The Climate Action Task Force welcomed a new Director of Climate Action in July 2022 and has made significant progress in preparing for the 2023 Parliament, in strengthening relationships with interfaith environmental organizations, and in advocating for international recognition of the Right to a Healthy Environment.

The CATF reviewed the over 100 public climate program proposals for the 2023 Convening. After careful consideration, we have selected just under 50 to continue with. To supplement this, the CATF worked to develop our own climate programs in partnership with prominent climate-focused organizations. We have developed over 35 such programs, in partnership with UNEP, the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, CIEL, the World Council of Churches, the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology, URI, CRNGO, and more.

These programs span a wide range of foci, from divestment to the greening of congregations to climate action in Africa.

We have strengthened our working relationships with other Chicago-based interfaith environmental organizations.
We co-sponsored the Green Team Summit of Faith in Place, signed onto the Fossil Fuels Non-Proliferation Treaty, and co-organized the Buddhist Tzu Chi Holistic Climate Solutions Summit as a part of New York Climate Week. Further, we collaborated with UNEP Faith for Earth and Al-Mizan on an official COP27 Side Event.

The project we are most proud of is our work to promote the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment. The Parliament released a statement in support of the UN recognition of this right, which was approved by the Human Rights Commission in late 2021. Our Directors sent personal emails to all member states of the UN General Assembly, asking for them to recognize this right when it came before the General Assembly this July.

The right was accepted with historic support, and we shifted our focus to support the implementation of this right. The Right to a Healthy Environment was the focus of our COP27 side event, was featured at the Holistic Climate Solutions Summit, and will feature greatly in our climate programing the 2023 Convening.

Looking towards next year, our focus will be on finalizing our climate programming and calls to action at the 2023 Convening and the continued advocacy for the Right to a Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment.