

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (UNEP)
REPORT 2018-2020
of the
BRAHMA KUMARIS WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY (BKWSU)

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 ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (UNEP)

2019

Participated in the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) sessions in Nairobi, UNEA-4, 11 -15 March 2019.

UNEA-4 - Delegation of six from the Brahma Kumaris

Exhibition: Healthy Mind, Healthy People, Healthy Environment

Side events: Participation in two side events hosted by Faith for Earth, UNEP:

“Faith-Based Initiatives for Addressing Environmental Challenges”. Speakers: Dr. Iyad Abumoghli, founder and director of Faith for Earth Initiative, UNEP; Sonja Ohlsson, International Coordinator, Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative; Rudolf Makhanu, Director of Eden’s Stewards; Rabbi Yonatan Neril, Founder & Executive Director, The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development; Dr. Chris Elisara, Director Creation Care Taskforce, World Evangelical Alliance; Mr. Fazlun Khalid, Director and Founder of Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences; Fr. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of GreenFaith/Living the Change Initiative.

“Lifestyle Changes based on Values and Ethics – The Role of Faith in promoting Sustainable Consumption and Innovative Technology”. Speakers: Iyad Abumoghli, Ph.D., Principal Advisor, Strategic Engagement with Faith-based Organizations, UNEP; Rev Dr Canon Rachel Mash, Environment Co-ordinator, Green Anglicans, Anglican Church of Southern Africa; Yusuf Ahmed, Regional Director-East Africa, Islamic Relief WorldWide; GoloPilz, Energy Adviser Brahma Kumaris (video presentation); Sonja Ohlsson, Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative; Allen Ottaro, Executive Director, Catholic Youth Network for Environment Sustainability for Africa; Moderation: David Munene, Programs Manager of CYNESA. Guided meditation by Pratibha Patel, Assistant Regional Director of the Brahma Kumaris Africa.

Overall: Brahma Kumaris participated in or arranged several programs in connection with UNEA4 on related themes. The reports can be found [on this link](#)

Youth Activity: A delegate from the Brahma Kumaris selected to the Steering Committee of UNEP MGCY for the term – December 2020 until August 2021 – for the position - Thematic Facilitator for Environment and Faith.

Looking ahead: Brahma Kumaris plans to actively participate in UNEA 5 February 2021.

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; COP24, 3-14 December 2018, Katowice, Poland; COP25, 2-13 December, 2019, Madrid, Spain.

2018, Katowice, Poland; COP24

Side event: *"Building a Spirit of Solidarity to overcome the climate crisis"* in partnership with Franciscan International; Quaker Earth Care Witness; and Quaker United Nations Office. Speakers: Debra Roberts-IPCC Co-Chair Working Group II; Isabel Cavellier Adarve, Principal Advisor Mission2020; Martin Frick, Director Policy & Programs UNFCCC; Jayanti Kirpalani, Director Brahma Kumaris Europe; Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Coordinator AFPAT; Archbishop Bernardito Auza, Nuncio of the Holy See to the UN; Moderator: Lindsey Cook, Quaker United Nations Office.

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 COY14 included: facilitating workshops *"Consciousness and Climate Action"* and *"Healthy Mind, Healthy Planet"* also conducting several meditation sessions. [See report](#)

Overall: Brahma Kumaris participated in or arranged approx. 53 programs in connection with COP24 on related themes. The reports can be found [on this link](#)

2019, Madrid, Spain; COP25

Side event: *"Inspiring Courage to Act and Adapt in a Climate Emergency"* in partnership with: Friends World Committee for Consultation; Franciscans International; Quaker Earthcare Witness; and World Council of Churches. Speakers: Debra Roberts; IPCC Co-Chair of WGII, AR6; Bishop Philip Huggins, World Council of Churches; Rev. Chebon Kernell, World Council of Churches; Sister Jayanti, European Director, Brahma Kumaris; Professor Mark Lawrence, Director, IASS; Ben Schachter, OHCHR.

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): The COY conference was moved from Chile to Spain with very short notice. With the need to re-design our participation and activities in

COY15, the Brahma Kumaris team managed to conduct two creative workshops *"Cultivating Inner Qualities for Sustainability"* and *"Consciousness, lifestyle and climate change"*. [See report](#)

Overall: Brahma Kumaris participated in or arranged approx. 49 programs in connection with COP25 on related themes. The reports can be found [on this link](#)

Civil Society events Chile: Civil society programmes in Chile for COP25 continued, even though the conference was moved to Spain. These reports describe some of the many Brahma Kumaris activities – [preparation events](#) and [civil society](#)

UNFCCC Bonn Climate Talks

Brahma Kumaris hosted side events and an exhibition at the annual UNFCCC mid-term conference in Bonn, Germany:

2018

Participation SB48 Climate Change session 29 April –4 May 2018, [reports](#)

2019

Participation SB50 Climate Change session 16-21 June 2019, [reports](#)

Looking ahead: Brahma Kumaris plans to actively participate in COP26 1st-12th November, 2021, Glasgow, UK:

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 and sponsored parallel events and exhibitions in COP 14, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from 17 to 29 November 2018.

2018: COP14, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

Side event CEPA Fair: *"Co-operation, Care and Compassion for Biodiversity"* in partnership with Wild Heritage. Speakers: Golo Joachim Pilz, Germany, Energy Advisor Brahma Kumaris, Head of India-One solar thermal power plant; James M Mair, Emeritus Professor, Centre for Marine Biodiversity and Biotechnology, Edinburgh, Scotland; Cyril Kormos, Executive Director Wild Heritage; Dorcas Alusala, PhD, Biologist, Brahma Kumaris Environment Wing, Nairobi, Kenya. Moderator: Sonja Ohlsson, Focal Point Climate Change, Intl. Coordinator Brahma Kumaris Environment.

Side event CBD: *"From Awareness to Action – A new mindset for Biodiversity"* in partnership with Wild Heritage. Speakers: Golo J. Pilz, Energy Advisor Brahma

Kumaris; James M Mair, Emeritus Professor, Centre for Marine Biodiversity and Biotechnology; Sonja Ohlsson, Focal Point on Climate Change, Brahma Kumaris; Virginia Young, Dir. Forests and Climate Program, Australian Rainforest Conservation Society; Moderator: Chen Deying, Dr. Psychology, Living Values Program Facilitator.

Exhibition – *Care and Compassion for Planet Earth.*

Handout: ["Care and Compassion for Biodiversity"](#)

Overall: Brahma Kumaris delegation participated in or arranged several co-ordination meetings in connection with COP14 and related themes, plus contributed to the Nature and Culture summit. The reports can be found [on this link](#)

Looking ahead: Brahma Kumaris plans to actively participate in COP15, second quarter of 2021, Cuning, China.

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)

Brahma Kumaris got accredited as an observer organization to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 2019 and participated in the bi-annual Conference of Parties (COP) attended sessions and sponsored parallel events and exhibitions in COP 2-13 September New Delhi, India.

2019: COP14, New Delhi, India

Side event: *"Sustainable Capacity Building: Empowering Individuals and Communities to Act in Challenging Times"* in partnership with Diverse Earth. Speakers: Rajesh Dave, Executive Member of Rural Development Wing of Brahma Kumaris; Liza Zogib, Founder & Director of Diverse Earth; John Ndiritu, Asst. Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at University Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; Aneta Loj, Research and Development Coordinator at India One Solar Thermal Power Plant.

Exhibition in the main hall was on the topic of *"The Power of Consciousness in Sustainable Development of Individuals and Communities"*.

Fieldtrip: One of the unique additions to our conference participation was the Happy Farm, 25 acres of land where Brahma Kumaris are practicing Sustainable Yogic Agriculture. The farm was just 10 minutes away from the Expo Mart of UNCCD COP 14 venue. Regularly twice a day trips were organized for interested delegates who wanted to experience yogic farming and a yogic atmosphere.

Overall: Brahma Kumaris participated in or arranged several programs in connection with UNEA4 on related themes. The reports can be found [on this link](#)

Cooperation with United Nations Bodies

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)

2019

Consultation: Tuesday, September 24, in parallel to the UNGA Climate Change Summit 2019, the Brahma Kumaris were part of a coalition of planning partners of faith-based organizations creating a day-long civil society consultation representing more than 45 global interfaith organizations on the issue of the current climate emergency, called "*CLIMATE EMERGENCY: Faith-Based Organizations Raising Ambition - Leaving No One Behind*". Program: [\[Link here\]](#). Parliament of World Religions report: [\[Link here\]](#). A short video of the event produced [\[Link here\]](#)

The Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week, hosted by Brazil demonstrated increasing climate ambition across the region, from technical discussions to thematic dialogues. The results of the event fed into the outcome of the Climate Action Summit organized by the UN Secretary-General on 23 September in New York. The Brahma Kumaris participated by hosting a '[Knowledge Corner](#)' booth in the exhibition area throughout the Climate Week 2019 held in Salvador Bahia.

2020

Brahma Kumaris part of the organizing committee for:

Second interfaith consultation: Thursday September 24, 2020, entitled "*Good Trouble for a Healthy Planet*". A virtual consultation addressing the impact of human activity on the planet, the urgent need for action to obtain sustainable and resilient communities, and the development of recommendations for moving forward. Two keynote presentations and eight concurrent workshops:

The Consultation focused on eight areas.

- Envisioning a Sustainable and Just Economy for a Resilient World
- Taking Responsibility for the Climate
- BuenVivir: Pathways to a Healthier Planet
- How to Activate More People of Faith to Action
- Solutions that Work: Adaptation and Mitigation
- Climate Migration (including displaced persons)
- Climate Grief
- Restoration and Nature Based Solutions

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

2020

A virtual meeting of the **high-level political forum (HLPF) 2020** (review and follow-up on the 2010 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals) was held from Tuesday, 7 July, to Thursday, 16 July 2020. The theme was *"Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development"*. Participants debated where we stand on the SDGs in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Virtual Parallel Event: *"A Shift in Mindset: Faith-Based Solutions to Climate Action Obstacles"*. July 13 12:00 – 1:30 PM EST. As co-chair of the Committee of Religious NGOs and its Climate Working Group, the Brahma Kumaris and its fellow faith-based colleagues organized a parallel event. Speakers: Dr. Iyad Abumoghli, Founder and Director of UNEP's Faith for Earth Initiative; Ms. Huda Alkaff, Founder and Director of Wisconsin Green Muslims; Rev Susan Hendershot, President of the Regeneration Project and Interfaith Power and Light; Mr. Isaac Oindo, Youth Representative in the Africa Coalition for Sustainable Energy Access (ACSEA); Gopal Patel, Director of the Bhumi Project. Report [here](#)

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

Environment Days

Brahma Kumaris annually actively promote UN Environment Day (WED) in their community and across their network.

2019

The International Day of Peace (IDP) focused on "Climate Action" and our organization hosted and participated in many actions around the world.

2020

Initiative: UNEP has its 50th anniversary in 2021 and announced the theme of "Biodiversity" for the year 2020. In the lead up to 2021 the UNEP Major Group Children and Youth invited all affiliated organizations to contribute an initiative to highlight biodiversity. June 5th is the observance of World Environment Day (WED) and May 22nd is the International Day for Biological Diversity. In response Brahma Kumaris Youth introduced a new initiative that invited young people and children to connect to their local and wider global variances in biodiversity through the specific

lens and meaning of flourishing. *"Flourishing Futures: Nourishing Biodiversity Now."* The initiative addresses three levels:

- Individual flourishing and biodiversity
- Flourishing of interpersonal communication and synergy in relationships, enhancing the way we work together whilst engaging in environmental action
- A flourishing generation as change makers for a healthy planet

Concept Note [here](#). Report [here](#)

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.

2018

Joint Oral Statement: The 38th Session of the UN Human Rights Council 27 June 2018
Item 4: General Debate - Human Rights Situation that needs Council's attention
Speaker: Valeriane Bernard representing Brahma Kumaris, Franciscan International, Dominicans for Justice and Peace, World Council of Churches, Geneva Interfaith Forum on Human Rights, Climate Change and Environment

A briefing on human rights and climate change ahead of the 24th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP24), held in Katowice, Poland, from 2-14 December 2018, took place at the International Environment House on Monday 26 November.

Interfaith Statement: *'Walk on Earth Gently- Faiths for Sustainable Living'*.
Submission to the 2nd Question "Where do we want to go" of Talanoa Dialogue by GreenFaith, together with the World Council of Churches, World Evangelical Alliance, Global Muslim Climate Network, Global Catholic Climate Movement, Hazon, Bhumi Project, One Earth Sanga, Brahma Kumaris, Quakers, Shambala Buddhists and many others.

2019

A side-event: *"Integrating a human rights perspective in climate action"*
During the 41st session of the Human Rights Council, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights presented its analytical study on gender-responsive climate action for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women. This came at a critical time in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, as States are required to submit new or updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) in 2020. This

side-event was held to discuss the impacts of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly of women, youth, minority groups, and indigenous communities. It also explored the imperative to ensure that human rights are included in States' climate policies and actions at all levels and reaffirmed the crucial role of the Council in addressing and integrating a human rights perspective in climate change processes.

Press conference: 'Courage and Ethics for Climate Action' in June 2019 in Bonn SB50. Brahma Kumaris, ActAlliance, and QUNO

Joint Written statement: Human Rights Council Forty-fifth session September–October 2020, Agenda item 4.

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention - Joint written statement submitted by Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Franciscans International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, Dominicans for Justice and Peace - Order of Preachers, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, Soka Gakkai International, non-governmental organizations on the roster "*Our collective responsibility to act now to protect human rights from the impacts of the intersecting environmental, climate and Covid-19 crises.*". See Statement [here](#)

2020

Webinar Series on Human Rights, Ethics and Climate Change. Organized by the Geneva Interfaith Forum for Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights.

Webinar #1: *Human Rights, Ethics and Climate Change*, 17 June

Moderated by Valeriane Bernard, Brahma Kumaris. This panel aimed at engaging grassroots partners, informing the general public, and proposing a spiritual perspective. Recording available [here](#)

Webinar #2: *Human Rights, Ethics and Climate Change*, 24 June.

Moderated by: Isaiah Toroitich, Lutheran World Federation. This second panel aimed at providing a technical discussion on selected issues relating to human rights and climate change providing an ethical perspective. Recording available [here](#)

Webinar #3: *Human Rights, Ethics and Climate Change (in Spanish)*, 1 July.

Moderated by: Elena Cedillo, Lutheran World Federation. This third panel aimed to bring the voices from the Global South, especially those who have not the opportunity to participate in the Human Rights Council, and to bring a specific Latin American perspective of the issue. Recording available [here](#)

Online event series organized by the Interfaith Liaison Committee with the UNFCCC

Online Event #1 : "*The World We Want*", 27 October

Faith traditions form the basis for what much of the world's people consider important or unimportant, desirable or undesirable, tolerable or intolerable. They can also give us the moral courage to put aside our personal interests in favour of the common good, especially during crisis situations such as the current Covid-19 pandemic and the unfolding climate emergency. While each faith tradition will offer its own perspective, there are many commonalities on which we can build through interfaith dialogue and that we can use to strengthen the common good. This webinar explored the narratives that faith traditions from all over the world can bring to helping us navigate through this precarious time. See invitation and speakers [on this link](#)

Online Event #2 COP26 – “*Ramp up Ambition!*”, 3 November

The postponement of COP26 creates a challenge to keeping up the tempo on climate action. States' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are not even close to ensuring global temperature rise remains below 2°C, let alone the necessary 1.5°C. Inaction from governments is no longer an option. 2020 is the year when the GHG emissions curve must begin to fall in order to have a chance of attaining the Paris Agreement goals. Climate actions undertaken by States must contain a mechanism to compensate for loss and damage. See invitation and speakers [on this link](#)

Online Event #3 “*Hope for the Future*,” 10 November

Discussions on climate change and a sustainable transition face many obstacles. Against this background, faith traditions often return to the notion of hope. While hope may be perceived by some as simply synonymous with wishful thinking, true hope is visionary, generating the force and determination that motivates us to act and to change. As part of this online event, interactive dialogue was offered between participants, sharing and gathering participants' ideas on this topic, as well as visions for the future. See invitation and speakers [on this link](#)

Cooperation with other Institutions

EUROPEAN UNION (EU) SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DAYS

June 2018: Numerous activities of the Brahma Kumaris were held in support of the EU Sustainable Energy Days in Belgium, Greece and Denmark. These include “*Energy Morning Meditation*” and “*World in Transition – Now is the hour*”. [See report](#)

June 2019: 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 7 programs dedicated to EU Energy Days in different countries of the EU. [See report](#)

CLIMATE ACTION WEEK – NEW YORK CITY

September 20th Climate Strike: As a member of GreenFaith NYC the Brahma Kumaris supported NYC Youth from “Fridays for Future” by organizing a faith contingent to participate in the Climate Strike with Greta Thunberg, demanding transformative action on climate change along with - an estimated 250,000 people.

The Peoples' Summit on Climate, Rights and Human Survival 18-19 September, 2019, in New York City. The Brahma Kumaris participated in this event that brought together key actors of the different strands of the climate justice movement (i.e. workers, indigenous peoples, youths, the women and gender constituency, environmental activists), human rights organizations and other influential stakeholders (such as foundations, journalists, thought-leaders and like-minded politicians) to discuss common and concrete strategies that accelerate the transition to a zero-emissions economy in a way that respects, protects and fulfils human rights. It was the first ever global summit on human rights and climate change.

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

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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 reporting period:

Example 1: Annual Green Retreats for the Brahma Kumaris Community Worldwide

Annual Green retreats for the Brahma Kumaris community in Europe and other regions since 2010, including a virtual green retreat in 2020. Since 2017 we have arranged annual Green retreats including in our spiritual headquarters in India. Topics include: *"Nature Art Healing Creative Workshop"*, *"Outdoor World Peace Meditation & Concert"*, *"Vegan Diet and Non-Violence Workshop"*, *"World in Transition Presentations"*. In 2020 the green retreats expanded its program to include an online 'Green Champions' Training.

Location: Worldwide

Reach (Number of participants/recipients): approx. 5,000.

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: Local Climate Conference of Youth (LCOY)

Local Conference of Youth (LCOY).

The Conference of Youth (COY) for Climate Change, takes place every year before the Conference of Parties (COP) to present the voice of youth to the actual climate change negotiations. Since 2019 Local COY have been arranged all over the world to give young people a platform to share skills, connect and be part of a movement towards a more sustainable society.

LCOY-15, INDIA, hosted by Brahma Kumaris from 2nd to 4th November 2019 at its spiritual HQ, Mt. Abu, Rajasthan, youth from all parts of India were invited to participate in this event and make their voices heard. 200 participants from all over India were present. The BK Youth also actively participated in LCOYs in the Netherlands, Germany and Austria in 2019.

In 2020 the virtual LCOY India was hosted by Brahma Kumaris spiritual HQ, Mt. Abu, Rajasthan.

Steering Committee member of UNEP MGCY: Shantanu Mandal, India, Brahma Kumaris Youth rep to UNEP MUCH (United Nations Environment Program Major Group for Children and Youth) was selected as a member of the Steering Committee of UNEP MGCY for the term December 2020 until August 2021 for the position - Thematic Facilitator for Environment and Faith.

Location: Worldwide

Reach: 1000

SDGs related to this activity: Goal 3. Good Health and Well-Being; Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal
Supporting documentation: [Link to reports](#)

Collaborations:

ONGOING COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORKS:

Abibimman Foundation abibimmanfoundation.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 oikoumene.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 tratadoeducacaoambiental.net
International Lawyers International-Lawyers.Org
International Network of Engaged Buddhists inebnetwork.org
International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN) ismun.net International Youth Climate Movement youthclimate.org
Interreligious Climate and Environment network (ICE) ice-network.net

Maryknoll Sisters maryknollsisters.org
 Mission 2020 www.mission2020.global
 Our Voices ourvoices.net
 Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) pacja.org
 Paris Pledge for Action, dmtrk.net
 Pachamama Alliance pachamama.org
 Push Europe 350.org
 Quaker Earthcare Witness quakerearthcare.org
 Quaker United Nations Office quno.org
 Religions for Peace in Latina America rfp.org
 Religious Bodies Network on Climate Change, Ghana, relbonet.org
 Solar Cookers International solarcookers.org
 Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute (SAFCEI) safcei.org
 Sustainable Energy For All se4all.org
 Sustainable Innovation Forum climateactionprogramme.org
 Temple of Understanding templeofunderstanding.org
 UNFCCC Interfaith Liaison Committee
 United Nations of Youth Network (Nigeria) unoynetnigeria.8m.net
 World Council of Churches oikoumene.org
 World Renewal Spiritual Trust

Brahma Kumaris co-signed the following statements/letters/calls to action:

- Calling on the United Nations Human Rights Council to recognize without delay the human right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9k4ehLqhcSM5ywMV3H4KwjHGr3Bbjd2GjVcqcfNBPHQ2Tw/viewform>
- A joint Call to Action to UN Human Rights Council: Children have a right to a healthy environment. <https://www.childrenenvironment.org/blog/a-joint-call-to-action>
- The 2020 Faith Call to Action for the UN Summit on Biodiversity: <https://www.weacreationcare.org/faith-biodiversity-call-to-action>
- This year the United Nations Celebrates its 75th year. (UN75). The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, didn't want just a celebration he wanted action. So, the UN sent out a survey which we completed called: UN75 2020 and Beyond the Future we Want": <https://un75.online>
- We also signed the UN75 People's Declaration and Call for Global Action, "Humanity at a Crossroads: Global Solutions for Global Challenges": <http://bit.ly/UN75peoplesdecla>

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](#)
[BKUN Twitter](#)
[BKUN Instagram](#)
[BKUN YouTubeChanel](#)

[BK ECO Facebook](#)
[BK ECO Twitter](#)
[BK ECO Instagram](#)

OTHER METHODS: NEWSLETTERS:

BKUN Electronic Newsletter (madmimi). April-June, 2018: [Link to Newsletter](#)
Internal Environment Newsletter bimonthly.

Accreditation to UNEP

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