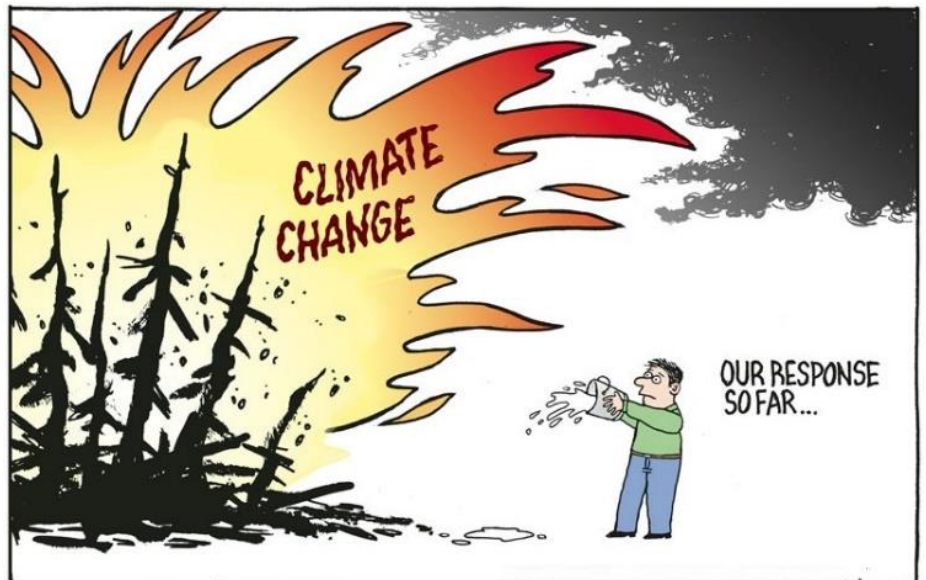




3rd Report from UN Climate Change Conference COP29 11th – 22nd Nov. 2024 Baku, Azerbaijan

We are coming towards the end of the first week of COP29 talks. So, what has been accomplished thus far? Countries have tried to make progress in raising \$1 trillion in climate finance for the world's most vulnerable. However, the talks are going so slowly that prominent delegates have signed a letter asking for a drastic revamp of the UN Climate Conference process. The letter states that in future, only countries with a positive climate action record should become the host, and oil and gas lobbyists should not be allowed to participate. Aside from stalled talks on climate financing, Friday marks COP29's thematic day focusing on 'energy, peace, relief and recovery'. On energy, discussions are ongoing over reducing distortions and inefficiencies created by subsidies.

As for discussions around peace, relief and recovery, a group of conflict-affected countries is pushing to double financial aid to more than \$20 billion a year to combat the natural disaster extreme weather and security crises facing their populations. A real breakthrough on many controversial topics has yet to be achieved, and we have to see the final results at the end of the following week.

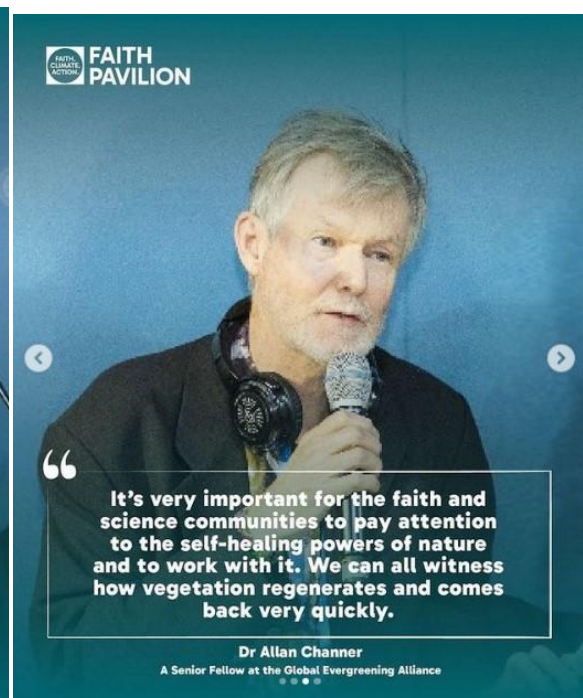


The BK green team is fully busy with daily programs and mediations, and soon Maureen will leave, and sister Jayanti will arrive. We do look forward to a fruitful second week at the COP.



Faith Pavilion: Our friends from the Catholic Youth movement from Kenya guide morning prayer in the and The Rt Hon. the Lord Alok Sharma KCMG meeting Sister Maureen

Quotes from Dialogue in Faith Pavilion **“The role of faiths and science at the climate negotiations”** co-organised by Valeriane and the Brahma Kumaris.



Interfaith Co-ordination meeting



Valeriane moderated the Interfaith meeting, and Aneta and Maureen participated.

Side event at Arctic Pavilion



A side event at the Arctic Pavilion highlighted the role of **nature-based education** in community adaptation and resilience. Shantanu from IUCN led the interactive session with three panellists, including Sister Carolin of RIFS and the Brahma Kumaris. Article 6 of the UNFCCC and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement urge countries to support climate change education. Carolin compared the dimensions of nature—our environment, bodies, and inner selves—explaining how modern society's focus on material growth and external values has distanced us from understanding our inner nature and true needs.



Dialogue in the Media Center

Carolin moderated a dialogue between Maureen and Jamie Bristow, a policy advisor and researcher known for his leadership in the emerging field of inner-led systems transformation. The discussion focused on the "inner infrastructure" required for societal resilience. They emphasised the importance of incorporating training at COPs to enhance social connections, both at the individual and community levels. Currently, there needs to be more focus on mentally preparing for disasters.



Daily livestream Climate Wisdom COP29

Sonja interviewed three women on Climate Change and Gender Equality: Maryam Majidova, Co-founder and Executive Director of Gender HUB Azerbaijan; Shreya Ghodawat, Sustainability and Climate Activist from India; and Maureen. [Watch the live stream](#)



Sonja, Maureen, Maryam Majidova, Shreya Ghodawat

"When you bring in the divine feminine energy, it is about healing, nurturing and giving. Women can have more impact if we stop listening to everyone else and not ourselves. Listen to your heart... even if it goes against everything you have been told. It isn't about conforming. It is about transformation and creating our own structures. ... The biggest way women can create an impact is by re-claiming their power.... Even if you feel shaky, I can still make a big difference.... It is about listening to your heart and going after what that voice is telling, and you don't need to have all the answers... We doubt ourselves so much... Leap and things will fall into place. The greatest gift you can give someone is to believe in them."
Shreya Ghodawat



Friday 15th November

Global Innovation Hub

A dialogue titled Faith and Sustainability: A Spiritual Approach towards Environmental Responsibility was organised by the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub and moderated by Massamba Thioye. Panelist Maureen and Emilce Cude, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, explored the links between spirituality, inner development, outer actions and system change. The discussion highlighted UGIH's core values—caring, sharing, and daring—and their application in decision-making. Emilce Cude emphasised translating faith into secular values, such as linking love for God to social justice and belief in the afterlife to hope. Maureen highlighted the interconnection of personal and collective well-being, noting, "When I uplift myself, I uplift humanity."



What is non-economic loss?

Climate change affects more than just economic structures; it impacts spiritual, emotional, cultural, and human rights aspects, particularly for vulnerable communities. This event highlighted these non-economic losses, often overlooked but deeply felt by individuals and societies. Faith-based organisations provide a moral framework to understand these losses and advocate for solutions focusing on human dignity, resilience, and justice. Through shared insights and strategies, participants aimed to influence policy discussions and ensure that non-economic losses are part of the global loss and damage agenda.

One powerful moment came when Maro Maua, a young activist from Kenya, shared how his grandmother's passing required him to return home for a crucial ceremony, illustrating how economic migration challenges traditional practices. Bishop Julio Murray from Panama spoke about how the priesthood supports people facing climate-related anxiety and challenges. Wanda, a young Aymara indigenous woman from Bolivia, described how drought led to food

shortages, displacing children and causing cultural and language loss. Sister Maureen emphasised the importance of recognising non-economic losses, urging humanity to be central to climate negotiations. She noted that faith brings an inclusive perspective to these issues.



The COP29 Volunteers



There are over 3,000 local volunteers at COP who help participants in various ways. To recognise their efforts, Ankita, Vini and Biru distributed hundreds of blessing cards and wristbands with positive messages in the Azerbaijani language to them around the whole stadium. They also invited the volunteers to attend Sister Jayanti's talk with their friends and family at the Royal Hotel the day after COP29 finishes. The young volunteers were deeply interested in spirituality, explicitly acknowledging the need for a meditative lifestyle given the challenging times which lie ahead.



Daily livestream Climate Wisdom COP29

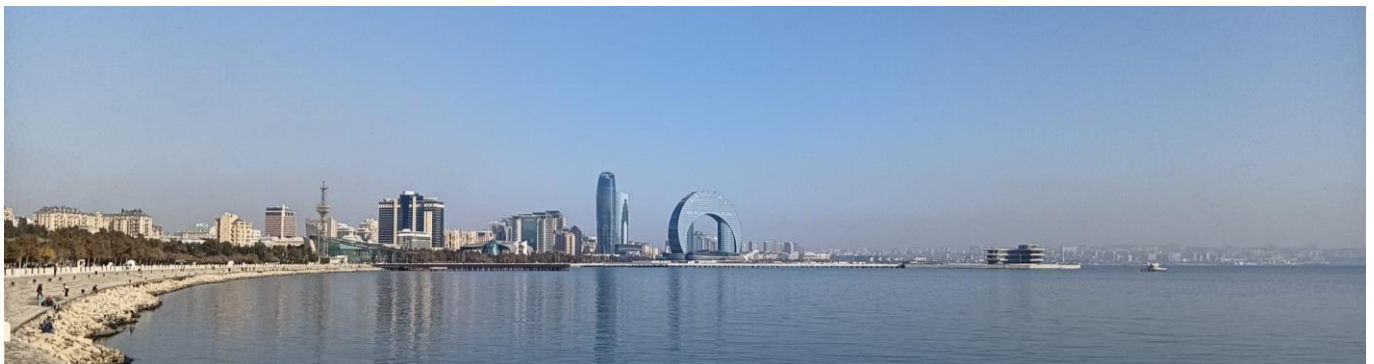
The Climate Wisdom Studio at COP29 on Friday, 15th Nov., focused on Transformative Moments from COP29. The panel moderated by Golo featured Thomas Hirsch, founder and director of climate development advice (Germany), Prof. Husna Ahmad, director of Global One 2015, and associate professor of the theology department at Birmingham and Maureen.

[Watch livestream.](#)



Key advice from Thomas for the engagement in COP for spiritual organisations

- Not enough to talk about spiritual principles; talk about practical solutions
- Reach out to your people, to other faith groups and the government
- Faith and science support each other
- Engage locally during the year before the next COP and Engage early with COP30; it is only one year away
- Majority of people don't understand how critical the situation is



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