



Report on the UN Climate Change Conference COP27

11th-12th Nov. 2022 – Egypt

The first week of COP 27 has ended, and our team has been quite busy for the last two days. Almost 35000 delegates from 200 countries, 3000 people from the press are registered and attend the conference.

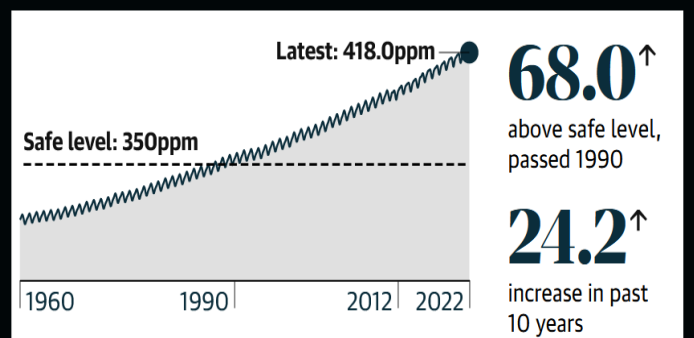
Occasionally there has been a shortage of food and water at the venue. Meanwhile, the expectations for substantial compensation for the damages of climate change or a meaningful reduction of emissions are somewhat muted. One shall not be surprised as there have been more oil and gas lobbyists at the conference than delegates from the most vulnerable countries. At the same time, the Co2 emission is going up and up.

The most important number of the climate crisis:

418.0

atmospheric CO₂ in parts per million, 12 November 2022

Source: NOAA. Chart baseline is 280ppm - the preindustrial average. Safe level a stabilisation scenario set out by IPCC. Label number is the trend, not cycle, value.



More info on the first week can be read in this rather unvarnished article in the guardian.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/12/cop27-first-week-roundup-powerful-dispatches-muted-protest-little-cash>

Concepts, technology and even the money to fix the climate crisis do exist, but humanity seems to choose another pathway. The main sponsors of this COP read like a who is who of big business – Vodafone, Microsoft, Coca-Cola, Siemens, IBM, Google and one needs a fine sense of humour not to have second thoughts. Despite a lot of criticism about the venue and the seemingly ineffective UN process it's the only global mechanism in place dealing with the crisis.



Friday 11 Nov

COP27 Press Conference

Brahma Kumaris organized our first live-streamed press conference called **Core values and ethical principles for climate action** today. Sonja was the moderator, and Golo gave a brief overview of the Brahma Kumaris and its renewable energy activities and concluded with our green guidelines. Then, Thomas Hirsch, Director of Climate & Development Advice Germany, spoke about the importance of ethics and values for a meaningful negotiation process. Maureen touched upon fear, which can make us take wrong decisions and destroys our resilience. Higher wisdom and values have to be brought to the table. She then closed with a mediation.

Direct link: https://unfccc-events.azureedge.net/COP27_87364/agenda



Golo, Sonja, Maureen, and Thomas Hirsch,

COP 27 Side event

Our official side event, “Delivering the promise – How to ensure future adaptation needs are addressed,” was organised with five other organisations: ACT Alliance, All Africa Conference of Churches, Bread for the World, The Lutheran World Federation and the World, Council of Churches. At least 100 delegates participated in the venue, and the meeting room Tutankamun was quite crowded. Maureen was first and highlighted the responsibility and importance of faith-based organisations (FBO) in climate action. FBO can provide the moral compass for sustainable investment, bring education and the vulnerable communities to the forefront, build spiritual capacity and resilience.

DELIVERING THE PROMISE
HOW TO ENSURE FUTURE ADAPTATION NEEDS ARE ADDRESSED

COP 27
SHARM EL-SHEIKH
11 NOVEMBER 2022
11.30 AM - 1PM
EDDM TUTANKHAMUN

Moderator: PROF. REV. CORNELIA FÜLKRUIG-WEITZEL
ACT Alliance Goodwill Ambassador for Climate Justice

Speakers:

- MAUREEN GOODMAN
Programme Director for Brahma Kumaris UK
- MARO MAUA
Youth Leader, Kenya
Evangelical Lutheran Church, LWF Climate Justice Delegate
- PATRICIA NYUNGURO
Meteorologist, IPCC Focal Point and Adaptation Co-author, Kenya
- KEBAL BHANDARI
Secretary of the National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal
- JOCABED SOLANO
Theologian & Activist from Indigenous Gunañle Nation, Panama
- REV. DR. LESMORE EZEKIEL
Director of Programs All Africa Conference of Churches

actalliance THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION BRAHMA KUMARIS
World Council of Churches Brot für die Welt



Kuwait Pavilion

BK Shaika is part of the Kuwait Party Delegation in her capacity as Deputy chairwoman of the Betouna Recycling Company. It recycles 16.000 tons of plastic and 20.000 tons of paper annually, nearly 40% of Kuwait's total waste. In the Adaptation program, Shaika informed about the innovative recycling program of Betouna and that the right mindset and consciousness help a lot to be successful.



Shaika speaking at Kuwait Pavilion

Shift of Team

At the beginning of the Climate Conference, 14 BKs gathered in Sharm El-Sheikh. Maureen, Sonja, Valeriane, Aneta, Carolin, Shaikha, Ansuya, Sumitra, Padma, Salwa, Golo, Shantanu, Piyush, and Birajit. After the first week, Shaikhah, Padma, Birajit and Piyush left, and Awatif, Muna and Priya joined the team. Some of us are registered and go to the conference, whilst others run the kitchen and logistics at reception. Those who left shared their personal experiences from the first week:

- Learned a lot about climate change, and I need to focus on this in my local service place.
- My magic moments are when visitors of the stand feel the love; a sparkle comes in their eyes when they take a blessing card.
- I wanted to benefit souls in whatever I can. Some people come to take cards every day, and I connect deeply with them.
- I feel very connected to Egypt. Every day in COY, a significant coincidence happened, and it continued in COP. The stand and the villa are blessings. I am leaving with much gratitude and feel powerful, peaceful, and united with the family.



Saturday 12th Nov.

Halfway meeting

One week of intense COP has nearly passed. In the morning, the group met for 1.5 hrs to discuss what worked well and where to improve. Magic moments and personal insights were shared. There was a lot of appreciation that BKs can continuously be present at such large and important conferences. The registration, program planning, and logistics are getting more difficult and complex.

Climate Action Stories of Young people of Faith.

Around lunchtime, the first Brahma Kumaris press conference, especially for the youth, was organised. Shantanu talked about our latest tree plantation program Kalp Tharu and the regenerative farming practice in the region of Kachchh (resilience building session, kitchen garden, yogic farming). Chiara del Paoli, Soka Gakkai International-UK highlighted a project where they planted trees for those who left their bodies during Covid. Neeshad Shafi, Co-founder of Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar, spoke about an environmental education program for imams. David Munene, Catholic Youth Network for Environment Sustainability, informed about their advocacy and capacity-building projects. Watch press conference here: https://unfccc-events.azureedge.net/COP27_87540/agenda



Speakers: Neeshad Shafi, Chiara De Paoli, Hemavathi S Shekharan, Shantanu, David Munene

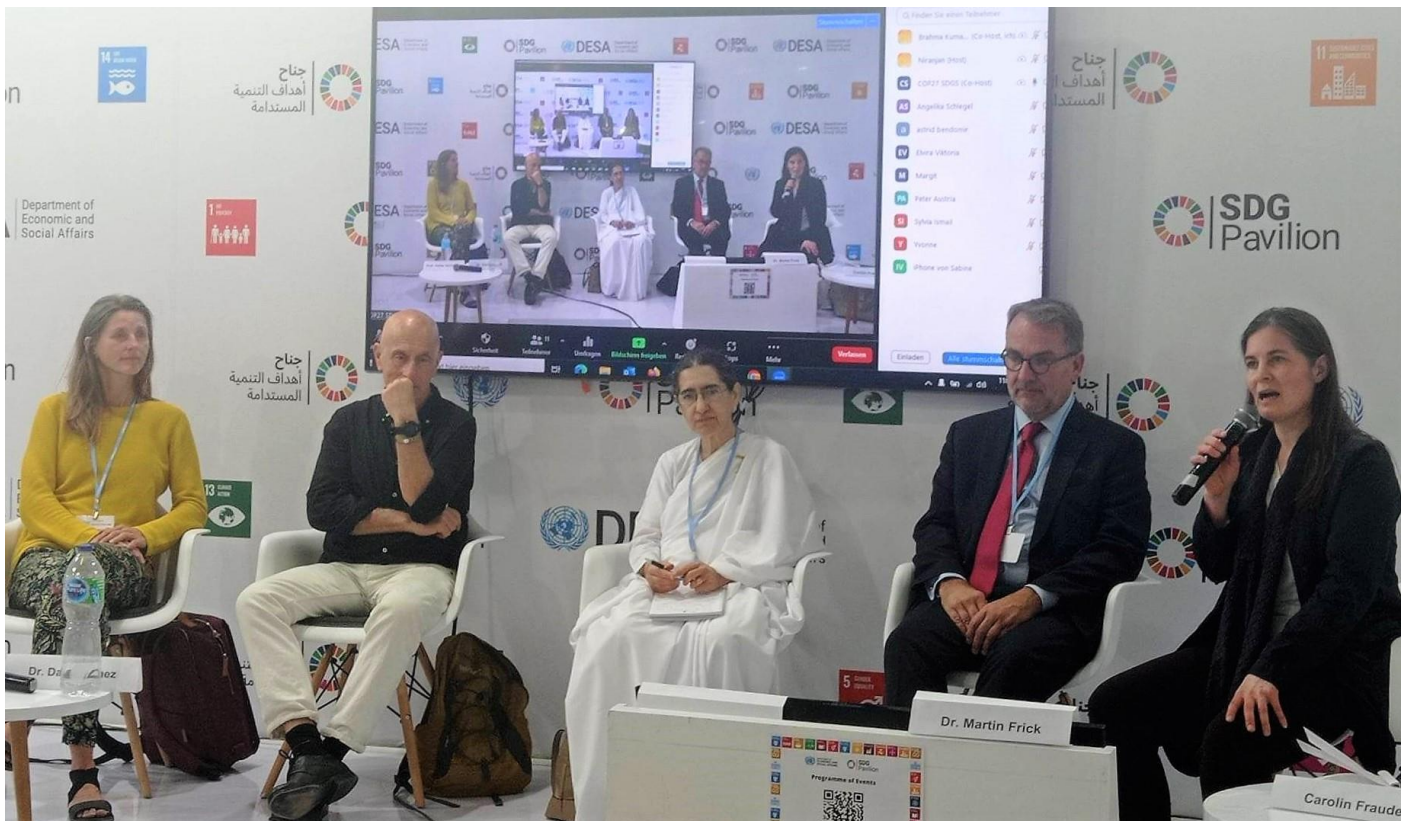
Afterwards, Shantanu was interviewed by a local newspaper from Bolivia, and they asked why BK was here and what are your expectations. Shantanu informed them about BK in general and that we try to bring morals and ethics back to the negotiations.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Pavilion

Side event: Building Trusting Relationships: Leading the Way through a Historical Transformation

Carolyn moderated our annual side event at the Sustainable Development Goals Pavilion. She asked all panellists to share a personal story about how they could build and sustain trusting relationships in challenging situations.

- Prof. Heike Schroeder: Leadership is about trusting people and creating transparency.
- Dr David Dunez: The first trust that needs to be established is in the relationship with the self.
- Maureen: Transformation happens through benevolent intentions. She said that hope lies in understanding time in a cyclic way and that we will not just disappear. The COP can be pretty overwhelming, and we have to anchor ourselves. We shall be strong and resilient to face the difficult times that are about to come. She asked the other panellist to imagine a time of crisis and how I would react if someone reached out for help.
- Dr Martin Frick: magic happens through people. Climate change unites people.



Prof. Heike Schroeder, Professor of Environmental Governance in the School of Int. Development at the University of East Anglia; Dr. David Dunez, Head of Climate Department, Heschel Center for Sustainability, Israel; Maureen, Dr. Martin Frick, Director, UN World Food Programme Global Office and moderator Carolin.

Working Dinner

Thomas Hirsch, Founding Director Climate & Development Advice Germany and a veteran of many COPs, was invited for dinner to discuss BKs future strategy at COP. Thomas has considerable experience working with faith-based groups in climate action and at COP conferences and shared many insights. He suggested that we highlight our practical projects like solar, tree plantation, Yogic farming etc. and try to mobilize the Hindu community in India more. After an hour-long, meaningful exchange, we had a nice dinner together.

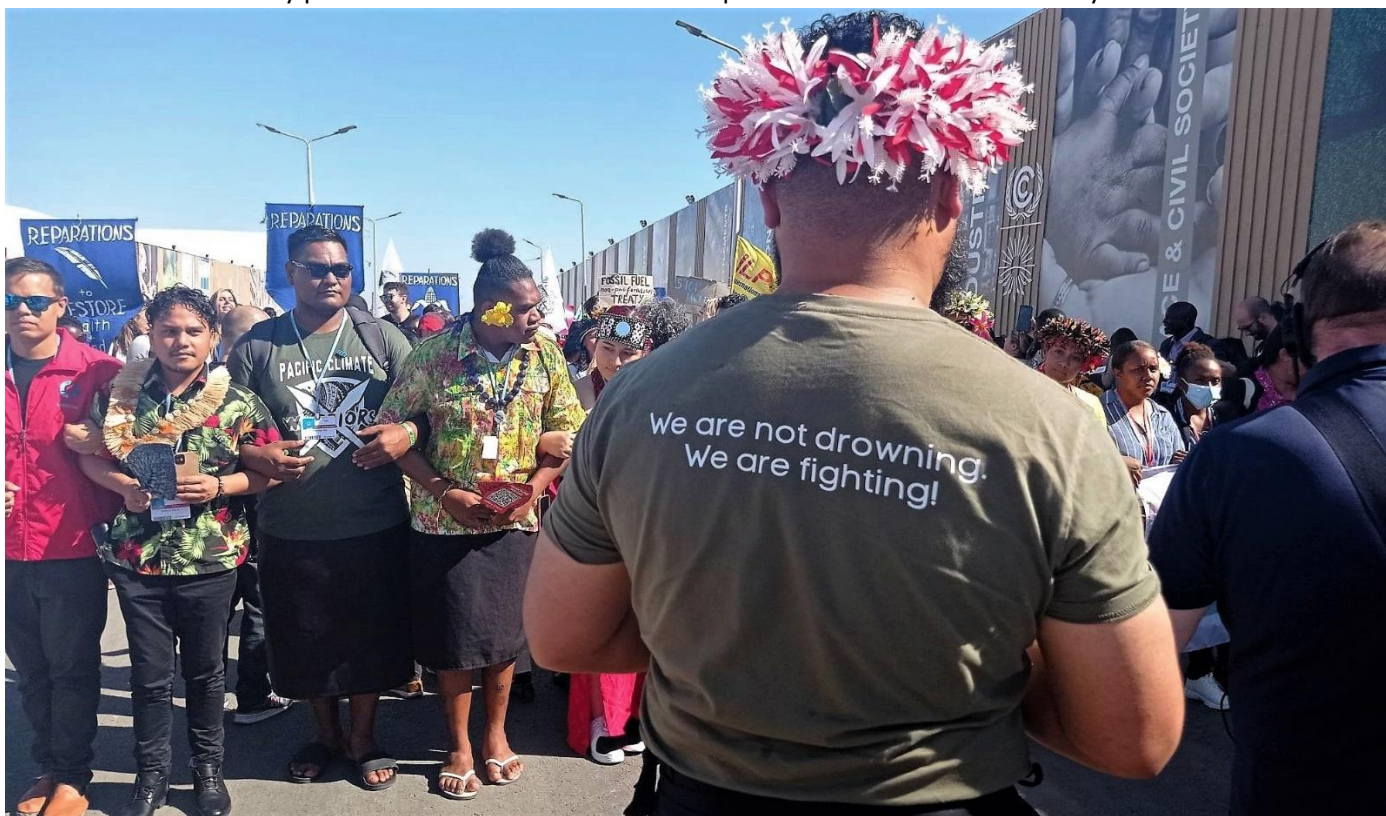


Meeting with Thomas Hirsch

Protest inside the COP27

A demonstration by a few hundred protesters for climate justice took place inside the Cop27. For the time being, the Conference space is under the jurisdiction of the UN, and smaller protests take place. Outside demonstrations have

to be permitted by the Egyptian authorities, which has been proven quite difficult as additional hurdle demonstrations are only permitted at a fenced and isolated piece of desert kilometres away.



Introduction Co-Creative Reflection & Dialogue Space

At COP27, the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) is offering for the third time facilitated informal conversations called the "Co-Creative Reflection & Dialogue Space (CCRDS)". This year has a thematic focus on the role of trust and fear at the COP. Carolin and her colleagues are hosting four to five sessions daily. There is friendship and cooperation between the researchers and the delegates of the Brahma Kumaris. Carolin facilitated a "How Deep Adaptation (DA) inspire effective climate Action" session with the special guest Prof. Jem Bendell. He argued that research showed that climate disaster has become unavoidable and that there is a lack of action or recognition. We addressed the challenging feelings of this reality and shared coping and transforming strategies.



Carolin, Jem Bendell and others at IASS Pavilion

Sr. Maureen and Sr. Carolin hosted a session on "Inner Capacities to encounter fear and build trust" at the CCRDS. The participants were open about their fears and receptive to spiritual concepts and practice. A short meditation at the end concluded the explorative session.



Carolin, Maureen and others at the IASS Pavilion

Last day of the stand

Today was the last day for our tiny stand, which was excellently located opposite the Africa Pavillion. Thousands of delegates passed by daily, and many stopped for a blessing card or even a chat. In addition, we offered wristbands, Yogies for future bookmarks, 10 ways to change the world posters and our brochures. We all felt the blessings radiating from this place.



Wasama the "friendship" network from Bangladesh interviewed Valeriane <https://friendship.ngo/>
Rafik from SAT7 Egyptian TV also interviewed Valeriane at another occasion.



BK Shaikha meeting with Arab delegates at the stand



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