



Report on the UN Climate Change Conference COP27 29th Oct. to 6. Nov. 2022 Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

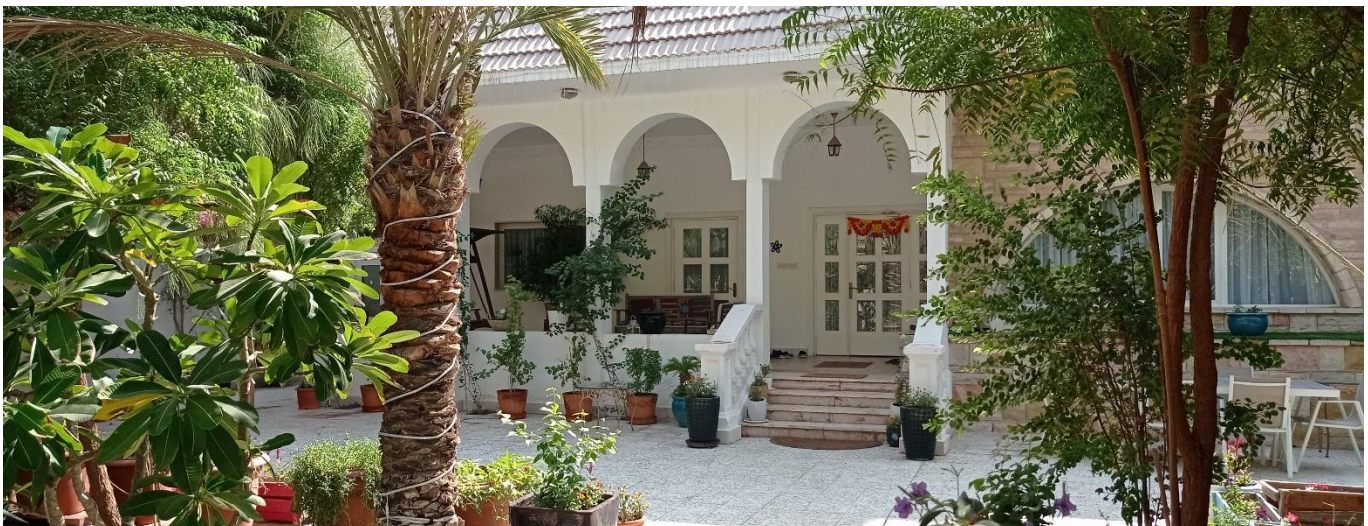


This year, the UN Climate Change Conference is taking place in Egypt. More than 25,000 delegates, 200 heads of state and ministers are coming together for the COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, a famous holiday resort at the red sea. Read more at COP27 website: unfccc.int. Brahma Kumaris is an accredited observer organisation represented at the conference by an experienced delegation.

[Meet the BK COP27 Team](#)

Programs leading up to COP27:

Kuwait City: Harmony House in Kuwait is supporting COP27 and has created a local environment group. On 29.10.22, they hosted an evening program with Sonja called Healthy Mind, Healthy Planet. Sonja focused on the ten key values for environmental actions, and there was quite some interest in the topic.



Cairo: On 31.10.22, Golo held a program called "Peace and Hope in Difficult Times" at the newly established Lotus Training Centre in central Cairo. 25 people got first-hand information on the evolving climate emergency and the upcoming conference in Sharm El-Sheikh. Golo stressed the importance of an optimistic mindset, explained the renewable energy projects of Brahma Kumaris and highlighted the connection between our thoughts and emotions and the future of the world.

"Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out." — Vaclav Havel



Golo presenting "Peace and Hope in Difficult Times"



Sonja and Shaika guiding meditation at program

Youth Conference COY

The youth delegation of the Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative had an engaging participation at UN Youth Conference "CO17" held in the week before the climate conference in Sharm El Sheikh. One of the highlights included a 60-minute "The Inner Power of Global Youth" session, which involved an enriching dialogue between the BK

youth and participants. Some delegates later joined us for a reception at our "Shehrazad Villa" residence, had a tasty vegan lunch, and met Maureen for a spiritual chit-chat. The youth thoroughly enjoyed the unique atmosphere and personal interaction with our team. Sr. Maureen closed the meeting with loving meditation commentary.



Settling into Sharm El-Sheikh

The BK team has been extremely lucky to rent a nice spacious villa; thanks for booking already one year ago. We are staying only 15 minutes drive from the conference venue, but security around the conference is extremely tight, and sometimes access and parking become an issue. Saturday and Sunday, we met in detail and discussed the latest news and strategy, as well as sorted out all the logistical issues like transport, communication, etc.



Sunday 6. Nov – COP Opening



On the 6th, the conference officially opened. The former presidency of COP 26, represented by Alok Sharma of the UK, handed over the reign to the Egyptian Government for the coming two weeks. Interestingly it took the delegates many hours well into the night to finalise the agenda of this year's conference. It's all about the finances and loss and damage. The global south is suffering most from the effects of climate change and is asking the developed nations, which are responsible for most of the harmful Co2 emissions, to finally reduce their emissions and come up with the promised funds to adapt and compensate for the damage. This topic has grown quite complicated over the years, and the war, the economic recession and the energy crisis have made things ever more complex. The mood at the conference is somewhat pessimistic, and seeing the warning signals of nature, it seems humanity has reached a crucial crossroads.

Setting up Exhibition

We have been able to set up an Exhibition space together with the Abibimman Foundation, Faith Association of the Rehabilitation of Street Children and Orphans, Int. Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations. The others have yet to show up, so we have the stand, which has a very prominent location opposite the African Pavilion for ourselves. On the first day, there is already quite a crowd of delegates, and we can share our message and distribute blessing cards, wristbands and Yogis for future bookmarks. The stand also serves as a meeting point; we have already met some old friends.



Talanoa Dialogue

On the first day of COP27, the Interfaith Gathering in the Spirit of Talanoa Dialogue brought together more than 90 from different faith traditions at the Coptic Church in Sharm el-Sheikh premises, and a good number followed the event online. The participants discussed solutions for climate change in the context of their faith traditions, sharing the values that bind us together as a human family. The workshops discussed topics such as love, cooperation, and resilience.



Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive and transparent dialogue in crises. Its purpose is to build trust and respect for decision-making for the collective good. This was made possible through messages of hope and togetherness from many faith leaders and individuals in 10 different workshops that addressed, for example, Human Rights and Finance. Food and views were widely shared, creating inclusiveness and respect in the true spirit of the Talanoa dialogue. A detailed report will follow of this special event, mainly organised and moderated by Valeriane.



Speakers at Talanoa Dialogue including Maureen

Inner Resilience, Global Commons

The Brahma Kumaris' response to the crisis arises from a vision and way of life founded upon certain core principles. They include: an awareness that we are spiritual beings; the principle of ahimsa (non-harming); simplicity of lifestyle; and a sense of being part of one family. [Read more in the BK COP27 Statement](#)

Handing over the COP Flame

Next year's Climate Conference will be held in Dubai, UAE. Sr. Maureen and Sonja handed over our COP flame to Ankita and Piyush from Dubai.



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