



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Report from UN Climate Change Conference COP29

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

On the third day of COP 29, the World Summit of global leaders and heads of states is ending. Interestingly, the leaders from major polluting nations have opted to skip the annual discussions. U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres characterized the past year as a "master class in climate destruction."



New data released at the climate conference indicates that there is "no sign" of the transition away from burning fossil fuels that the world's nations pledged a year ago.

In a sudden development, President Javier Milei ordered the Argentinian negotiators to withdraw from the Cop29 summit. Together with Trump's recent election as US president, there are real concerns about the stability and future of the Paris Agreement.

Meanwhile, the latest Science reports say that global warming and its impacts are unfolding much faster than expected. For example, Methane levels have risen at their highest rate since record-keeping began. As per Climate Action Tracker's latest report, we are on a clear pathway for a temperature rise of 2.7C. All delegates at the conference are aware of these facts, and tension and anxiety are high. This is where the presence of Brahma Kumaris and our expertise in meditation becomes very helpful.

The days for the BK Green Team have been very busy with many programs, faith-based activities and gatherings to support the delegates and the conference.

## Faith at COP29

For the second year the COP conference has a **Faith Pavilion**. Under the banner of "Bringing Faith to the Climate Frontlines," this pioneering platform is dedicated to exploring and amplifying the vital intersections between faith,



justice, and environmental stewardship. The Muslim Council of Elders hosts the Pavilion in collaboration with all faiths, including the Brahma Kumaris. Valeriane is our contact point for the Faith Pavilion, also representing the Interfaith Liaison Committee.

**Spiritual Moment**—Every morning in Faith Pavilion starts with a 30-minute spiritual moment of meditation. Aneta coordinates this daily event, and people from different faiths guide the reflection.



### **Faith Gathering in the Spirit of the Talanoa Dialogue**

On the evening of November 12th, the Interfaith Liaison Committee hosted a gathering for faith communities. The event began with the "Interfaith Call to Action" presentation, emphasising hope and trust. It was followed by a moment of silence, honouring climate change victims and setting intentions for the summit's success. The evening closed with an exchange of feelings and words of joy, gratitude, and respect.



### **Interfaith Dialogue with UNFCCC**

The Interfaith Liaison Committee hosted a dialogue called "**Beyond Numbers**," which Valeriane chaired. Speakers emphasised that effective climate finance must go beyond numbers to directly support the adaptation and resilience of the most affected communities. Maureen participated in the dialogue.





*Interfaith Dialogue with UNFCCC*

## **Daily livestream Climate Wisdom COP29**

“Innovating for a Greener Tomorrow” was the topic of the second live stream of the Climate Wisdom studio. Two experts from the renewable energy field, Dr Rashi Gupta, Managing Director of Vision Mechatronics Private Ltd and Keith Wingear, Strategic Partnerships Manager, Solar Cookers Alliance, and Maureen and Golo, joined the discussion. [Direct youtube link:](#) Some points from the panel:

- Spiritual innovation is to bring love into everything you do
- Strength, Harmony and peace is spiritual capacity
- Life is constant innovation and simple is transformational
- Solar cooking can be a health benefit, an environmental benefit, climate benefit and a human benefit



*From the left: Dr. Rashi Gupta, Golo, Maureen, Keith Wingear, Sonja.*



## Exhibition

Our successful exhibition continues, and our youngsters—Biru, Burhan, Natascha, and Vini—are busy serving there with conversations, information, blessing cards, and wristbands.



*From the left: Burhan, Caro, Maureen, Valeriane, Ankita, Rashi, Natascha*

## Media Dialogue by Shantanu, Radio Madhuban.

Radio Madhuban has access to official media rooms in the UNFCCC's media area. Shantanu, in cooperation with IUCN, kicked off the "Conversations from the Heart" series with "Inner Wisdom in Governance and Leadership. Acting with Courage and Compassion." Carolin moderated this conversation between Erik Solheim, the Norwegian minister of Environment and International Development from 2005-2012, and Maureen.



## Faith for Sustainable Buildings

The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development arranged an event in the “Buildings and Cooling Pavilion” about Greening Houses of Worship. Faith communities are uniquely positioned to lead the charge toward practices that honor their values and enhance their environments. Golo and Sonja participated on behalf of Brahma



Kumaris. Golo shared about the original building methods in India and how he constructed the Solar House and the Dome in Gyan Sarovar out of mudbricks. He also highlighted the importance of religious institutions using solar energy wherever possible. Sonja introduced the Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative and its various projects and initiatives for the global BK centres.



## Press conference “Values Guiding the Just Transition to Clean Energy”

The panellists in the press conference “**Values Guiding the Just Transition to Clean Energy**” spoke on how value-based leadership can guide more effective responses to climate change. The speakers shared their insights on aligning spirituality, clean energy, and ethical leadership, especially in protecting vulnerable and rural communities in India. [Watch via LINK](#)





*Vibha Dhawan, PhD, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), together with moderator Sonja, Maureen and Golo*

### **Interfaith Press Conference**

The Interfaith Liaison Committee presented the jointly developed “Call for Action” to COP29. Athena Peralta from the World Council of Churches highlighted the ILC's work and the role of faith-based organisations in climate action. Jamie Williams from Islamic Relief discussed the drafting process. Bishop Julio Murray from Panama explained the Call’s details, while Kenyan youth activist Maro Micah Maua addressed climate finance. Wara Iris Condori, from Bolivia's Aymaran community, spoke on loss-and-damage and Indigenous knowledge. Moderator Valeriane Bernard of the Brahma Kumaris stressed the mental, spiritual, and psychological impacts of climate change.



*Valeriane moderating interfaith press conference*

### **How Women’s Leadership Can Achieve Climate Justice**

UN figures indicate that 80% of people displaced by climate change are women. Their mayor involvement in preparing food and fuel collection makes them vulnerable when flooding and drought occur. This issue, as well as gender inequalities faced by women in leadership positions and climate finance, were discussed in a Faith Pavillion dialogue facilitated by Husna Ahmad, CEO of Global One, and four panellist speakers, including Sister Maureen.

Sister Maureen explained the importance of providing women with spiritual tools to help them realise their true potential as highly competent leaders in society in a dignified manner, inspired by the example of the Founder of the Brahma Kumaris. Alongside this, Sister Maureen shared examples of women leaders, Dadi Janki and the president of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, who have performed wonders on a global platform, and projects initiated by the Brahma Kumaris for women empowerment, such as the Shiv Shakti Leadership Initiative.



*"When we keep the awareness that the world is our family, and these are my brothers and sisters, we shift from performing charity for women to helping our family. This is real dignity."*



*Dr Iyad Abumoghli is the founder and director of UNEP Faith for Earth Council; Husna Ahmad is the CEO of Global One; Natavan Mammadova is the COP29 Organising Committee; and Maureen Goodman is the programme Director of Brahma Kumaris.*

## **Daily livestream Climate Wisdom COP29**

The second live stream Climate Wisdom from COP29 was "Innovating for a Greener Tomorrow" with two experts from the renewable energy field: Dr. Lucy Wallace, Director of Global Relationships, European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) Food and Isabel Pereira, Coordinator of Religion and Environment of ISER (Institute of Studies on Religion). together with Maureen and Golo. [Direct youtube link:](#)





*Burhan, Sonja, Golo, Maureen, Isabel Pereira, Dr Lucy Wallace*

[www.brahmakumaris.org](http://www.brahmakumaris.org)

[www.eco.brahmakumaris.org](http://www.eco.brahmakumaris.org)

[www.solar.brahmakumaris.com](http://www.solar.brahmakumaris.com)



<https://www.facebook.com/bkenvironmentinitiative/>



<https://twitter.com/EcoBrahmaKumari>



<https://www.instagram.com/ecobrahmakumaris>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ecobrahmakumaris>