

REPORT FROM UNEP 21-22 June 2014 AND UNEA 21- 26 June 2014 NAIROBI

A small team of BK's were able to attend and participate at the UNEP and UNEA meetings from 21 – 26th June 2014. Team – Sisters Pratibha, Dorcas (Nairobi) and Urvashi (Nairobi), Monica (Milan) and Brother Ndiritu (South Africa).

Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum took place during the **week-end 21/22nd June** in which the BK's were included (NGO's/Civil Societies). Mr. Achim Steiner, Director of UNEP programme and Under Secretary of UN opened the sessions with his usual brilliance of pulling people's attention to the importance of the Civil Societies and the preparation of the documents to be put to the UNEA (assembly of Ministers and delegates). Indeed he encouraged all the participants during the week-end to maintain their commitment even if at times the implementation of well thought and well-designed documents prepared for the Ministers, take time to come into effect or even to be given consideration! However, that trend is changing! Br. Ndiritu and Sr. Monica were present at morning plenary **Saturday 21st** and also participated in a small working group on Sustainable Development. (SDG group). **Sunday 22nd** we attended the continued meeting in part of the SDG and then started to set up a simple but effective booth that was allocated to us (close to the restaurant – a strategic position!)

Monday 23rd June

The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme took place at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014, under the slogan "Towards a Life of Dignity for All", with more than 1,200 participants, including Environment Ministers, Government delegates and representatives of major groups and stakeholders. The overarching theme of the first session is "Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including sustainable consumption and production", which is designed to inform on-going discussions on the formulation of a set of targets and indicators that would succeed the Millennium Development Goals.

UNEA is a result of the call made by world leaders at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Brazil in June 2012, to strengthen and upgrade UNEP as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda and by establishing universal membership in its Governing Council.

HE Ms Oyun Sanjaasuren MP, Minister of Environment and Green Development of Mongolia is the newly elected UNEA President.

Brahma Kumaris also got a booth for exhibiting where many people visited.



Sisters Pratibha and Urvashi at the booth

Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th. We were fortunate to have Sister Chandrika from Mahadevnagar, Ahmedabad visiting Nairobi who spent an afternoon at the UNEP and also met delegates and shared BK works with Youth and Women.

Sisters Urvashi and Monica went to various sessions in part to get a gist of what was going on.

These included –

- **A Global Symposium on Environmental Rule of Law Tuesday, 24 June**
- **Symposium on Financing a Green Economy – Wednesday 25th. June**

We also met many people at the stand during networking time, or here and there.



Sisters Chandrika, Pratibha, Monica, Urvashi meeting Barbara Tavora-Jainhill (Forest Affairs Officer)

Thursday 26th June



Starting from 4th. Left to right -In the front row –

📍 [Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director](#)

📍 [H.E Oyun Sanjaasuren, President of the First Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly](#)

(Princess from Mongolia)

📍 [H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya](#)

📍 [SHS Prince Albert II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco,](#)

Statement – from Prince Albert -

“I have great pleasure to be in the home city of one of Africa’s most distinguished figures and a great champion for the empowerment of women, the environment and peace - Professor Wangari Maathai. She inspired the UNEP Billion Tree Campaign that I have supported as co-patron.

As we deal with the many challenges threatening our environment, let us remember her timeless words - ‘We cannot tire or give up. We owe it to the present and future generations of all species to rise up and walk!’

It is in that spirit that we address this first United Nations Environment Assembly with the conviction that what we do hereinafter will have a significant impact for the protection and the preservation of the natural resources of our Planet. It is our responsibility towards our children and grand-children.

Our Assembly, the first of its kind ever and two years after Rio+20 where leaders from around the world agreed to focus their policies towards sustainable development, will serve as a platform to define the foundations of **‘The Future We Want’.**”



Sisters Monica and Urvashi with
H.E Indian High Commissioner of Kenya Yogeshwar Varma (3rd from right),
Minister of Environment Prakash Javaderkar, India (2nd from right)

Much to our surprise at 11am the monitors everywhere started showing a side event by Brahma Kumaris at 5pm on Solar Energy.

Sisters Monica and Urvashi with cooperation of Sr. Sonja and video clips from the project in India, we talked about the Solar project in Shantivan and India One, etc. The presentation from the two innocent amateurs was well accepted from the 18 participants and after the closing meditation (much appreciated) a number of them wanted to know more about the BK's and the Environment initiative. So details of the websites etc. were given.



Sister Monica presenting in the Green room

ALL REPORTS WILL APPEAR IN TIME ON THEIR WEBSITE <http://www.unep.org/unea/en/> - right now there is the programme schedule and photos of the event.

Sr Monica (Italy) and Pratibha (Kenya) July 2014.