



**5<sup>th</sup> Report from UN Climate Change Conference COP29**

**11<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2024 Baku, Azerbaijan**

The countdown to the end of COP29 is upon us. The climate summit has two days left to agree on the finances towards developing countries to help them adapt to climate-fuelled weather disasters and transition to cleaner energy systems. According to the experts, around \$1 trillion is needed annually by the end of the decade. Officials spent the first week



trying to agree on new rules on carbon markets, the future of fossil fuels and efforts to mitigate the rise in global temperatures. Now, the outstanding items have been handed over to ministers, so they can use their political clout to get agreements across the line.

Brahma Kumaris COP team continue to care, to share and to inspire.

**Tuesday 19th Nov.**



The team welcomed Sister Jayanti to COP

## Peace and Cooperation for Climate Action

Sonja moderated a Press Conference with Sister Jayanti, Mohamed Bahr, and Aneta to explore the connection between peace and climate action. Aneta highlighted the conflict's environmental toll, noting that military activities account for 5.5% of global carbon emissions and that \$2.4 trillion spent on military operations in 2023 could instead fund climate solutions. Mohamed discussed the Faith Pavilion initiative, showcasing the vital role of faith-based organisations in leading 1.5 million sustainability projects and promoting inclusive, locally driven solutions. Sister Jayanti emphasized the power of inner peace, explaining how self-awareness and respect for all life combat exploitation and aggression.



*Mohamed Bahr, Sister Jayanti, Aneta and Sonja*

## Interfaith Press Conference

In a time when national interests often overshadow global cooperation, faith leaders can play a crucial role in uniting the world. Rooted in traditions of protecting the vulnerable and caring for Mother Earth, faith-based organisations bring a unique perspective to the climate crisis.



*Carine, Rev. Henrik Grape, Lindsey, Sister Jayanti, Rev. Mata, Kritya, Ronsilo*

The vibrant panel featured diverse voices: Sister Jayanti reflected on the sense of hopelessness at this year’s COP, emphasizing how it stifles creativity and collaboration. She highlighted FBOs' ability to inspire and uplift, fostering cooperation. Rev. Mata Havea, a leader in the Uniting Church in Australia and a powerful Indigenous voice, shared the impacts of climate change on Australia's Indigenous communities. Lindsey Fielder Cook, from the Quaker United Nations Office, shed light on the devastating effects of the war industry on vulnerable populations. Kritiy Shrestha, Climate Action Advisor at Dan Church Aid (Nepal), explained the financial mechanisms under negotiation. Carine Josiéle Wendland, a young climate activist, and Ronilso Pacheco, Director of programs at the Institute of Studies on Religion, shared how Brazilian NGOs are already preparing for COP30.



### **Integrating Spirituality, Ethics, and Renewable Energy**

At the Cryosphere Pavilion, Aneta showcased the Brahma Kumaris' groundbreaking R&D projects, including “India One”—a 1 MW solar thermal power plant—advanced solar cooking systems, and an innovative biogas plant. These initiatives demonstrate the powerful integration of technology and spiritual awareness. To amplify climate action, the team also provides free training in solar applications.



### **Hope instead of Optimism**

Faith and spirituality are increasingly recognised as vital in addressing the climate anxiety and despair stemming from the challenges of achieving global climate goals. Sister Jayanti joined a panel discussion with other religious leaders at the Faith Pavilion to explore this critical topic.

Sister Jayanti shared her reflections on the distinction between optimism and hope. While optimism is often externally driven and rooted in resources and circumstances, hope arises from within. Contrary to misconceptions, hope doesn't lead to passivity. Instead, it fosters an awareness that we each have a role in creating a better future, making it a powerful motivator for action.



### **Climate Neutral Visions for 2050**

To limit global warming to 1.5°C, as outlined in the Paris Agreement, emissions must be cut by 45% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. In this spirit, the Nordic Council of Ministers hosted an interactive event featuring research on alternative welfare measures.

The panel explored what a good life in a climate-neutral society might look like in 2050. Sister Jayanti, one of the three speakers, shared insights from the Brahma Kumaris' 1988 project, \*Global Cooperation for a Better World\*. The project revealed a collective vision of a values-driven future. Sister Jayanti emphasised the importance of inner exploration through meditation, reflection, and contemplation to connect with those values and turn visions into reality. The session concluded with a visualisation meditation, after which participants wrote their 2050 visions on postcards. These were collected in a symbolic suitcase to represent shared hopes for the future. [Watch program](#)



*Isabella Lövin, EU parliamentarian and former Swedish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Climate; Sister Jayanti, Lise Coermann Nygaard, Danish Youth Delegate to the UNFCCC; Moderator Aaron Tuckey, The Nordic Council of Ministers*

## Daily livestream Climate Wisdom COP29

Golo interviewed three guests on **Global Unity**: Margareta Koltai, Policy Advisor for Climate Justice, Act Church of Sweden, and John. D. Liu, filmmaker and founder of Ecosystem Restoration Camp and Sister Jayanti. [Watch Livestream](#)



- When one person is peaceful, they naturally spread peace to those around them. On the other hand, fear is just as contagious, often leading to panic in an instant. Today, many people carry fears and anxieties about the future, creating a heavy and tangible atmosphere. To counter this, we must educate ourselves to reconnect with our natural inner state of peace.
- The climates or landscapes reflect human consciousness.
- Returning to the interfaith circle after negotiations brings me strength. Here, we embrace our shared humanity, care for each other, and honour our bond with all life on Mother Earth, serving as a model of eco-faith.
- Positive transformation starts by talking about the happier and more harmonious world we like to create. It's not about loss but about gaining something greater. Faith means reclaiming our power to co-create a better future and turning hope into action.

## Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**The interfaith** group held its second coordination meeting, deciding to host regional faith dialogues online and a Talanoa dialogue in person at COP30 in Brazil.



## Action on Food Hub

This roundtable session, Regenerative Power of Food Systems, explored how food systems can drive transformation through two key pathways: **Inner Transformation** – Shifting individual consciousness and cultivating values as seeds of healing. **Community Resilience** – Building collective consciousness through strong, value-based relationships. Maria Virginia Solis Wahnish (the Farm of Francesco) shared how values-driven farming, inspired by “Laudato Si”, can promote sustainability. James Leslie (UNDP) presented the Conscious Food Systems Alliance (CoFSA), emphasising the role of inner capacities in fostering regenerative practices. Valeriane spoke on the intersection of spirituality and sustainable food systems.



## Voices from the Frontlines

This panel discussion, moderated by Shantanu, focused on the experiences of environmental defenders, conservationists, and communities striving for harmony and peace. The session began with a moment of silence to honour those who have sacrificed their lives defending nature.



Two keynote speakers from Indigenous communities shared deeply moving stories of how climate change has impacted their lives. The panel, which included representatives from the Norwegian and Finnish governments, concluded with a heartfelt takeaway: the importance of listening to our hearts as much as our minds.

“It’s so important that we stay humble, not only to other cultures, but also to other intelligences.” - Mark Lawrence, German Council for Sustainable Development



### Reception

As COP29 approached its conclusion, the COP team, in collaboration with the BK families from Baku and St. Petersburg, hosted a high-level reception titled “Beyond Borders and Politics: Strengthening Our Relational Fabric for Real Climate Solutions.” Over 100 guests attended the event, which was filled with joy, engagement, and inspiration. The evening began with a warm welcome from Sonja, who reflected on the meaningful contributions made throughout COP29. Guests were treated to a rich and delicious vegan buffet, lovingly prepared by the Baku team, which set the tone for an evening of connection and collaboration.



*Veronica, Viktor and Olga at the reception buffet*

A young performer from Baku captivated the audience with a heartfelt rendition of "Runaway," accompanied by Professor Mark Lawrence on guitar. Caro invited the keynote speaker to share from their hearts. Massamba Thioye of the UNFCCC Global Innovation Hub emphasised the need for values such as caring, sharing, and daring in climate action, highlighting empathy as a cornerstone for effective change. Sister Jayanti spoke of the power of inner peace and connecting with core values like truth, compassion, and love, urging leaders to embody these principles to guide the world toward a better future.



Dr Wassim Dbouk, the Young negotiator from Lebanon, reflected on the lack of empathy and connection in decision-making processes, stressing the importance of cultivating inner qualities to build resilience and break free from inherited dysfunctional systems.

Sister Jayanti led a moment of silence followed by lively roundtable discussions, facilitated by members of the Young Negotiator Coalition and BK volunteers. The conversations were dynamic and engaging, fostering new perspectives and deeper understanding among participants. The reception ended joyfully with vibrant exchanges, group photos, and a final meditation, leaving everyone inspired and hopeful. The event created a nurturing space for authentic dialogue and meaningful connections rooted in shared values and a collective vision for real climate solutions. Livestream





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