



BRAHMA KUMARIS

UN CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE COP18

DOHA, QATAR. 27 NOVEMBER 2012

PROTECTING OUR ATMOSPHERE

STATE AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH

Side event organised by the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN) & the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU).

BK Jayanti Kirpalani, European Director of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University and key representative to the United Nations (Geneva), participated in a panel discussion about State and individual responsibilities, inner resilience and shift in consciousness as the foundation of climate change.

Sister Jayanti briefly described the planet's atmosphere as it stands, with natural catastrophes occurring in every region of the world, including rich economies where, the fact remains, despite having resources, the situation does not improve. She felt that the problem truly resides in individuals, who do not want to change personal habits, governments that resist losing the popular vote, and industries that do not want to decrease profits.

"Together we are part of a living system that is deeply connected with our living styles."

Individuals can bring about a change. Given that the US election campaign by President Obama was able to gather votes successfully using social network sites, we now have the means and technology to spread our voice and insist governments implement the actions we seek.

Sister Jayanti's conclusion addressed the importance of values, the reasons why we have moved away from values and forgotten the powers latent in inner silence. Values reside deep within the human spirit and only silence allows us to connect with the spiritual being within. Sister Jayanti expressed her wish that all sessions in this Conference commence with a minute of silence. This small step alone could have a huge impact on the way delegates approach discussions.

A facilitator led the panel discussion by asking:

So what prevents the people from doing the right thing after having all the knowledge and the science?

BK Jayanti: "Perhaps because we are all comfortable in our particular region and it's difficult to shift people from this comfort zone, thus we are veiled from thinking about the long term repercussions of the life we live."

Governments find it difficult to cut carbon emissions because their existence depends on the popular vote. Moreover, the huge amount of finances now involved in terms of taxes arising from the renewable sources combined with the reality that any switch to alternative technologies will entail greater expense means Governments leaders will hesitate to adopt the best option.

However, I understand that although a change of lifestyle is difficult, a change of consciousness or attitude doesn't take any time at all and leads the way for each one of us to adopt a broader sense of personal responsibility. The Brahma Kumaris seek this change in attitude to secure a healthy step forward for the planet's environment. This means our thoughts and our actions play a major part in environmental management. Once we understand this and are willing to change and agree to have compassion and equality among people, then a change of lifestyle ceases to be impossible.

Although values are good, they are difficult to apply.

What sort of internal power do we need to 'walk the talk' and how do we get it?

BK Jayanti: "We believe that every human being has goodness internally. So the peace, love, happiness, and truth sit within the human spirit. But given that people don't allow themselves time to reflect on the quality of their busy life style, we ask people to include a moment in their life to pause and connect with the peace and truth within; automatically, this extra step will reflect in their actions. And if they can increase this to 10–45 minutes at different times of day, they will notice an appreciable difference that includes dedicated time for the self which touches the inner core values that will be expressed in life."

Concluding Meditation

Sister Jayanti requested the group to kindly put down everything they were holding, physically and also mentally, and shared a few thoughts out loud, inviting them to follow these ideas:

I let the energy of the body relax... and I allow my thoughts to focus on the inner being, the being of light within... I am moving my thoughts within myself... I realize that a point of energy is located in the centre of my forehead... taking my thoughts inwards, I come to that space within... a private space that only I can enter... and in this space... there is stillness... space for creativity... space for newness... space for hope... and in this awareness I recognize the power of the energy of thought... and I send thoughts of peace to the world around me... thoughts of peace to all forms of life... thoughts of peace to all aspects of nature... so that peace can create order and harmony... and with this peace and harmony within, I contribute this renewable clean energy to create harmony within nature... and harmony with nature... I hold this awareness of peace... and step back into the present situation, the time and space here... I hold peace within, so I can radiate without... Thank you.