Introduction

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU) is a worldwide spiritual movement dedicated to personal transformation and world renewal. It has its Spiritual Headquarters in Mt. Abu, Rajasthan, India. Founded in 1936, it comprises a worldwide network of centers in 110 countries. Accredited to UNEP in 2014

Aims and Purposes

General: To clarify spiritual and moral perspectives on issues of personal, community and global concerns, to facilitate a greater awareness of corresponding rights and responsibilities to foster sustainable human-centered development; education, the support of economic, social, environmental and human well-being, and the promotion of gender equality.

Contribution of the organizations work to the UN in General

General: In promoting the purpose and principles of the United Nations, the trajectory of awareness, attitude, vision, and action is used in the areas of the Sustainable Development Goals; Climate Change, Food Crisis, Gender Equality, Global Public Health, Humanitarian Emergencies, Human Rights, Women, Children, Youth, International Decades, Days.

We attend UN conferences, prep coms, commissions, present oral and written statements, host parallel events, work with NGO committees and caucuses.

Environment: Consciousness and awareness are at the root of our actions and therefore at the root of the current environmental crisis. Our contribution is in considering issues such as climate change and biodiversity in a spiritual framework, highlighting the spiritual dimensions of the decisions facing UN member states. We believe that expanding the conversation to include the inner dimensions will ultimately transform the quality of the conversation and the possible agenda for action among stakeholders. To bring stability, resilience and compassionate action on a global scale we need to develop widespread capacity for a shift in awareness and consciousness through silent reflection and meditation.
Participation in environment meetings of the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

As an Observer Organization to (UNFCCC) participated annually in United Nations Conference of Parties (COP): attended sessions, wrote statements, held press conferences and sponsored parallel events and Exhibitions; COP20, 1-12 December 2014, Lima, Peru; COP21, 30 November – 11 December, 2015, Paris, France; COP22, 7-18 November 2016 Marrakech, Morocco; COP23 6-17 November 2017, Bonn, Germany.

2014, Lima, Peru; COP20

Side event: “Ethics at the Heart of Climate” in partnership with Abibimmann Foundation. Speakers: Dr. Renate Christ, Secretary of the IPCC; Stuart Scott, Founder United Planet Faith & Science Initiative; Joachim Golo Pilz, Dir. Solar Research Institute; Gayatri Naraine, NGO Representative at the UN, New York for the Brahma Kumaris; John Crowley, Sector for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO
Primary thematic category: Capacity building.

Exhibition: Shifts in consciousness and systemic thinking open the doors to beneficent technologies and sustainable lifestyles grounded in integrity and care.

Written Statement: “Consciousness and Climate Change: The Heart of an Ethical Framework”

Conference of Youth (COY): Brahma Kumaris Activities in COY10 included: Coordinating the initiative of Regional Climate Ambassadors, facilitating workshops and presenting a side event, facilitation of meditations, particularly in the opening ceremony, using the space offered to promote sustainable lifestyle projects. See report

Overall: BK participated in or arranged approx. 16 programs in connection with COP20 on related themes. The reports can be found on this link

2015, Paris, France; COP21

Side event: “The role of Ethics and Awareness in Climate Change Solutions” in partnership with: Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association, Global Peace Initiative of Women, and Green Asia Network. Speakers: Dr. Vera Rodenhoff, Head of Division, German Environment Ministry, BMUB; Golo J. Pilz, Advisor Renewable Energy, Brahma Kumaris; Zarko Andricevic, Buddhist Teacher, Dhammadaka, Croatia; Ven. Chang Ji, Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association, USA; Jayanti Kirpalani, Main Representative of BK to UN, Geneva.
**Exhibition**: Shifts in consciousness and systemic thinking open the doors to beneficent technologies and sustainable lifestyles grounded in integrity and care.

**Written Statement**: “Consciousness and Climate Change: Building Spiritual Capacity to Respond to Climate Change”

**Conference of Youth (COY)**: Brahma Kumaris Activities in COY11 included: Exhibition next to National Geographic Media, assisting in the drafting of the Manifesto on Values which was handed over to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, conducting 3 key workshops in the 'Introspection area', hosting the ‘Awakening a Time of Hope’ event, organizing 6 flash meditations and silence spaces at the stand, Juan Milling, Youth Representative of the Brahma Kumaris was elected as a member of the advisory committee. See report.

**Overall**: BK participated in or arranged approx. 25 programs in connection with COP20 on related themes. The reports can be found on this link.

**2016 Marrakech, Morocco, COP22**

**Side event**: “Trust and Peace Building Approaches for Ambitious Climate Action” in partnerships with The Quaker UN Office, Brahma Kumaris, World Council of Churches, Quaker Earthcare Witness. Speakers: Sonja Klinsky, Assistant Professor, Arizona State Univ.; Lindsey Fielder Cook, Representative for Climate Change, Quaker UN Office Ambassador; Valeriane Bernard, Brahma Kumaris; Henrik Grape, Church of Sweden; Joy Kennedy, World Council of Churches.

**Exhibition**: Shifts in consciousness and systemic thinking open the doors to beneficent technologies and sustainable lifestyles grounded in integrity and care.

**Conference of Youth (COY)**: Brahma Kumaris Activities in COY12 included: workshop “Generation of Change Harnessing our Highest Potential”, an intergenerational dialogue: “Co-creating a Future to Believe In” and Oasis of Peace exhibition space. See report 1 and report 2

**Overall**: BK participated in or arranged approx. 23 programs in connection with COP20 on related themes. The reports can be found on this link.

**2017, Bonn, Germany, COP23**

**Side event**: “Transforming Hearts, Lives and Government Policies: 1.5°C without Reliance on Geo-engineering” in partnership with Global Alert for Defense of Youth and the Less Privileged, Quaker United Nations Office, United Nations of Youth Network. Speakers: Emmanuel Umohinyang, Co-Legal Advisor Global Alert for Defense of Youth and the Less Privileged (GADYLP); Golo J. Pilz, Energy Adviser, Brahma Kumaris; Jayanti Kirpalani, Main Representative of Brahma Kumaris to UN; Kevin Anderson, Deputy Director of the Tyndall Center, Chair of MACE at the
Exhibition: Shifts in consciousness and systemic thinking open the doors to beneficent technologies and sustainable lifestyles grounded in integrity and care.

Written Statement: “Consciousness and Climate Change: Empowering People for a World in Transition”

Conference of Youth (COY): COY13 that was held in Bonn, Germany from 2nd to 4th November. The report includes descriptions of delegates, stand, art exhibition and 5 workshops.

Overall: BK participated in or arranged approx. 18 programs in connection with COP20 on related themes. The reports can be found on this link

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (UNEP)


UNEA-1 – Delegation of 5 from the Brahma Kumaris:

Exhibition: Creating the future we want.

UNEA-2 - Delegation of 5 from the Brahma Kumaris

Exhibition: Healthy Mind, Healthy People, Healthy Environment

Side event: “Exploring the Contribution Role of Faith Communities in Delivering the Sustainable Development Goals” in partnership Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa and United Church of Canada. Speakers: Allen Ottaro, Founder, Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA). Golo Pilz, Advisor Renewable Energy, Brahma Kumaris, Peter Denton, Minister United Church of Canada and Regional Representatives for Major Groups and Stakeholders in North America to UNEP.

Overall: BK participated in or arranged approx. 6 programs in connection with UNEA2 on related themes. The reports can be found on this link

UNEA-3 - Delegation of 4 from the Brahma Kumaris
Active participation in consultative meetings was held with the civil society and faith based organizations (FBO’s) groups with the aim of strengthening the role of faith based organizations in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The reports can be found on this link.

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

As an observer organization to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, participated bi-annually to the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) attended sessions, wrote statements, and sponsored parallel events and exhibitions; COP12, Pyeongchang, Korea from 6th -17th October 2014 and COP13 Cancun, Mexico, 2-17 December 2016.

COP12, Pyeongchang, Korea 2014


Side event CBD: “The Power of Human Awareness in Safeguarding Biodiversity & Sustainable Development” Speakers: Piero Senatore Musini, Italy, Farmer, Sustainable Yogic Agriculture in India and Italy; Sonja Ohlsson, Denmark, International Coordinator for Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative; Min Jung Hee, Korea, Director of General Affairs, Lotus World

Exhibition - Living in Harmony

Written Statement: Awakening Biodiversity Consciousness II

Overall: Brahma Kumaris delegation participated in or arranged approx. 6 programs in connection with COP12 and related themes. The reports can be found on this link

COP13 Cancun, Mexico, 2016.

Side event CBD: “The role of Human Awareness Preserving Biodiversity”. Panelists: Dr Shailaja Ravindranath, Earth Charter, Center for Environment Education; Luis Lombardo Cifuentes, Saving Our Sharks A.C.; Katia Cordourier, EcoBahia; and Andrea Gutierrez, Brahma Kumaris.

Side event at CEPA: “Connection Between the Inner State and Nature” Panelist: Mateo Alfredo Castillo Ceja, Earth Charter; Daniel Gomez Íñiguez, Solven Solutions; and Claudia Lizana, Brahma Kumaris.

Project: BioClick Photo Exhibition presented at the CEPA fair exhibition.
Overall: Brahma Kumaris delegation participated in or arranged approx. 5 programs in connection with COP12 and related themes. The reports can be found on this link

Cooperation with United Nations Bodies

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)

From 2014-2017, Awareness Cum Training Centre on Concentrating Solar Thermal (CST) Technologies under United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) assisted Concentrated Solar Heat Project of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India. The CST Center was located at “India One” Solar Thermal Power Plant in Abu Road, Rajasthan, India. More than 500 entrepreneurs, industrialists, institutions, manufactures, academicians and governmental officials took part and benefited from the programs (seminars and training).

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)

September 2014 Climate Summit: Catalyzing Action.

The Climate Summit/ Initiative Mapping for Civil Society called for projects and programs with strong potential for delivering new, substantial, scalable and replicable actions at the 2014 Summit that go far to reduce emissions and/or strengthen resilience. The Brahma Kumaris submitted our project “India One” Solar Thermal Power Plant with 16 hours thermal storage for continuous operation. [link to India One]

Parallel to the UNGA Climate Summit the Brahma Kumaris participated in the 2 day Interfaith Summit held in New York City on 21st and 22nd September at the Union Theological Seminary / St Peter’s Church, and Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, respectively in preparation for COP15 in Paris, at which, Sister Jayanti our Head of Delegation to the UNFCCC COP15 was one of thirty religious leaders to sign an interfaith declaration to convey the faith communities’ concerns and proposals to the Secretary General’s Climate Summit. [link to the report]

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (DPI)
(NOW DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL CONCERNS (DGC))

Environment Days

Brahma Kumaris annually actively promote UN Environment Day in their community and across their network.
2016


Exhibition: “Moving from Sustainability to a State of Flourishing”

Written Statement: “Realizing our Interconnectedness Through a Shift in Awareness”

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Brahma Kumaris are actively involved in the Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights (GIF) which is a group of faith-based NGOs that gathers to reaffirm the responsibility of each faith and spiritual tradition to care for the earth and plays a role in addressing climate change and its impact.

2014

A panel 19 June, 2014: during the 26th session of the Human Rights Council “Human Rights and Climate Change: An Ethics Perspective.” Speakers: Guillermo Kerber from the World Council of Churches and Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights moderated the panel; Dr. Renate Christ, Secretary of the IPCC; Mr. Daniel Murphy, Earth Justice Foundation; Sister Jayanti, Main Representative Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, UN Geneva.

Co-sponsors: Franciscans International (FI), World Council of Churches (WCC), Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU), Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Spiritual Council, Southern Diaspora Research and Development Center, Edmund Rice International (ERI) INTLawyers; International Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN), Women International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) and Earthjustice.

Round Table Discussion 21 October, 2014: “Human Rights and Climate Change: Spiritual, Religious and Ethical Perspective.”

2015


2016

Panel Event: February 12, 2016: "Ethical and Faith Perspectives of a Post COP21 Agenda"

Statement: 18 April 2016: By Religious and Faith Leaders on the Occasion of the UN Secretary General's High Level Signature Ceremony for the Paris Agreement, [Link]

2017


Panel Event: 25 September 2016: During the 36th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, Palais des Nations “Climate Change, the extractive industry and Human Dignity: Ethical Perspectives”

Cooperation with other Institutions

EUROPEAN UNION (EU) SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DAYS

June 2014: Brahma Kumaris dedicated 9 different programs in 8 cities to EU Energy Days 2014 under the theme of Sustainable Transitions Demands a New Mindset. See reports

June 2015: Networking Village was part of the EUSEW High Level Policy Conference held over 2 days. Brahma Kumaris were given a slot at the exhibition and an opportunity to set up networking sessions at various tables in the exhibition.
Overall: Total of 12 programs dedicated to EU Energy Days in different countries of the EU. See reports

**June 2016:** EU Energy Days 2016 showed citizens and businesses why sustainable energy is important – and helped them discover the issues in the transition to secure, clean, efficient energy.

**Overall:** Total 12 programs dedicated to EU Energy Days in different countries of the EU including main program in Brussels. See report.

**June 2017:** Numerous activities of the Brahma Kumaris were held in support of the EU Sustainable Energy Days. These include “Empowering People for a World in Transition” and “The Art of a Positive World View in Turbulent Times”. See report:

**2014 Climate Action Week - New York City**

*People's Climate March* in New York City, 21st September BKs participated along with - an estimated 400,000 people.

**Event:** September 22, 2014. Hosted at the BK Meditation Center and Gallery on 5th Avenue. Sister Jayanti, Main Representative of the Brahma Kumaris to the UN in Geneva spoke on the topic of “Climate Action: New Thinking creates New Realities”. [Link to report]

**Environment Initiatives taken in support of MDGs (Post 2015) SDGs**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**Open Space Exposition** March 2017: Held at held at the Brahma Kumaris Spiritual Headquarters, Rajasthan India, during the National Coordinators Meetings. On the theme of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This meeting is an annual international gathering of representatives of the Brahma Kumaris network of centers from across the world. 16 Exhibition Booths were set up reflecting the particular goals that the BKs are engaged with, many with a focus on the environment. There were also additional booths on spiritual well-being. [Exhibition Pictorial Report] and [Exhibition Flyer]

**Goal 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;

**Project:** *Sustainable Yogic Agriculture*, a community-based farmer-driven agricultural research project aimed at poverty reduction: Incorporating mind and heart-based
meditation practices that increase crop yield, nutritional value, and support family well-being. For more information including research paper

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages

Initiative: Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative, launched in [2009] promotes:

Sustainable Lifestyle: Adopting a less materialistic lifestyle and increasing the use of clean energy saves the planet’s resources and brings greater well-being.

Diet: Vegetarian/Vegan food, cooked with love, nourishes our whole being and brings inner clarity. It contributes to the health and future of the planet by reducing our carbon footprint.

Meditation: Spending time in silent reflection or meditation helps us to connect with our deeper values and find the strength to live by them, enabling us to be more mindful of the impact of our choices.

Peaceful Living: Promoting and living by the principles of universal peace can lead to less violent conflicts and wars, thus enabling vast resources to be redirected to creating a healthy and sustainable society.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Annually participate in the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and periodically focus on environmental issues that affect women directly.

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Renewable Energy.

Project: India One: Link to India-One In spring 2017 the Brahma Kumaris and the World Spiritual Trust (WRST) completed the design, development and installation of “India One”, a 1 MW solar thermal power plant in Abu Road, Rajasthan. This research project uses the in-house developed 60m² parabolic dish and features an innovative thermal storage for continuous operation. "India One" generates heat and power for a campus of 25,000 people and is a milestone for decentralized clean power generation with storage in India.

Key features of “India One”:

- 770 nos. of 60 m² parabolic dishes & 1 MW peak electrical output -
- Co-generation, efficient use of thermal energy & modular design
- Thermal storage for night operation & direct steam generation
- Networked enabled automated dual axis tracking
- Motionless cavity receiver & efficient use of land
**Project Partners:** For “India One”, Brahma Kumaris & WRST have secured funds from:
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE, Govt. of India) under its research & development scheme.
- German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) via its bilateral “ComSolar” initiative through the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ).

**Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Brahma Kumaris Environmental Initiative, encourages greater understanding of the role of consciousness and lifestyle in environmental issues, particularly climate change through dialogues, partnerships, local initiatives, workshops, exhibitions and UN conferences.

**Examples of Specific Activities**
Two examples of the work carried out in the Quadrennial period:

**Example 1: Campaign - 10 Ways to Change the World:**

- **2015 Launch** of the 10 ways to change the world campaign: Posters, Message Cards, and 10 new workshops based on this easy-approach-to-the-environment-concept.
- **Location:** Worldwide
- **Reach** (Number of participants/recipients): 10-20,000.
- **SDG** related to this activity: SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.
- **Supporting documentation:** Read more on this link:

**Example 2: Global Climate Conference of Youth**

- **Global Conference of Youth (COY11),** 26-28 Nov. 2015 Paris hosted the 11th annual Global Conference of Youth (COY11) for Climate Change, which takes place every year before the Conference of Parties (COP).
- Over 5000 young people from 130 countries united to present the voice of youth to the actual climate change negotiations. COY’s aim has always been to give young people a platform to share skills, connect and be part of a movement towards a more sustainable society. Brahma Kumaris delegation of 6 youth were active with:
  - **Exhibition** next to National Geographic Media
  - Assisted in the **drafting of the Manifesto on Values**, which was handed over to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs.
  - Conducted **3 key workshops** in the 'Introspection area'.
  - **Event:** ‘Awakening a Time of Hope’(over 120 participants)
  - Organized 6 **flash meditations** and silence spaces at the stand
  - Juan Milling, BK Youth Representative **elected as a member of the COY advisory committee**
Location: Paris, France
Reach: 2000 (of 5,000 participants)
SDGs related to this activity: Goal 3. Good Health and Well-Being; Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal
Supporting documentation. Link to report:

Collaborations:

Ongoing Collaborations with other Environmental networks:

Abibimman Foundation abibimanfoundation.org
The Bhumi project bhumiproject.org
Centre for Alternative Technology cat.org.uk
The Charter for Compassion charterforcompassion.org
Clear Karma clearKarma.org
COBASE Cooperativa Tecnico Scientifica di Base cobase.it
Damanhur Damanhur.org
Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association ddmba.org
Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue dicid.org/english/index.php
Earth Charter International earthcharterinaction.org
Energies 2050 energies2050.org
European Forum for the Study of Religion and the Environment hf.ntnu.no/relnateur
Faith Association of the rehabilitation of street children and orphans, Nigeria
Forum de la Terre forumdelaterre.com
Friends World Committee for Consultation www.fwcc.world
Franciscans International www.franciscansinternational.org
The GAIA Foundation gaiafoundation.org
GEN Global EcoVillage Network gen.ecovillage.org
Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment & Human Rights – works on the ethical and human right perspective of climate change.
Centre Catholique International de Genève ccig.iccg.org
Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Spiritual Council culturalsurvival.org
World Council of Churches okoumene.org
Global Alert For Defense of Youth and the Less Privileged (GADYLP) gadylp.8m.net
Global Catholic Climate Movement www.catholicclimatemovement.global
Global Peace Initiative of Women (GPIW) gpiw.org
Green Asia Network greenasia.kr
GreenFaith greenfaith.org
IndiaCare Indiacare.de
Interfaith Declaration for Climate Change interfaithdeclaration.org
International Journey of Environmental Education tratadoeducacaobasambiental.net
International Lawyers International-Lawyers.Org
International Network of Engaged Buddhists inebnetwork.org
Outreach Platforms:

Our NGO operates mainly in English, but as an International Organization we also operate in all six languages of the UN as well as Hindi and Telegu within their regions.

Websites of our organization:
www.brahmakumaris.org,
www.un.brahmakumaris.org,
www.eco.brahmakumaris.org

Our social media platforms include:
BKUN Facebook
Environmental Initiative Facebook
BKUN Twitter

Other Methods: Newsletters:
BKUN Electronic Newsletter (madmimi). April-June, 2018: Link to Newsletter
Internal Environment Newsletter bimonthly
Accreditation to UNEP

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