

Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative



Bonn, SB48 Climate Change session 29 April – 4 May

Civil Society Strategy Meeting: Integrating Rights in the Paris Implementation Guidelines:

On Sunday, April 29, 2018 from 9:00 AM to 12:45 PM, about 50 people attended this meeting and reflection on Human Rights and Climate Change.

The group worked on the best way to make sure the Paris Agreement rule book includes 8 rights:

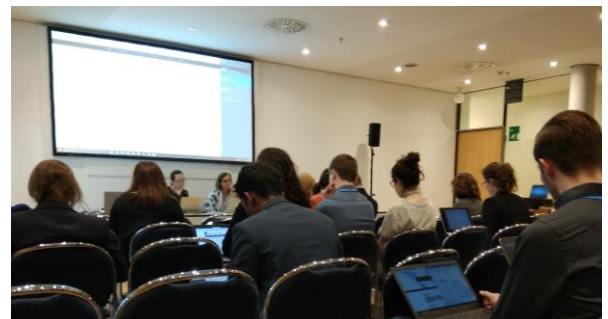
- Human Rights
- Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Public Participation
- Gender Equality
- Food Security
- Just Transition
- Ecosystem Integrity
- Inter generation equity



First day of negotiations at the Bonn Climate Talks

A key focus of the three bodies of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be in making progress related to the completion of tasks concerning the implementation of the Paris Agreement (PA). These procedures and guidelines necessary for the implementation of the PA are expected to be adopted later this year in December, in Katowice, Poland by the Conference of Parties meeting as the Parties to the PA (known as the CMA), which will also see the convening of the 24th session of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties, known as COP 24.

Yet the first meeting everyday has been with the Research and Independent Non-Governmental Organizations constituency (RINGO). Brahma Kumaris are also under this constituency in the UNFCCC. Every day, these researchers share their work and concerns with each other.





On **Tuesday 1st of May**: the SBI Workshop on ways of enhancing the implementation of education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and enhancing actions under the Paris Agreement (ACE workshop) was held.

In the evening some of the delegation members gathered at the Cologne Brahma Kumaris Centre with the local BKs. Daksh who participated in a workshop/youth forum on the 28th of April entitled “Integrating Youth in Action for Climate Empowerment” shared with us his experience of the forum and the young people’s vision.



The Next COP, the COP 24 will take place in Katowice, Poland, so Marek Frydrych of Poland, an upcoming host and part of the Brahma Kumaris delegation in December, also joined us in Bonn. He met many Polish delegates and participated in side events and negotiations. We also owe credit to him for many of our pictures!



2nd of May: Opening of the Talanoa dialogue

The Talanoa-Dialogue and why it makes a Difference? Talanoa is known throughout the Pacific Islands as a way to reflect on problems, find solutions and make decisions that serve the common good.

This process was introduced at the COP23 in Bonn by Fiji, who hosted the Conference of the Parties in 2017.

It is a facilitated dialogue on the basis of: inclusiveness, transparency and trust. The process follows three rules:

1. Tell your story – which means a very personal, emotional and not at all abstract way of describing what has happened, what it does to me, to the people I represent and to the environment I live in. What do I wish for the future.
2. Listen!!! – give yourself time to build empathy, to be touched by what you hear.
3. Share ideas, skills and experience before you finally find solutions that serve all.



Inclusiveness means, every voice has the same weight. There is no predominance of speakers that represent a greater majority, are more eloquent or more skilled. Transparency means that everyone has the same access to information, there is no hidden agenda. Subsequently trust is the foundation for the process of collectively sharing stories, ideas and finding solutions. It appeals to the inherent good in each person.

Attending the dialogue, one could observe slow but essential changes in the way of communicating. The telling of personal stories instead of proclaiming demands really seemed to touch the hearts. That is what resonance is all about. Because there was no immediate commenting on what was heard, there was less tendency to turn away from what was said or to offer quick solutions in order to avoid getting emotionally involved. The intellect that loves to categorize or judge within nanoseconds seemed quietened for a while.

The UNFCCC Secretariat has now launched a portal to continue the Talanoa Dialogue outside the conferences and broaden participation in taking the next level of climate action and ambition. Here everyone may contribute to the three questions:

1. Where are we now?
2. Where do we want to go?
3. How do we get there?

Multi-stakeholder and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)

On Tuesday: Multi-stakeholder on implementing the functions of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) started its work on the 2nd of May with a beautiful song/prayer by Frank Ettawageshik from Nation Congress of American Indian from USA.

“Indigenous people must be part of the solution to climate change. This is because you have the traditional knowledge of your ancestors. The important value of that knowledge simply cannot—and must not—be understated. You are also essential *in finding solutions today and in the future*. (Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC)

The COP has recognized the need to strengthen knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change. In this context, the LCIPP was established, for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner.





The Faith Based Organisation Coordination meeting was held later in the day.

The meeting was convened and led by Valériane Bernard, Brahma Kumari Environmental Initiative. Four initial points were set as a starting agenda for the meeting:

- Interfaith service at the Global Climate Action Summit, September 2018, San Francisco
- The question of Rights, from the preamble to the Paris Agreement
- Summit of Conscience, France, 2019
- Pilgrimages to Katowice* ecumenical presence in Katowice



The Cafeteria is always the special place to talk and network with party delegates or others!

Thursday 3 May

From 2 to 5 pm: SBSTA, an informal consultations Guidance on cooperative approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement was held. Within this consultation there was a panel and workshop on capacity building on the topic of Rights in which Valériane participated with indigenous people, women and people working with communities.



Friday 4th of May

In the morning Lindsey and Valérie were able to share information about the Human Rights approach within the UNFCCC framework during the RINGO meeting.



An action was held in the morning about the need for Rights to be included in the Paris rulebook. Actions are a form of demonstration in where people ask the secretariat to share their concerns and topics they feel are relevant to the negotiations.

The Gaming Climate Future

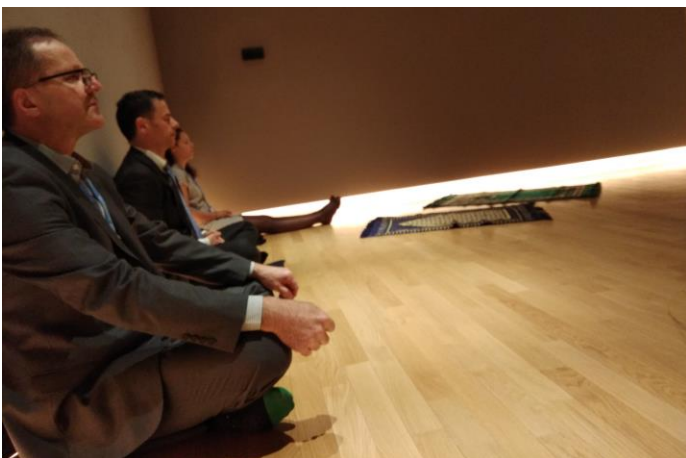
In the afternoon, Valérie was invited to participate in a workshop: “Gaming Climate Future”

The Gaming Climate Future project is a transdisciplinary research effort that aims at engaging global climate change negotiators to explore the relationship between global temperature goals and climate tipping points.

This game was amazing because each participant was representing a country and had to take decisions on their mitigation and adaptation etc. So, they were calculating the future impact of the decision made by all the countries. And the impacts were tremendous on coral reefs, hurricanes, and population, so it made one aware of the future consequences of present actions in a very clear way.



Saturday 5th of May



We started with an early morning meditation for the negotiators. Since they are so busy during the day, the time when they are free to meditate is before their meetings from 7.40 to 8 am. It was beautiful to meet and share silence with them.

them.