



"Of what faith are the waters
Of What faith the trees
Of what Faith the bounteous mother earth
Of What faith Ahura Mazda
Of what faith was Zarathushtra
Of that faith and of that law as well,
a Mazda worshiper am I "(Yasna 12.7)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ZOROASTRIAN LEADERS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AT 60TH
ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS DPI/NGO SEPT. 5-7 AT UN HEADQUARTERS**

Conference to review scientific evidence on climate change, including its consequences on indigenous peoples, water security, land use and the politics of energy.

NEW YORK, Aug. 27, 2007 – FEZANA, the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America, today announced a contingent of Zoroastrian community and interfaith leaders from New Jersey, Pittsburgh and as far as Mumbai, India, will attend and address the 60th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference on Climate Change Sept. 5-7, at UN headquarters in New York.

More than 2,000 representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) from over 80 countries are expected to attend roundtables, panels and workshops during the 3-day event. The Conference will review the scientific evidence on climate change, including its consequences on indigenous peoples, water security, land use and the politics of energy.

The Zoroastrian delegation will be represented by Niloufer Randeria of Mumbai, India, Homi D. Gandhi of Glen Rock, NJ, and Houtoxi Contractor and Cyrus Cama, of Pittsburgh, Pa. FEZANA is a UN NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The Conference will continue the mission of curbing global warming started over a decade ago, when the majority of UN member states passed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). During one of the conference workshops, "Faith Responses to Climate Change," Homi Gandhi will discuss the evolution in ecological practice, the theology of Zoroastrianism, and their relevance to the current environmental crisis.

“Zoroastrians through the millennia have been known for their care and concern for the Earth, conservation of natural resources, and protection of the environment,” Gandhi said. “We look forward to participating, collaborating and fostering a shared dialogue focused on a collective responsibility for improved environmental conditions worldwide.”

For more on the 60th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference on Climate Change visit:
<http://www.unngodpiconference.org/>.

Zoroastrianism, founded circa 1500 BCE, is credited to be the oldest monotheistic religion, influencing post-exilic Judaism, which adopted some Zoroastrian beliefs such as the ultimate victory of good over evil and the resurrection of souls. These percepts were then transmitted through Judaism to Christianity, and later to Islam. Zoroastrianism flourished as the imperial religion of three Persian empires, those of the Achaemenians, Parthians and Sasanians, and was the dominant religion from Turkey to China during those times. North America’s Zoroastrian community includes those who arrived from the Indian subcontinent, known as Parsis, and those who came directly from Iran seeking religious freedom.

About FEZANA

Founded in 1987, FEZANA serves as the coordinating body for 25 Zoroastrian associations throughout the United States and Canada. FEZANA promotes the study, understanding and practice of the Zoroastrian faith in North America., represents the interests of its member associations, and carries out philanthropic and charitable activities worldwide. The *FEZANA Journal*, FEZANA’s publication of record, circulates to Zoroastrian households in more than 22 countries, as well as to scholars, academicians and religious organizations worldwide. For more information visit www.fezana.org.

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Note to Editors: The following image is available on request.



Zoroastrianism and the Environment: Cypress tree on a frieze at Persepolis, seat of the Persian Empire, c. 500 BCE. A powerful symbol of strength and grace, the evergreen Cypress, features prominently in Persian art and folklore. *Credit: FEZANA Journal, Fall 2003.*

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