



Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative

Report SB50 Climate Change Conference Bonn 16 - 21 June 2019

This year the SB50, the intercessional meeting of the United Nation Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn is concentrating on:

- Preparing for the COP 25 in Chile
- Working on the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This needs many meetings amongst parties to negotiate the text around the topics of: finance, adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage.



For the first week of the climate change meeting in Bonn, our team was composed of Gopi from Cologne, Carolin from Berlin, Maria from London, Valérieane from Geneva and Bri from Bremen.

RINGO

The Research and Independent Non-Governmental Organizations is the constituency Brahma Kumaris belongs to within the framework of the UNFCCC.

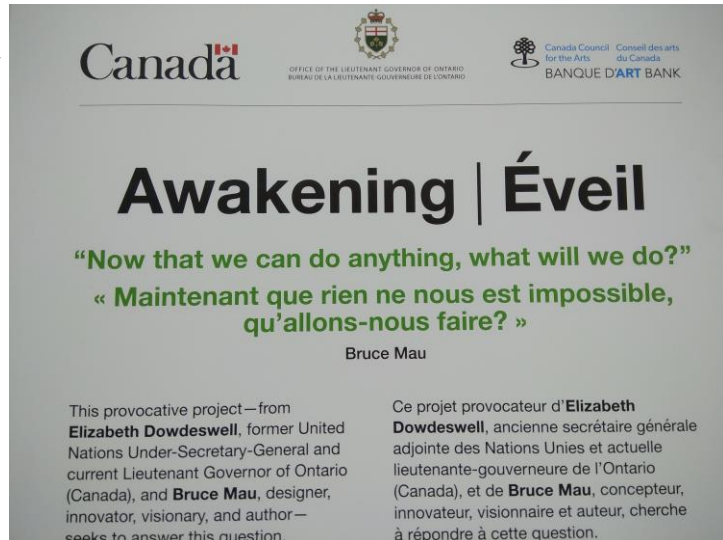
They met every morning, and Valeriane attended all their coordination meetings. It is also attended by university professors and researchers working on all the many different scientific aspects of Climate Change.



17 June 2019

On the morning of the first day of the of SB50 negotiations, there was some ‘action’ outside of the Bonn World Conference Centre. There were speeches and chanting of slogans in an effort to build pressure through social media and demand governments to choose which side they’re on: People or Polluters?

There was also an Art exhibition inaugurated by the Executive Secretary Patricia Espinoza entitled: Awakening. It artistically depicted the question: “Now that we can do anything, what will we do?”



Interfaith Coordination Meeting

On the Tuesday 18 June 2pm, the Faith-based coordination meeting took place, and about 13 people from many faiths attended. They talked about the various events happening in 2019 and the different actions, events and coordination that are being put in place.

It was decided to organise a press conference on faith-based perspectives at the SB50.

One of the attendees shared the observation that people seem happy to join the meeting and participate in this gathering.

On June the 18th, at 5 pm, a panel gave a presentation to a group of people working on food production, consumption and climate change.

Some researchers on the role of sustainable foods showed how micro algae could be an option for tasty protein and nutritious food.

Another group who represented an organisation studying the impact of food memories on the individual, is testing vegan foods that smell and look like meat. This research aims to re-educate people about their relationship with food.



There was even the IKEA company sharing how introducing 'vegan balls' to replace their meat balls was not a done deal. The executive from IKEA explained how people need to be re-educated to introduce new food habits.

Courage and action for climate action



On Thursday 20 at 2.30 pm, there was an interfaith perspective side event, "Courage and ethics for climate action"

This featured Lindsey Fielder Cook from QUNO, Arnold Ambundo from ACT alliance and Valérie Bernard from BK.

The 3 panellists expressed how courage is now essential for action to be taken.

Link to the side event:

<https://unfccc-sb50.streamworld.de/webcast/brahma-kumaris-courage-and-ethics-for-climat-2>

Indigenous People: The Amazon Climate Source

The Amazon Basin is home to the Earth's largest tropical forest. It is an immense store of biodiversity and carbon. Human activities have already altered the landscape of this crucial region. Land speculation, cattle ranching, agriculture, mining, and other land uses have led to the deforestation of 8,000,000 km² to date. Fortunately, nearly half of the Amazon is now formally protected by conservation areas and indigenous reserves. Although



these protected areas have proven effective in stopping deforestation, they are vulnerable to threats outside their borders. New roads and dams, wildfires, unclear land tenure, and climate change are now driving rapid changes across large swaths of the Amazon. The key to saving the Amazon lies in informed management of the protected areas. The Climate Source is a new web-based tool designed to provide the climate and forest biomass data needed to manage a changing Amazon.

www.amazonclimatesource.org

At a Press Conference at the Climate Change Conference in Bonn, representatives of Indigenous Peoples said that, the wisdom of the scientific knowledge of the forest is what will save the planet. They also said that they don't need great infrastructure projects, but respect for the indigenous territories. If they disappear, everything will disappear.

On the Saturday 22, from 11.30 am to 1pm

The United Nation Human Rights commissioner's office, Earth Justice, Centre for International Environment Law and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung organised a side event about: Incorporating human rights in the Nationally Determined Contributions: opportunities, good practices and lessons learned.

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are an important means through which the Paris Agreement could be signed – these are the contributions each country decided to take on board in order to tackle climate change both nationally but also for the planet. However, they need to be much more ambitious if we want to reach the 1.5 degrees that is judged the safe limit of climate rise. At the moment, if the countries only do what their NDCs indicate, we would reach 3.4 degrees. All countries need to revise their NDCs before September 2020 and they need to raise their ambitions. Human rights need to be a main guideline to drive their work and ambition. Isaiah Toroitich from ACT alliance reminded the participants that human rights were a law system designed to protect the dignity of people.



End.