

## OPEN LETTER TO WORLD LEADERS ATTENDING THE UN CLIMATE SUMMIT 2014

We from the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI) humbly ask the leaders of the nations of the world to care for and treasure the Earth and all that is on it.

It is our only home and is a sacred gift given to us by God. We are called to be custodians of this gift.

We are an intricate part of all of life on this planet. There can be no flourishing of human life on a dying planet. Therefore, the well-being of the Earth should be central to all human activities.

Among the many threats to planetary well-being is the relentless pursuit of ever-increasing profit without regard for the capacity of a finite planet. Our present situation requires a transformation of our priorities to the wellbeing of people and planet. Our economic systems should be regarded as a resource or tool to achieve this end.

An essential part of our journey towards restoring our planet is the divestment from fossil fuels and a focus on renewable energies, which includes a refocus from large centralised energy production to smaller people-centred approaches, and the eradication of energy poverty.

We urge you to recognise that climate change, which is hastening the extinction of Creation, is one of the greatest threats to humanity. We all recognise that to heal the planet, we- all nations, ethnicities, genders, cultures, faiths, and species -need to unite and work with vigour to restore the ecological systems on which we depend. We can become a new, global 'rainbow community' of faiths and spiritualities, joined in joyful celebration and passionate concern.

This Climate Summit is an opportunity for you to find your moral strength, to commit to righteous actions to save the planet and its abundant life. Whether or not you belong to an organised religion, you are no doubt inspired by reverence for life in its great diversity. We will stand by you during the summit, supporting you to find the strength, the wisdom and the words to inspire a binding agreement. We must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, adopt renewable energies, and protect our ecosystems within a framework of social justice and compassion for the most vulnerable.

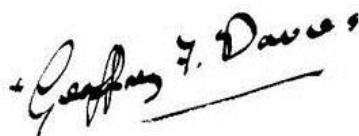
We ask you to unite with us, in our diversity, to care for the sacred community of life.



**Mr Sean Brown**  
Executive Director (acting)



**Mrs Tahirih Matthee**  
Chairperson



**Bishop Geoff Davies**  
Patron



**Moulana Riaz Simjee**  
Vice Chair