



## 1<sup>st</sup> Report from UN Climate Change Conference COP29 11<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2024 Baku, Azerbaijan



This year, the UN Climate Change Conference COP29 is taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan. One of the top priorities of [Azerbaijan's COP presidency](#) is a new climate finance mechanism. In his opening speech, Mukhtar Babayev, the president of COP29, said we are on the road to ruin. But the financing goal is competing for attention with economic concerns, wars in Ukraine and Gaza, and the recent US election result.

Over the next two weeks, around 80.000 delegates are expected to discuss the international agreements on climate action. Read more at [unfccc.int](https://unfccc.int). The Brahma Kumaris is one of 4000 accredited observer organisations and is represented by an experienced team.

We have been able to rent a spacious and luxurious villa for our whole green team of 14 people.

We are supported generously by the Baku and St. Petersburg families and get every day delicious vegan food.



## A Call for Urgent Climate Action: The Spiritual Dimension

The Brahma Kumaris' response to the crisis arises from a vision and way of life rooted in principles of peace, compassion, interconnectedness and non-violence. [Read more](#) in the BK Statement to COP29. [Meet the team](#)



*From the left, at the COP29 Preparation meeting, are Olga, Vini, Aneta, Burhan, Birajith, Sonja, Golo, Maureen, Natascha, Veronica, Valeriane, and Nuray. Carolin and Shantanu arrived the next day.*

Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, is a beautiful city by the Caspian Sea. It has an old city and palace from medieval times, surrounded by modern architecture.



## Exhibition

Our 6-day exhibition was given a prime location at the beginning of a long hallway. Golo and Sonja decorated the stand and made it ready for a busy week ahead. We share the stand with the Faith Assoc. of the Rehabilitation of Street Children and Orphans, Global Peace Initiative of Women, Int. Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations. Our Eco Blessing cards and Wristbands are very popular with both delegates and local volunteers assisting the conference.



## Launch of daily livestream **Climate Wisdom COP29**

Our Environment Initiative was excited to launch the daily LIVE panel 'Climate Wisdom from COP29'. This series continues our success from last year in Dubai. Climate Wisdom aims to bring the latest science, policies, and wisdom from the COP29 climate conference directly to our global audience.

The first live stream was "Healing Our Planet: Insights from Spirituality, Medicine, and Food Systems", where Golo interviews Maureen Goodman, Dr Ronald D'Mello, Hospital Director Baku and Juliette Tronchon, Head of UN Affairs ProVeg Intl. [Direct link Youtube:](#)



*From the left: Burhan, Golo, Maureen, Juliette Tronchon, Dr Ronald D'Mello, ProgVeg repr., Sonja, Dr. Chandra D'Mello.*

Some points from the discussion:

- What kind of planet do we want to leave to our children and grandchildren..... Let's try and be a bit more humble....
- It is time for a paradigm shift: from becoming selfish to sensible. It is senseless to exploit the earth and planet for everything.
- Each one of us must act for the general good.
- What the world needs from us is a lot of calmness, clarity, and wisdom. These are resources from inside... Wisdom comes from inside, from listening to our inner feelings and conscience. Every human being in those quiet moments knows what is right.

## Conference of Youth, COY19

The 19th Conference of Youth (COY19) in Baku was an inspiring event for our two participants from the Eco Initiative, BK Birajith and Nuray. Youth from around the world—including Brazil, Gambia, and Indonesia—shared their stories and the unique climate challenges they face. These heartfelt testimonies highlighted the urgent need for change and underscored the importance of standing together to protect the most vulnerable communities.

Discussions at COY19 focused on crucial topics such as climate mitigation and capacity building, aiming to equip young people with the knowledge and tools necessary for the future.

The team hosted a special youth reception at our beautiful villa with ten young participants. This get-together created a space for youth to connect, share ideas, and find renewed inspiration to drive positive environmental action.



*COY 19 Youth group meeting Maureen and the BK Eco team*

[www.brahmakumaris.org](http://www.brahmakumaris.org)

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