



Report on the UN Climate Change Conference COP27 14th-15th Nov. 2022 – Egypt

We are almost halfway through the second week of the COP, and the programs, talks and announcements are going on as usual. Delegates are getting worried or frustrated as the first tentative drafts of key potential decisions have emerged. It seems some countries want to backslide and water down their commitments agreed last year in Glasgow. Nothing is yet final, but it's dawning on everybody that we delayed action for so many decades, and we are already in the midst of a massive climate change. It would need real leaders, unity and transformation of minds, hearts and actions. As per the Drama, this is not going to happen, and it looks like Mother Earth will teach humanity a stern lesson. A summary can be found in this Guardian article: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/15/fear-of-backsliding-on-glasgow-pledges-dominates-cop27>

Quite some stamina is required to hear and see all the stories of lost hopes, suffering and destruction of the environment on a global scale. Luckily the BK delegation is full of spiritual intoxication and protected from the atmosphere. We understand that these are the scenes of the overall transformation. We are present daily at the COP, engaging in meaningful programs and discussions, and sharing divine vibrations with the delegates.



Monday 14 Nov

Interfaith Call presented to UNFCCC

Around noon time last Saturday 14 delegates from the Interfaith Liaison Committee met with Ovais Sarmad, the Deputy Secretary of UNFCCC and presented the "Call for Action" that came out of the Interfaith Talanoa Dialogue, which was held on the 6th. During the meeting, Ovais emphasized the importance of Faith-Based organizations primarily because of their unique position in promoting climate justice's ethical and moral dimensions. Picture: Valeriane presenting gift to Mr Ovais Sarmad



Israeli exhibition - Religious leaders call for Climate Action

The Elijah interfaith institute cosponsored an event at the Israeli Exhibition space. Faith for the earth, the UN environment program, Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, and Sister Maureen attended the session. Maureen reminded the audience that on the 6th of November, the interfaith Talanoa Dialogue gave birth to the "CALL" of religious leaders. She said it was a special moment because it brings together the voices of religion, and it is our responsibility to protect all life today and for future generations. Picture to the right: Awatif with Rabbi Yonatan Neril



Presenters at Religious Call for Action, Israeli Exhibition

Meditation at COP

The interfaith community is arranging daily Outdoor Meditation for a positive outcome of COP. Today's theme was non-violence.



Press conference: Faith Leaders Announce Ten Universal Commandments for Climate Justice

In a press conference organized by The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, members from diverse faiths presented the universal principles for climate justice. These 10 Commandments have been defined by the Elijah Interfaith Institute of Israel and try to bring benefit and sustainability to the forefront of the decision-making process. Sister Maureen reminded everyone that the earth needs more love and transformation will take place. It's time for relationships of symbiosis and respect, and then the planet and humanity will flourish. God has given us many gifts: peace, love, compassion, and wisdom. We can access that wisdom in silence to get solutions for the planet; however, a change of consciousness and mindset is needed.



See full press conference here: https://unfccc-events.azureedge.net/COP27_87483/agenda

Climate Change TV

Maureen was interviewed by the Climate Change Tv about the role of consciousness in climate action. The full interview can be seen here: <https://www.climate-change.tv/12136>

Sister Maureen was also interviewed by **The National**, a daily newspaper from Abu Dhabi. She stated, that we need to change hearts and minds to make a shift in the negotiations. Decisions should be taken through the lens of benefit for humanity and sustainability for earth rather than finances. She also shared about the Brahma Kumaris solar energy projects in India.



Press conference: Changing mindset, Shaping the future

Golo started with an introduction of the Brahma Kumaris and drew attention to their advocacy for the inner change that brings a difference in the world. Research and applications of various solar technologies over the last 25 years are some examples to demonstrate that. Kenneth Nana Amoateng, director of Abibiman Foundation in Ghana, highlighted the human factor in climate change and the necessity of changing the mindset, especially of the youth, to overcome the climate crisis. Changing mindset leads to lifestyle changes, including diet, desires, etc. Sister

Maureen spoke about the immense importance of thoughts, as everything starts and depends on a thought. Ideas come from the inner being. If I belong to nature, there is non-violence and harmony. If there is love and compassion, sacred activism is generated, which is more effective. The press ended with a guided meditation by Maureen. See full program here: <https://unfccc.int/event/brahma-kumaris-changing-mindset-shaping-future>



Golo, Moderator Sonja, Maureen, Kenneth Amaoteng

Tuesday 15 Nov

Press Conference: Sharing Concrete Steps for Climate Action Within Faith Communities

The interfaith centre for sustainable development organized a press conference on climate action within faith communities. Valeriane participated on behalf of the Brahma Kumaris, shared that inner change brings outer change, and highlighted our solar energy projects and yogic farming activities. Direct link:

<https://unfccc.int/event/icsd-religious-figures-share-concrete-steps-for-climate-action-within-faith-communities>



Panelist in the order of speaking, not as seated: Bishop Andreas Holmberg of the Church of Sweden, Valeriane, James Sternlicht, Fr. Eduardo Agosto of Laudator Si' Movement, Nigel Savage of Hazon, Rev. Susan Hendershot of Interfaith Power and Light, Dr. Fachruddin Majeri Mangunjaya, Chairman, Centre for Islamic Studies, Universitas Nasional (UNAS) Jakarta, Imam Saffet Catovic of Islamic society of North America, Nigel Savage, founder and Global Ambassador for Hazon. Moderated by Rabbi Yonatan Neril, the founder & Executive Director the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development.

Youth Side Event - Global Interfaith Youth Action on Climate Change: Gather, Discuss, Empower, and Act

Shantanu was part of the first interfaith youth panel in COP. He shared the tree plantation project Kalph Taru and the activities and vision of the Youth in the Brahma Kumaris. Other speakers urged leaders and governments to listen more to the voices of young people mentioning the increased sensitivity of climate change. The speakers encouraged the Youth to believe in their dreams.



Speakers : David N.Munene (CYNESA), Lucy Plummer (SGI-UK), Shantanu Mandal (Brahma Kumaris), Victor Ayertey (IMCS Pax Romana) and Michelle Schwartz (Lutheran World Federation)

World Council of Churches Interfaith Press Conference: Call from voices of faith around the world to COP27.

The main aim of the press conference was to highlight the CALL at this press conference. The CALL was created from the COP27 Faith Talanoa dialogue on 6 Nov. and is taking up various aspects of climate justice in the climate negotiations:

- Raising the moral call for climate justice for the most vulnerable,
- The impacts of climate change in communities around the world
- The role of faith actors in mitigation, adaptation and addressing losses and damages.

Sister Maureen was invited to speak on behalf of the Brahma Kumaris.



Maureen and Shantanu shared good wishes with Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India, and a brief chit-chat with Inger Andersen, Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme



Co-Creative Reflection and Dialogue Space

On Tuesday, Carolin facilitated a Bohm's Dialogue, in which Mona, Rashi, Shantanu and Valerian participated. The session brought up the following insights from the participants:

- When we see COP as a movie, we can take part in the scene with more ease
- Attachment causes ego and also anxiety or fear. Letting go is the only way to experience trust
- Silence is essential to create a space, hold a space, give birth to necessary and more robust thoughts
- We are all connected, and we have to remind ourselves of our actual needs
- It may be the first time in the last two years I was without any electronic gadget and yet connected with my entire heart present. This makes me happy and peaceful.
- The COP needs fewer negotiations and more cooperation. Negotiations make us selfish, but cooperation creates more positive actions



Aneta shared blessing cards with Elizabeth Maruma Mrema Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ibrahim Thiaw Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification UNCCD



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