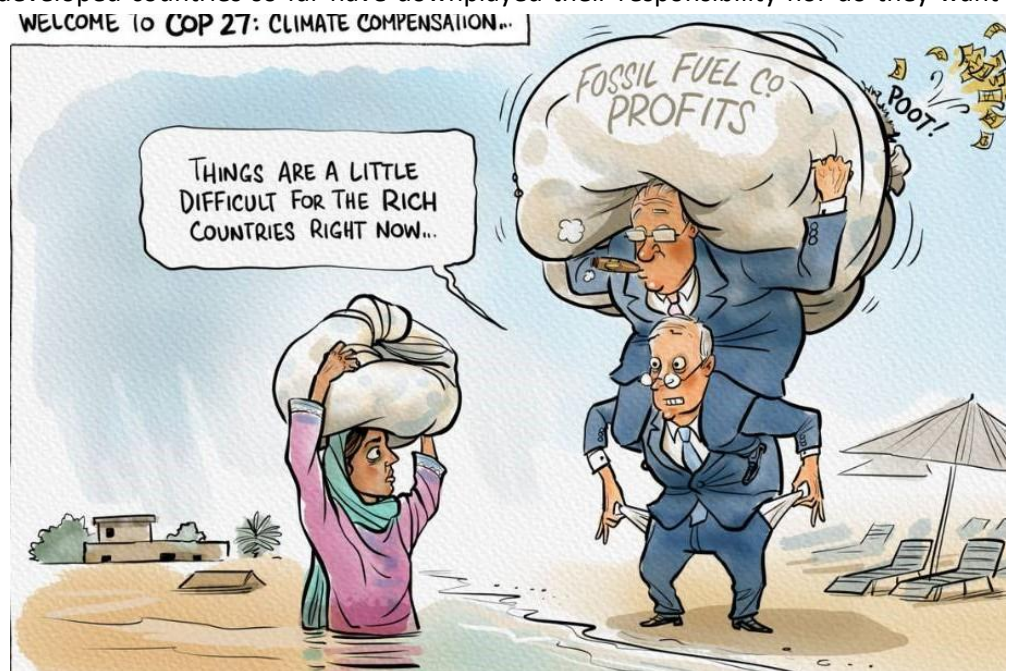




## Report on the UN Climate Change Conference COP27

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2022 - Egypt

The COP opened on Sunday, and almost 200 presidents, prime ministers or ministers arrived at the conference. This year's speeches have drastically changed, and one could hear words like "Highway to Hell, Collapse of Civilization and so on. As per the science, we should reduce the emissions in 2030 by 50 % to stay below a 1.5 C temperature rise. Most experts agree that such a reduction is almost impossible to achieve, especially with the current tension and energy crisis. So, the outlook is catastrophic, and already a blame game has started about who is responsible for such a failure of leadership. Most countries and international organizations do have posh stands that organize one program/workshop after the other. In countless speeches, the unfolding disaster and possible solutions are presented and discussed. However, the developed countries so far have downplayed their responsibility nor do they want to compensate for the damage their industrialization has caused. It seems this conference again world leaders are not up to the task of initiating the change. This is the time the presence of the Brahma Kumaris and our message "When I change, the world changes." becomes more and more critical. All of us present at the COP can feel the change in mood and a new openness towards the spiritual solution. Our stand and our team became quite busy giving many interviews, press conferences.



Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov

### High-Level Opening

This COP 27 is one of the busiest ever; this includes nearly 10,000 participants from NGOs. Registration and admission have become very tricky. As the BK quota has been tight, Valeriane, who has done a great job in the interfaith Liaison Committee, received access directly under the UNFCCC quota. There was a lot of expectation at the time of the opening of the Climate Implementation Summit with world leaders with more than 100 state leaders. In his opening speech, UN SG António Guterres urged world leaders to climate action: We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator. One of the most outspoken critics of the lack of action, the prime minister of Barbados, reminded the world that Small Island states pay the highest price even if they are not responsible for climate change. Picture: Valeriane met an old friend Hindou Ibrahim at the opening.



## Water Science Policy

Shantanu gave an interview to [Watersciencepolicy.com](http://Watersciencepolicy.com) on how a spirituality mindset helps in transformation and adaption.

## Press Conference for Youth

Piyush was invited to speak at a press conference arranged by Abibiman Foundation along with Youth Voices from Ghana, UAE, Nigeria and Kenya. Piyush talked about the seed of change represented by the youth for the next COP28 in Dubai. He focused on inspiring others: If you want to make a difference in the climate crisis, don't wait for a change to happen, you be the change. The entire press conference can be [watched here](#):



**Tuesday 8th Nov.**

## Climate Change TV Interview.

The day started with an interview with Golo on Climate Change TV. Golo briefly introduced the Brahma Kumaris and its renewable energy projects and finally spoke about the connection between the inner and outer world. "An accurate response to climate change starts with a change of mindset."

The interview can be seen at: <https://www.climate-change.tv/>



## Children and Youth Pavilion

**Opening:** For the first time in the history of the COP, there is a Children and Youth Pavilion. Shantanu is part of the organising committee of this pavilion hosted by the CIFS Children Investment Fund. It was inaugurated on 8 November.



**Side event: Actions of the Present, Attaining a Just Future.** An intergenerational discussion among Climate Champions, Youth Fellows, and youth from the Brahma Kumaris took place. Shantanu, Birajit and Maureen represented the Brahma Kumaris and highlighted their vision of a just future and how we can start working together to adopt a holistic approach. Some things mentioned were respect for all, taking decisions through the lens of being one family and bringing benefit to all.



From left to right: Natalie Mangondo, (Finance Youth Fellow, Climate Champions), David Dunetz, Head of Just Transition Delegation of Civil Society Organisations to COP 27, Maureen Goodmann, Birajith Baskaran, Baliquees Salaudeen, (Communications Youth Fellow, Climate Champions), Shantanu Mandal

**Press conference:** The Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley supported the youth in a passionate and engaging address. She talked about

1. The world needs calm and stability,
2. A world order that is just.
3. We need to use our Power to Discern.
4. It's not individual effort but a collective effort.



### Locally Led Adaptation Pavilion

Solar Cooker International had invited Golo to share about community solar cooking in their side event, **“Supporting the Locally Led Adaptation Principles with Solar Cooking”**. Solar Cooker International informed us about their database on local solar applications and their various projects; read more at <https://wiki-solar.org/>. Golo presented all the work Brahma Kumaris has done for its headquarters and retreat centres. He talked about the need to have a vision of a better world for all: “if we can imagine a better world, we can also imagine better technology”. A panellist from Yemen, Mr Abdulla Baobeid from Nahda Makers Organization, shared very movingly about the difficulties of survival for the refugees of war and climate change and how solar cooking helps them to cook food clean and economically.



From left to right: Golo, Mr Abdulla Baobeid, Alan Bieglow, Caitlin Hughes and from Solar Cooker International

## Interfaith press conference

World Council of Churches Interfaith Press Conference: **What do faith leaders want from world leaders for climate justice?** As the World Leaders' Summit concludes, representatives of faith were sharing their calls to the world for increased action to achieve climate justice and help keep global temperature rise to under 1.5C. Faith leaders representing a variety of faiths (Christian, Muslim, Brahma Kumaris, and others) bring the experiences of communities on the front lines of the climate emergency.



From left to right: , Archbishop Samy, Shehata, Anglican Primate of Alexandria, Bishop Co-Adjutor of the Diocese of Egypt; Nobuyuki Asai, Executive Director, Soka Gakkai Peace Committee; Moderator: Valérie Bernard, Brahma Kumaris rep. UN, Geneva, Mr Harjeet Singh Head of Global Political Strategy for Climate Action Network; Prof. Dr. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel, ACT Alliance Goodwill Ambassador for Climate Justice and Lutheran Pastor (Germany)

## Impressions from the stand

BKs have been quite busy at our exhibition booth. We all felt people were more open than ever to understanding the spiritual message and its potential.





**Sky News Arabia**

Sky News Arabia came by our stand and asked for a blessing card and poster of "The 10 ways to change the world". They liked it so much that they translated the 10 ways into Arabic and took a recording of it.



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