

## to the Convention to Combat Desertification



**Sister Pratibha Patel, Kenya**  
**Brahma Kumaris Assistant Regional Director of Africa**  
**Permanent Representative to UNEP**

Pratibha Patel was born in Zambia and has been a student of the Brahma Kumaris since 1974. She travels widely, lecturing and presenting seminars on personal development, positive thinking and stress-management. Pratibha has participated and presented at the UN's Climate Change Conference in Bonn, 2010 and in Durban South Africa, 2011. She serves as the Regional representative of the Brahma Kumaris to the Economic & Social Commission for Africa. She is part of Brahma Kumaris delegation to the United Nations Biannual Environment Assembly UNEA since its start in 2014.



**Aneta Loj, Poland/India**  
**Brahma Kumaris Focal Point to UNCCD**

Aneta's professional career took her to various countries in Europe and she has lived in Hong Kong, Japan, China and India. She has been associated with Brahma Kumaris since 2006 and is today a member of its National Coordinating Team in Poland. Her genuine interest in spiritual truth and benevolence led to her involvement in projects that benefit communities through sustainable development and capacity building. Since 2011, she has been providing her service at "India One" Solar Thermal Power Plant. She coordinated the activities of Awareness Cum Training Center on Concentrated Solar Thermal Technologies under the program of UNDP - GEF - MNRE, Government of India.



**John Ndiritu, South Africa**  
**Professor of Water Engineering University of the**  
**Witwatersrand, South Africa**

John Ndiritu, Engineer, is working in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the university of the Witwatersrand. He is also a member of the South African Institute of Civil Engineering. He has been a fellow of the Water Institute of Southern Africa since 2010 and has been rated with the National Research Foundation of South Africa since 2013. John has been an avid meditator since 1992 and is conducting research on the effect of consciousness on matter. He coordinates the Brahma Kumaris meditation centre in Soweto.



**Dr. Grace C. Lopez-Charles, Ghana**  
**National Coordinator Brahma Kumaris, Ghana**

Grace was the Director of Learning Revitalized, Cambridge, UK – a non-profit organisation specializing in education development. Retired teacher/lecturer of Mathematics with over 3 years' experience in research into the teaching and learning of Mathematics and initial teacher training in teaching of Mathematics at Primary and Secondary level both in UK and in Trinidad and Tobago. Grace is actively involvement in Educator training in Values Education – training for educators working with children and young adults in and out of the classroom. Recently, Grace co-founded the initiative Eco Champions of Ghana together with other organisations.

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**Sonja Ohlsson, Denmark****Designated Contact Point to the UNFCCC****International Coordinator BK Environment Initiative**

Sonja is the director of Brahma Kumaris in Denmark and has practised raja yoga meditation since 1986. She is a meditation teacher with the Prison service in Copenhagen. In 2009 she was instrumental in developing BK Environment initiative in order to meet the need for a higher environmental awareness within the international BK community and to add the inner dimension to the discussions at the UN climate change and biodiversity conferences, plus to the UN Environment Assembly UNEA.