



Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change

April 8, 2011 – Bangkok, Thailand

With an **Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change** banner in hand (www.interfaithdeclaration.org), on a sweltering spring morning, a group of Buddhist monks, Hindu Brahman priests, and a Sikh spiritual doowa gathered along with lay supporters of these and other faiths in front of the UN Climate Change Conference on the closing day of the year's first negotiating session. They gathered to voice their shared concerns over human suffering from climate-related disasters already being experienced in their countries including recent historic flooding in the south of Thailand, last year's succession of flood and drought, as well as heat waves, wildfires, typhoons, coral reef die-offs, crop failures, pest infestations and other severe climate effects.



They spoke, prayed, chanted and meditated toward the shared aspiration that delegations from 192 nations gathered inside would reach agreements and strong actions to ensure a climate-safe future. The group signed a copy of the Interfaith Declaration that monks held throughout their ceremony. They spoke of their disappointment with the pace of international talks aimed at limiting human induced heating of the Earth to less than 2° C (3.6° F) beyond which scientists warn of irreversible changes to the Earth's climate system undermining the conditions which support life as we know it. Their concerns



included the future collapse of agriculture, dwindling supplies of drinkable water, strife over scarce resources, and the continuing destruction of the natural resource upon which humanity depends. They spoke of the moral and ethical imperative that governments abandon a competitive mindset and narrow self-interests instead adopting and enforcing the aggressive steps recommended by their own scientists in order to protect their people and ecosystems.



The assembled religious clergy and supporters were later joined by UN officials including **Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary** of the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC). She encouraged them, speaking of her own climate concerns and expressing agreement with their hopes and aspirations. She then read, signed and accepted a copy of their **Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change**, which she said she would hang in her UN office in Bonn, Germany. §

