



Report on the UN Climate Change Conference COP27

9th-10th Nov. 2022 – Egypt



After the leaders' speeches of the first few days, most negotiations have now moved behind closed doors. The discussions are centering around funding and compensation, and there seems to be some minor movement. Hundreds of stands, exhibitions, meeting rooms, action hubs, delegation pavilions, etc., and more than 200 programs /events occur daily.



All the time announcements are being made of various alliances, projects and funding schemes and it's virtually impossible to keep track what's all going on. Occasionally despite omnipresent Egyptian security the civil society manages to stage a protest inside the COP.

However, as per the latest UNDP Emission Gap Report, titled "The closing window – The Climate crisis calls for rapid transformation of societies" we are falling short of the Paris Goals (stay below 1.5C). There is presently no credible pathway - only an urgent system-wide transformation can avoid disaster. As Mahmoud Mohieldin — Egypt's UN Climate Change High-Level Champion said: "This is the COP of Last Hope ".



Wednesday 9th Nov

Co-Creative Reflection and Dialogue Space

BK Carolin participates at COP 27 on behalf of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam. IASS has organised their Pavilion to provide a space at the COP for more profound and meaningful dialogue. More about the project's concept will follow in the next report. Carolin hosted an appreciative Inquiry titled "Exploring shifts from mistrust to trust – Sharing experiences between multinational stakeholders". As a special guest Dr Martin Frick, the director of the UN Food Program in Berlin, participated. The following key insights emerged: trust can essentially be built through shared personal experiences - it arises from connecting with other people and gaining knowledge of other people's realities.



From left to right: dialogue participant, Felix Beyers, Carolin, Martin Frick

Living Values Education at Climate Education Hub

Aneta, Piyush and Shantanu presented an engaging workshop under the Living Values Education, titled "Caring for the Earth", at the Education Hub. This joyful and interactive event attracted numerous young people to listen, exchange views and mime a chosen value. Their preferred value turned out to be love, respect and empathy. Participants were engaged and energized: "I'm so thrilled to hear you talking of values," said one. The workshop was based on a values-based education program developed by UNICEF and the BK's. Since its inception in the 1990s, it has expanded to cover the age range from 3 years to young adults, with schools in some 40 countries using the programme. The material is created by educators for educators. They place nurturing the whole person at their heart, embracing intellectual, emotional, spiritual and physical needs. "It's not about teaching," explained Aneta, "it's about becoming by nurturing hearts and educating minds. To learn means to become." The team introduced a new, 180-page book – "Caring for the Earth" – released in time for COP27. For more on the programme, see: www.livingvalues.net





Piyush Ahuja, Aneta Loj and Shantanu Mandal at the Education Hub

Interfaith Meeting

Valerian participated on behalf of BK at the first Interfaith coordination meeting. The meeting began with a moment of silence, and everybody introduced himself. Those who had attended the previous Talanoa Dialogue shared some of their insights that the dialogue created a sense and cooperation. The dialogues also created an entry point for youth and young adults to enter the work. For the newcomers, we then gave a bit of an overview of the purpose and History of the Interfaith Liaison Committee (ILC). People then shared about the activities, events and actions they are organising at the COP.



Valeriane moderating the Interfaith Coordination Meeting COP27

Prince Talal International Prize for Human Development - Award Ceremony. Shaikha and Maureen attend the prestigious Prince Talal International Prize for Human Development Award Ceremony. The Prize aims to improve the living conditions of the poor and disadvantaged, with particular emphasis on women and children. Among those present at the ceremony was Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal, President of AGFUND and Chair of the Prize Committee. Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain. Shaikha and Maureen met the Director General of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa. He was interested in the concentrated solar technology of India-One. Shaikha, who is doing business in Kuwait in the field of recycling, had a discussion with Aliyu Mohammed Ali on the latest recycling strategies. COP is full of innovative projects!



Thursday 10th Nov.

Co-Creative Reflection and Dialogue Space

Carolyn conducted a “Mediation for Inner Empowerment” in the dialogue space. Starting with an “awareness exercise”, participants were guided to their inner treasures of peace and trust. Two participants from the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity shared how much the meditation empowered them and expressed their wish to join daily meditations.



Carolyn with participants at “Meditation Inner Empowerment” session

Children and Youth Pavilion

The atmosphere in the children and youth pavilion is vibrant. Shantanu is one of the organizers and is busy engaging our future generation. *“Attitude is the most important thing which comes from heart... And youth have more heart in whatever they are doing and we all must learn from them”* Governor Wilber Ottichilo, Kenya



Reception in our villa

In the evening, we held a reception in our villa, which almost 30 guests attended. An illustrious international group of interfaith delegates, members of research organizations, climate activists and BKs came together for exchange, meditation and excellent food. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the discussions, reflections, pakoras, Arabic vine leaves rolls, spring rolls, hummus dip, carrot halwa and more.



After a short introduction, they were asked to find someone they had never met. The icebreaker question was: What is the greatest gift you have ever received or given? Maureen gave three points on self-care: 1. Acceptance of the situation, 2. Understanding what's happening, 3. Showing Compassion to others





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