



The Climate Chance 2017 summit in Agadir took place from the Monday 11th to the Wednesday 13th of September. There were more than 5,000 participants, with 80 nationalities represented and a program of about 120 sessions. The summit was a major event for non-state actors involved in the fight against climate change.

The Climate Chance vision is based on the promotion of multi-stakeholder dialogue and concrete actions, with a special attention given to priority issues such as financing for action, the convergence of the climate and development agendas, the importance of a territorial approach, etc.

The organization of the summit in Morocco demonstrated the will to put Africa at the centre of the debates since the African continent is particularly vulnerable to climate change. It can give some of the answers the world needs. That is why the focus was on its issues and on issues of migration and development, financing of adaptation and the challenges for African cities were debated.

On the Sunday, Laura Agroum and Valérie Bernard went to the Atlantic Palace, the hotel where the summit was to happen, to meet with the people we were going to work with on the Monday. Valérie met with Mr Mohamed Itouhar who was coordinating the workshop on education and adaptation where Brahma Kumaris presented on Education for Resilience. Laura met with the people of CGEM, the Morocco business organization whom she was to work with during the Summit.





On the Monday morning, the Climate Change summit started with a high-level segment where the aims of the summit were set (see above). The COP 22 president was there as well as Hakima el Haite, the Morocco champion for Climate Change and many other people from COP22 and the executive secretary of the UNFCCC came for the high-level segment.

In the afternoon Valériane moderated the interfaith side event on Interfaith Climate Action, the panellists were from Africa, South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya, Asia: China and South Korea, United States of America and Switzerland. Each panellist shared the work they are doing in their own communities, countries and regions. A South African faith based organisation demanded the president in his decision to establish a very expensive atomic power plant that the inhabitants of South Africa and won the case.



Then, later in the afternoon, Valériane participated in a side event in the open air on the topic of Education. It was very well attended (30 people) there were 3 panellists and a moderator. The first panellist was working for the local education ministry on environment education in the local schools with the children organized in "environment clubs" and she presented the aim, development and challenges of her work. Then Elisa from "Surfrider Morocco" spoke. She belongs to a small environment association and works with youth on a project where they teach youth to get to know and love the oceans and take care of the coastal Zone and the beaches. Then Valériane spoke about education for resilience, the power of thoughts, awareness and meditation, she also spoke of the experience of living values.



Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative



The Faith Based Organisation group decided, after the side event, to meet again and wanted to work on a statement from those faith leaders present. Valériane coordinated the effort on the Tuesday afternoon and the Wednesday morning.

The picture at right is of the people who were part of the FBO working group. We faith-based leaders, networks and organizations representing faith and spiritual communities--

Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Bah'ai, Brahma Kumaris, Animist, and Shamanic from across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, have joined together at this non-state actors-focused Climate Chance gathering in Morocco. We are there to celebrate, recognize, and remind everyone of our deep interconnection and therefore responsibility we share to care for and protect each other and all living beings of this Mother Earth. This life is a gift the Earth has bestowed upon us; our debt is to love, honour and respect the gift and the gift-giver.

On the Thursday before leaving, Valériane had the beautiful opportunity to meet with a local group of students who meet every week for meditation and spiritual study and Laura conducted an interview.

