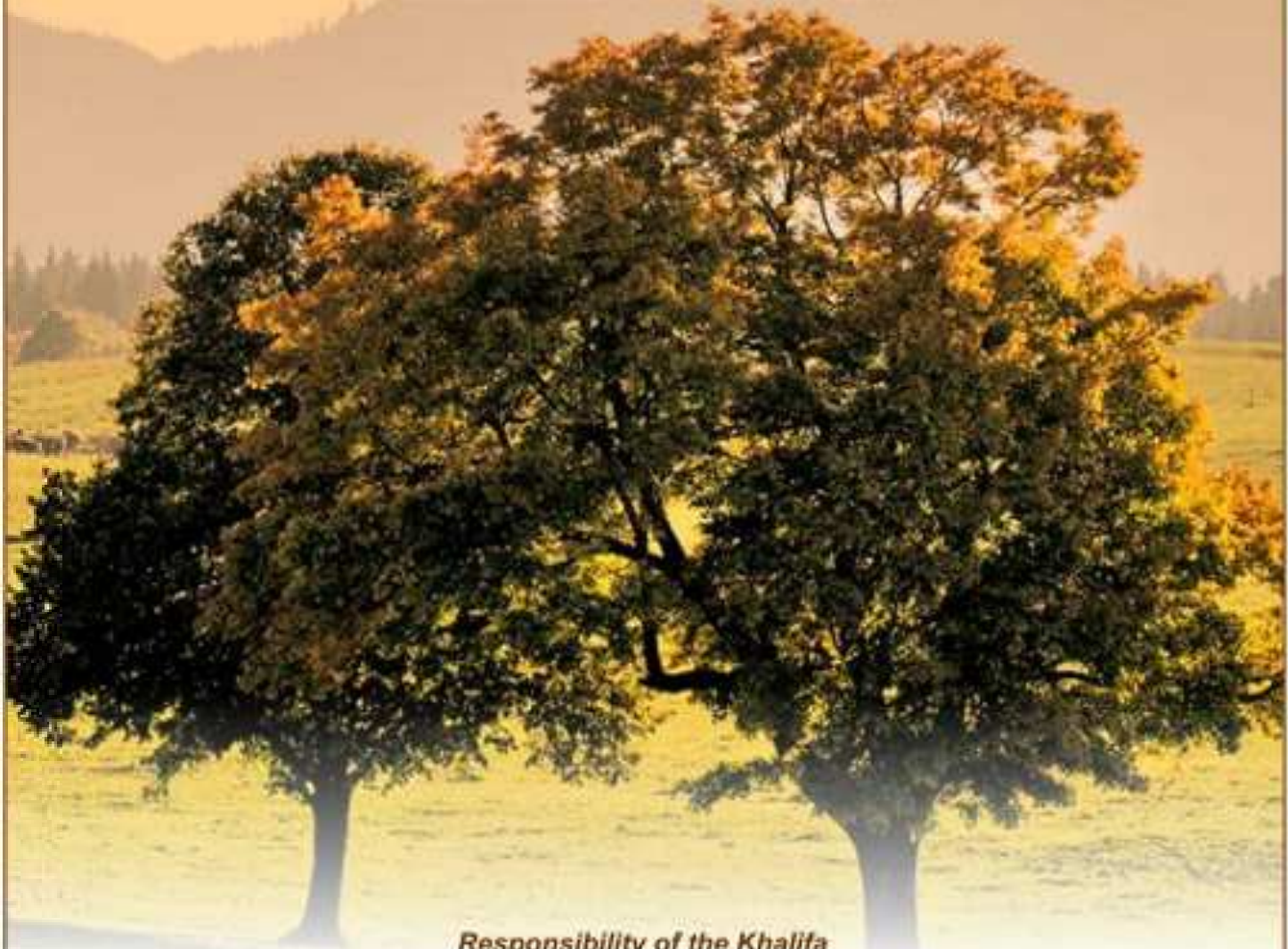




An Inter-Religious Alliance
for Sustainability in Africa

Statement on the 18th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Doha, Qatar
26 November 2012 – 7 December 2012



Responsibility of the Khalifa

* Despoil not what God has given us in abundance and placed
under our vice-regency to conserve for future generations *

In all of our religions is the notion of *responsibility* - the responsibility to our Creator, to each other, to other species, and to the ultimate truth which is the foundation of our salvation and enlightenment.

Those who believe that we can despoil the Earth without consequences are mistaken. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is a gathering point for our respective governments to own and understand the divine instructions and obligations on humanity to live within the means of the abundance that we have found at our disposal.

While we may argue about who has used more, and who owes what in return, the truth is that the UNFCCC negotiations are failing to accept the fundamental and evident premise that we have run out of time and we must bow in humble submission to this eternal law of responsibility.

Failure to take heed is at great cost; which is experienced by the poor in Africa, both rural and urban, members of the human community whom God has created in His ultimate wisdom. Our mosques, churches, temples, synagogues and traditional healers of Africa are united in our witness of the impacts of climate change and the vulnerability of our societies and life on Earth.

The price of delay is not only financial or in human life, it is a price which must be paid by many generations, by those yet unborn and innocent of our excesses. Those who are the perpetrators of such spoilage and foolishness will also know the long-term price of their actions, in this life, in the after-life or in their rebirths - as understood and transmitted by our scriptures and clergy.



*"Assuredly the creation of the heavens
and the earth
is greater than the creation of mankind:
Yet most men understand not."*

(Holy Qur'an 40:57)

**Devo vassatu kālena
Sassasampatti hotu ca
Phito bhavatu loko ca
Rājā bhavatu dhammiko**

*May there be rains at the right season
May there be a plentiful harvest
May the people be happy
May the rulers govern with righteousness*

Theravada Buddhism



In all of our religions, there is also the doctrine of salvation and liberation. As much as we have been fools, poisoned with greed and ignorance, so our divine faiths offer us recourse and a way to make right the wrongs we have committed. COP18 is precisely this opportunity for each negotiator to raise-up his or her moral strength, to commit to righteous actions to save the planet and its abundant creation.

Whether you belong to an organized religion or not, if you are inspired by reverence for life in its great diversity and detail – we will stand by you through the negotiations to support you to find the strength, the wisdom and the words to bring about a binding agreement to reduce our Greenhouse Gas emissions, to redirect us to a path of renewable energies, and to protect ecosystems and biodiversity within a framework of social justice and compassion for those most vulnerable.

By committing to this path, you will find that there is great mercy and blessing awaiting you.

We are particularly cognizant that this COP will take place in Qatar, a land of devout faith. We call on our Muslim brothers and sisters to share their Qur'anic teachings and inspire the political leaders of West Asia and the Islamic World to guide the spirit of the negotiations to a worthy and wise conclusion.

*"Heavenly Father,
through your Eternal Word all of creation came into existence,
and is held in being by your Holy Spirit.
In the lives we lead and the choices we make,
help us to be mindful of the impact upon your world and its people,
near and far, now and in future generations,
so we may be faithful stewards of all that you have entrusted to us,
until that time when all things are reconciled to you."*

His Grace, Archbishop Thabo Makgabo, Anglican Church of Southern Africa

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