



## **SIKH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP**

**(NGO WITH SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS AT THE UNITED NATIONS)**

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# INDEX

<b>Dr Jasdev Singh Rai (Director's Note).....</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Ms Bethan Walters Reflections.....</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Mr Albert Barseghyan Reflections.....</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>Ms Dilpreet Kaur Bains Reflections.....</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<b>Nishan-e-Sikhi Khadur Sahib Reflections.....</b>	<b>Page 15</b>
<b>Further information &amp; Contacts.....</b>	<b>Page 17</b>







# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

COP 27 was an extraordinary experience for the Sikh Human Rights Group (hereafter referred to as SHRG) in understanding the politics of climate change, the blockades and the opportunities to combat climate change. The SHRG has been to COP before but never under its own banner and with the scope to engage with several different aspects of and participants at COP. Altogether six Sikh Human Rights Group members participated in this colossal event attended by approximately 35,000 people.

COP stands for Convention of the Parties. The Parties are State members of the United Nations who engage in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change called UNFCCC. COP is a part of the UNFCCC process to address the deteriorating climate and its effects on the environment and our daily lives. The SHRG has now obtained accreditation from the UNFCCC.

COP 27 was held in the holiday resort of Sharm-el Sheik in Egypt. This is a sprawling tourist town on the seafront in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, a different place than the overcrowded cities and towns of Egypt or its deserts that go on for miles and miles. Egypt is also one of the ancient civilisations where the history of contemporary humankind began. Egypt is home to Mount Sinai where Moses got the ten Commandments and the famous Pyramids whose structures are architectural wonders. Egypt is full of history from a time when the climate was as clean and clear as could be. It was befitting to hold COP 27 to bring home to the delegates the journey of the human species from a perfectly balanced state of nature in ancient Egypt to the current period when human beings and many species face disasters, dangers and some say even extinction. The pollution of the environment is everywhere, the air, the earth and the oceans. Civilisation, it seems, may be synonymous with self-destruction.

To their credit, the Egyptian Government kept pollution to a minimum. Buses were run on electricity. There is no polluting industry in Sharm-El-Sheik. The air is remarkably fresh and clean when compared to the cities where we live. The clean air of Sharm-el-Sheik reminded us of what could still be if we get our act together.

At COP 27, there were many business interests, banks and industries specialising in climate change investments, financing and innovations. There are a number of major banks putting money in carbon neutral or zero net technologies. NGOs had stalls to showcase their work as well as most countries who were eager to show what they were doing in their States to counter climate change.



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Despite all this, politics was heavy and commercial interests overrode best intentions. There is at least a three-way divide in the world influencing climate change policies. There is the western developed world that has been accused and in fact, has been responsible for the state of affairs the climate has reached. Much of the western world relentlessly went on industrialisation burning fossil fuels, spewing out plastics and other waste and encroaching on forests and other green land for a few centuries. Now it is keen to put the brakes on and change to carbon-neutral technologies. Then there is the developing world, some of whom are now economically more powerful than most western countries. These countries want to continue with industrialisation until they reach a suitable level of development for their populations. They accuse the west of creating the climate crises and are now asking others to slow down while having the advantage of being developed. Then there are the countries that are still trying to get on the development ladder.

The least developed countries are suffering the most from deteriorating climate issues. They don't have the finances to take preventative steps, let alone remedial steps. The climate is affecting farming, soil, and general life as the weather gets hotter. Island nations such as the Republic of Kiribati and even Seychelles are facing rising water levels and some fear being swallowed by the oceans. Floods in some countries as happened in Pakistan and droughts in others such as Madagascar have led to malnutrition, poverty, homelessness and internal refugee crises.

These tensions have dominated COPs in the past and continue to do so. Island nations and least-developed countries have demanded that the developed countries provide financial assistance as compensation to deal with the consequences of climate change that they have been responsible for. Climate knows no boundaries. Pollution in the rich west affects carbon content and climate change as well as rising water levels as far as Fiji.

With last-minute negotiations, an agreement in principle was forged with the richest countries agreeing to increase the fund to help least-developed countries face the consequences of climate change. This was a great achievement for the host Egypt who wanted the conference to reach a deal on this.





# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

However, the debate between developed countries in the west and rich developing countries such as China and India has raged on. The west wants China and India to commit to targets earlier than the two countries are willing to do. In turn, the west is dragging its feet too. While countries such as the UK are making progress, the United States has shown little interest, citing China as the reason. The USA had even come out of the Paris Agreement under Trump. The United Kingdom is committed to net zero by 2050 as is the United States. It remains to be seen how far the US and China, the two biggest polluters will achieve these targets.

The SHRC pushed its position that States and international institutions in themselves cannot alone achieve targets if civil society is not fully engaged. The SHRC feels that the culture of the average person towards waste, consumption, and pollution has to change. Civil society needs to take ownership of the climate issue.

The SHRC also believes that civil society is influenced by a number of factors. These include science, government policies, peer attitudes and perhaps most importantly, belief systems. Religions, cultures and belief systems influence morals and values significantly. Traditional approaches to environment, climate and waste have been part of cultural value systems for centuries if not millennia. These have been subdued in public discourse and the climate debates under the paradigm of 'science and reason'. Both are utilitarian forces within human society. Science helps us to understand the mechanics of the universe and our daily lives while reason helps us to negotiate our way in the world. Neither are meta-theories that guide our morals convincingly. One person's reason may be another person's anathema. For instance, Microsoft founder, Bill Gates reasons that using a private jet is important for him while crusading on climate and environmental issues. So why would private jets not be important to thousands of other multimillionaires and billionaires who could also argue that getting from one place to another with minimum delay in queues, flight delays, luggage delays, etc... are important to their business. Similarly, while the majority of scientists, consider human-created pollution to be dangerous to climate, they are not all agreed to what extent, and some even dismiss this, citing previous periods in earth's history when there was no industrialisation but climate change occurred.



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Beliefs and cultures on the other hand work differently. Human beings are hardwired to a great extent to commit to belief without seeking rational explanations. All beliefs, cultures and civilisations have some theory or position on human relations with other species, the environment and even the climate. Traditional farming systems, based on belief, combine an uncanny knowledge of weather with cultural belief to keep soil, nutrition and climate at sustainable levels.

The SHRC has been pushing international institutions to provide a bigger platform and say to this neglected aspect of human culture. Beliefs and cultures are perhaps more powerful than any logical argument to persuade people to commit to changing their personal lives to prevent the catastrophes that scientists are now predicting and of which many are already occurring in our times. Whether these be floods, earthquakes, droughts or famines, many are preventable if human society changes its behaviour and approach to other life forms, the environment, pollution and climate.

Take diet as an example. Historically the vast majority of human societies did not eat meat daily. But now a significant percentage of people eat meat every day. This means the number of domesticated animals for the supply of meat has increased. This means the land for a vegetarian diet is reduced and in some countries, forests are being cut down to accommodate large cattle farms. It also means the methane produced by animals such as cows has increased. All this has added to dangerous levels of climate change. Changes in diet can reduce these impacts dramatically. But these changes cannot be enforced by Government diktats alone. It needs a combined approach by Government information with cultural changes.

Further or alternatively, we can take the issue of travel. Traditionally most people lived in proximity to their daily work. However, people now commute, sometimes great distances, to work. This is usually because close communities no longer exist and housing costs have become unaffordable. State policies and cultural changes could lead to people and societies living close to workplaces.

Mega State policies for big project carbon reduction alone cannot achieve the desired reduction in the damage to the climate. It needs a holistic approach that also includes civil society, cultures, beliefs and civilisations.





# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Cultures and beliefs are creative aspects of human life. Hence they are not the same everywhere. Some belief systems are anthropocentric. Some are cosmocentric. Some are ecocentric. COP needs to adopt a plural approach to civil society inclusion.

The SHRG discussed its position with several State delegates and NGOs. It was remarkable to see how many agreed. While this was the first COP that the SHRG engaged in under its own name, we hope to set up stalls and hold side events in future COPs to highlight our position to encourage the climate change institutions to view civil society as essential to any hope of stopping the further deterioration of the climate and even recovery of healthy air.

Our delegates worked hard and met with many delegates from different NGOs and States. We also had two members of the Nishan-e-Sikhi project from Khadur Sahib, Punjab, India as part of our team. They were very impressed by the number of NGOs, similar projects around the world and the opportunity to engage with States. The Nishan-e-Sikhi project is a massive undertaking in North India. Next COP will see a bigger delegation from Khadur Sahib.

The SHRG welcomes anybody who wishes to work with us in our approach to the environment and climate change. The more people able to promote a holistic approach, the better chance of international institutions incorporating it in endeavours to reverse the damage done to climate.



**Dr Jasdev Singh Rai**  
(Director of the Sikh Human Rights Group)



# MS BETHAN WALTERS REFLECTIONS

From 14 November 2022 to 18 November 2022, I (Ms Bethan Walters) (Human Rights, Communications & Media Officer at the SHRG) along with an incredible and cunning young intern attended COP27 in Sharm-el Sheikh (Egypt) on behalf of the Sikh Human Rights Group. 2021 marked the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In the thirty years since the world has come a long way in the fight against climate change and its negative impacts on our planet; we are now able to better understand the science behind climate change, better assess its impacts, and better develop tools to address its causes and consequences.

Thirty years and twenty-seven COPs later, we now have a much clearer understanding of the extent of the potential climate crisis and what needs to be done to address it effectively. The science is there and clearly shows the urgency with which we must act regarding rapidly reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, taking necessary steps to assist those in need of support to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change, and finding the appropriate formula that would ensure the availability of requisite means of implementation that are indispensable for developing countries in making their contributions to this global effort, especially amid the successive international crises, including the ongoing food security crisis exacerbated by climate change, desertification and water scarcity, especially in Africa that suffers the most impacts.

On one of our last days at the conference and on one of the last days of negotiations for the conference, we spent some time in the main negotiation room where delegates representing every country and organisation that attended would trudge through the proposed policy to agree on a framework that shaped COP27 and fundamentally save our planet. This was a long process and a process that concluded in the early hours of Sunday the 29th of November 2022 rather than the proposed deadline of the 18th of November 2022.

COP27 was also referred to as the African COP and there were great expectations that the African States would get the compensation for loss and damage they deserved given that they are the countries who are often worst impacted by climate change but the smallest polluters.



An aerial photograph of the Hong Kong skyline, featuring numerous skyscrapers and the Victoria Harbour. A semi-transparent world map is overlaid on the image, centered behind the title text.

# MS BETHAN WALTERS REFLECTIONS

Here are some of the main takeaways from COP27:

## **Loss and Damage: Small win, but the fight continues.**

- Thanks to unwavering efforts from vulnerable countries, activists and civil society, COP27 has committed to creating a loss and damage fund to support the most impacted communities by climate change. The breakthrough deal came as costs from extreme weather soar to over \$200 billion annually. The fight is not over: details on who will contribute to the fund or on the accessibility to the financial arrangements will have to be negotiated in the forthcoming years.

## **Fossil fuel loopholes for petro-states and industry.**

- COP27 started to address the symptoms of the climate crisis but did little to address its causes. More fossil fuels will mean more loss and damage. The scale of influence of the fossil-fuel industry and its supporting States was on full display. At the last minute “low emissions” was added to language about renewables being the best solution to the energy crisis, creating a loophole for petro-states and the fossil fuel industry. This trend cannot continue in the United Arab Emirates next year.

## **Mitigation & Energy ends in disappointment.**

- Despite a last-minute push from the High Ambition Coalition to strengthen the coal phase-down text to expand to all fossil fuels, the final COP27 outcome on energy is a disappointment that does not bring us any closer to addressing the climate crisis. The key language for accelerating efforts on coal phase-down and fossil subsidy phase-out is a cut and paste of commitments in the Glasgow Climate Pact. Renewable energy was positively mentioned, including the 4 trillion USD per annum investment required by 2030 to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

## **1.5°C: All eyes on biodiversity.**

- Sharm el Sheikh's failure to move on emissions occurred even though the world has experienced politics-altering climate impacts such as flooding in Pakistan and Nigeria. 1.5°C was referenced in the deal, but only recognition of the goal. Pathways and plans to achieve it were absent. Holding warming to this limit will reduce the suffering of much of the world – what matters is real, rapid emissions cuts. We need leaders to break from the fossil-fuel industry once and for all. We cannot reach 1.5°C without protecting nature, and at the Biodiversity COP15 world leaders must get back on track by agreeing to an ambitious global deal for nature.



# MS BETHAN WALTERS REFLECTIONS

While all of the above was discussed predominantly in the negotiation rooms (the red zone within the blue zone that all diplomats and NGOs with UN ECOSOC Status/organisations with links to UN representatives have access to) the rest of the blue zone was made up of hundreds of stands where countries, NGOs and businesses showcased their projects and plans to help save our planet. There were also talks every day in several pavilions where each day had a theme. The first day I was there was Gender Day which is predominately where my work lies. Back in March 2021, I held a virtual parallel event for the CSW 66th session organised by UN Women. The theme that year was women and the environment and my event was a group of panellists who discussed the barriers that exist globally that prevent people who menstruate from being more environmentally conscious when they are menstruating. This led nicely to an ongoing collaboration with Fluus a company that designed the world's first certified flushable menstrual pad. For instance, we are currently working on a collaborative research project that aims to unearth the tangible benefits that such a product can have for those who menstruate at school.

Furthermore, a big theme around gender at COP was that women are one of the solutions to climate change, not just the victims who need saving. Consequently, they need to be at the decision-making table and need to be empowered with finances and resources.

Yet how can women/people who menstrual be at the table if they are forced to miss school for potentially 7 days once a month/cycle? Menstrual products are not luxury items yet most of the world is forcing those who menstruate to pay the luxury/tampon tax.

In addition, a bathroom is 100% prepared for men and 50% prepared for women. We need menstrual products in all public places for free but we also need to invest in sustainable products like the one mentioned above so that we are not solving one problem and causing another.

I raised this issue with Nordic/African leaders: why gender is the key to the green transition. The panel was composed of representatives of Norway, Finland and Kenya and the executive director of the UN Women. The Nordic countries are seen as role models in gender progression and inclusion yet they have the highest tax on menstrual products.





# MS BETHAN WALTERS REFLECTIONS

COP is a bittersweet conference, it can be frustrating to see that to date we have held 27 COPs globally but we are still in a climate crisis, it can also be disheartening to unearth that we even need a COP in the first place. However, it can also be a place where you feel inspired to make a genuine change in your life and the world around you. It is a conference where you can learn a great deal and meet some of the most incredible people who are doing truly wonderful things. For myself, it has reaffirmed the need for the work we are doing at the Sikh Human Rights Group regarding financial equity, education empowerment, resource equality, increase in funding and stigma removal for people who menstruate as there is clear evidence that they are held back, in some places worse than others, just because their fertility requires them to have access to products that are in some places deemed as luxury items.

Attending COP27 is an experience that I will never forget and a conference that has heavily influenced my ongoing work at the Sikh Human Rights Group as I was able to network with the Director of UN Women regarding our menstrual health project as well as representatives from 30 countries and a large group of NGOs. While the negotiations can feel disappointing and uninspiring, the people who work for NGOs and who I believe are doing the 'real' impactful groundwork are the ones that make COP the inspiration that it is.



**Ms Bethan Walters**  
**(Human Rights, Communications & Media Officer)**



# MR ALBERT BARSEGHYAN REFLECTIONS

Famous for some of the most vibrant coral reefs and colourful fishes in the world, Sharm el-Sheikh has, however, attracted more diplomats than scuba divers from the 5th to 19th of November, 2022. I was among those 35000 delegates, representing some 200 countries and territories who descended on Egypt's Sinai Peninsula for a two-week-long climate negotiation at the 27th round of the UN Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP 27. The COPs are the biggest and most important annual climate-related conferences on the planet, and it isn't surprising that COP 27 was the largest diplomatic meeting that I have ever attended.

While high accommodation costs during such conferences are not new, it was expected that the COP in Egypt would be more affordable than previous COPs. However, while the Sikh Human Rights Group did manage to secure accommodation for its six delegates, many civil society organizations couldn't participate in the conference because of astronomical hotel prices and the unavailability of rooms.

Climate conferences are becoming incredibly important platforms of diplomatic exchanges and their role is only going to increase in the coming years. The environmental crisis we are living in is like no other global challenge that requires policy coordination at the highest international level. The consequences of climate change not only have negative impacts on our daily lives but also challenge States as far as their ability to manage exacerbated threats such as global decreases in critical natural resources which can lead to new international conflicts. Countries can either cooperate and save the world from the worst or compete in the middle of the climate crisis and lead humankind to extinction.

Just like in Davos (Switzerland), the colour of your badge matters - as a Sikh Human Rights Group representative, I have received a **yellow** 'Observer' badge and got access to the Blue Zone. The Blue Zone is a UN-managed space where negotiations are hosted and, to enter, all attendees must be accredited by the UNFCCC Secretariat. The parties (Government Officers and Diplomats) were wearing **pink** and **red** badges (reserved for the heads of delegations), the press - **orange**, intergovernmental organizations - **green**, and the secretariat - **blue** badges. Since networking is an important part of being at the COP, this colour-coding insight helped me to know whom I was talking to before even learning their names. I was not only exchanging business cards with other delegates but also sharing the '**Air is Guru, Water is Father and Earth is the Great Mother**' quote on our custom printed t-shirts. Many delegates found fresh inspiration for their environmental work in Guru Nanak's words, and the biggest enthusiasts left for their homes with our t-shirts.





# MR ALBERT BARSEGHYAN REFLECTIONS

The opening of COP 27 was held on Sunday, 06 November 2022 and was attended by Alok Sharma, President of COP 26, Sameh Shoukry, President-designate of COP 27, Dr Hoesung Lee, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC. António Guterres, UN Secretary-General kicked off the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Implementation Summit in Plenary Nefertiti on Monday, 07 November 2022.

Observers couldn't attend these opening events in person because access to Plenary Nefertiti required a ticket and only delegations whose Heads of State or Government were attending the Summit could get one. Therefore, I followed the opening on the screens available inside the Blue Zone while visiting 156 pavilions which are event spaces for hosting workshops, panel discussions and keynote speeches during the conference. There were almost as many country pavilions as thematic ones. Pavilions play an important role in raising awareness of key issues and are run by individual countries and regional bodies, Inter-Governmental Organisations and UN organizations. I was a frequent visitor of Food4Climate, Food and Agriculture, Food Systems, Climate Education Hub, IFAD, SDG, Ocean, WWF: Ambition to Action as well as various country pavilions.

The core negotiation process is complex and participation of NGOs is facilitated through the constituencies (BINGO – Business, RINGO – Researchers, Farmers, TUNGO – Trade Unions, WGC – Women & Gender, EPO – Indigenous People, ENGO-Environmental NGOs, LGMA – Local Governments & Municipality Authorities, YOUNGO – Children and Youth). Around 3 % of NGOs were non-affiliated, including the Sikh Human Rights Groups but I was invited to join the daily constituency coordination meetings of YOUNGO through my links to the Swiss Young Greens. I also participated in a few meetings with the Swiss delegation where we pushed Switzerland to agree to the 'Loss and Damage' Fund.

After the opening segment, I managed to obtain access to the Red Zone and attended the special event organized by Al Gore and the Climate TRACE Coalition which released a detailed inventory of the sources of GHG emissions worldwide. By the end of the first week, I had participated in capacity-building training organized by UNFCCC regarding implementing Articles 6 & 13 of the Paris Agreement, transparency in agriculture and land use, integrating Just and Gender Inclusive Transition Strategies into next generation NDCs and LT LEDS to better follow the negotiations.

A large, realistic-looking globe is the centerpiece of a museum exhibit. Two people, a man and a woman, are standing on either side of the globe, touching its surface. The man is wearing a white t-shirt with a logo and dark pants. The woman is wearing a white t-shirt and patterned pants. In the background, there are informational panels with the CGI logo. One panel on the left says "Connecting physical and digital communities in new ways, to realise new possibilities." and another on the right says "From... space, CGI is trusted to do complex things well. We are proud of being a responsible business and are committed to a more inclusive and sustainable world for future generations." The title "MR ALBERT BARSEGHYAN REFLECTIONS" is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image.

# MR ALBERT BARSEGHYAN REFLECTIONS

During the second week, we were mostly dedicated to meeting delegates and explaining our pluralistic positions and building partnerships. Amongst the many delegates that I had the opportunity to meet at COP 27, I was particularly impressed by the exchange of ideas with HRH Princess Dana Firas, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Petra National Trust President, and Chair of the CHN's Culture at COP 27 Working Group.

While for most of the delegates, the conference ended on Friday, 18 November 2022, negotiations were still ongoing during the weekend. The parties finally reached an agreement to create a fund for loss and damage to help developing countries only on Sunday after tough and exhaustive negotiations. However, there was no such progress reached on cutting emissions.

As Sharm el-Sheikh was my first COP experience, I had a lot to learn in a short period of time. Nevertheless, I am extremely grateful to have met so many incredible activists from across the globe and to have had the opportunity to learn from their inspiring work. I also talked to as many Parties as I possibly could urging them to consider the planet before the profits during negotiations. We achieved some results but the fight continues...



**Mr Albert barseghyan  
(Human Rights Officer)**





# MS DILPREET KAUR BAINS REFLECTIONS

As previously mentioned by my colleagues throughout November 2022, UN Climate Change Conference COP27 was taking place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. I was fortunate enough to attend the second week of COP27 as an observer with the Sikh Human Rights Group. The Sikh Human Rights Group is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that promotes human rights, environmental responsibility as well as diversity through a pluralistic approach.

My name is Ms Dilpreet Kaur Bains and I have been a volunteer intern, working on gender projects, including the SHRGs Menstrual Health and Empowerment Project. Thus, I was thrilled when invited to represent the SHRG at a summit to meet like-minded organisations to increase my understanding of how climate change is being addressed worldwide.

Throughout the week I attended panel discussions, seminars, and negotiations on various topics, such as adaptation, migration, response, and economic transition. I met many NGOs in the Global South who are as passionate about gender equality and climate change as we are. I was also lucky enough to converse with Ms Sima Sami Bahous, who is the Executive Director of UN Women.

My key takeaways from COP27:

- As homes in the Global South become uninhabitable, due to extreme weather, climate change affects women more than men because they are displaced to temporary camps or shelters, where they are at increased risk of sexual or gender-based violence/discrimination.
- Women and youth are not involved in the decision-making process in climate action on local and national levels. Studies show the connection between reduced carbon emissions when there is a greater percentage of contribution from women. Hence, igniting the question of how to increase women and youth engagement in leadership opportunities.
- The cultural impacts of climate change can affect traditional land accessibility and management systems because indigenous people, especially women have crucial knowledge, which has been passed down from generation to generation, on how to conserve the land.



# MS DILPREET KAUR BAINS REFLECTIONS

I am so grateful to have attended COP27 first-hand and have been inspired by the demonstrations conducted to raise awareness on not just climate action but environmental intersectionality and gender injustice too.

On the other hand, during my time at COP27, I felt that there was not enough representation from the Asian community and more specifically the Sikh community. This elevates the idea that more Asians should be involved in these conversations and attend conferences. In Sikhism, a few of our main values are compassion and integrity, thus it is paramount that we display integrity and compassion for nature. Hence, this can be done by educating ourselves on climate action and supporting organisations, such as the Sikh Human Rights Group which are working assiduously on climate change and human rights matters. However, courage, seva and aid are required from the Sangat as our initiatives would not be executed without your continued support.

To learn more about the Sikh Human Rights Group and the projects that we are involved in, please visit our website at [shrg.ngo](https://shrg.ngo) or visit our social media accounts at [shrg.ngo](https://shrg.ngo)



**Ms Dilpreet Kaur Bains**  
(SHRG Volunteer)





# DR KANWALJIT SINGHS (NISHAN-E-SIKHI KHADUR SAHIB) REFLECTIONS

Nishan-e-Sikhi Charitable Trust Kar Sewa Khadur Sahib has taken a lot of environmental initiatives over the past two decades. These activities have been possible only with the vision or blessings received from Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji and with the support of the Sangat.

We decided to participate in international platforms so we participated in the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) organised by the United Nations through the accreditation facilities of the Sikh Human Rights Group (SHRG) which we are affiliated with. The SHRG is an NGO with Special Consultative Status at the UN and accredited with the UNFCCC, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. COP 27 was held under UNFCCC in Egypt this time.

As an international organisation representative of most countries around the globe, the United Nations is very concerned about climate change and the drastic deterioration in our environment. It leads the thinking and coordinates actions in tackling this through international treaties, laws and activities to reduce global warming, the impact of greenhouse gases and other harmful gas emissions, Nishan-e-Sikhi Kar Seva Khadur Sahib's work is also about tackling global warming and improving the environment, therefore there are shared goals with the United Nations.

There is a mutual relationship with the Sikh Human Rights Group. By participating at COP 27 we were able to show the environmental leadership demonstrated by the Sikh Gurus and the vision of Sri Guru Granth Sahib in the environment, climate, water and biodiversity. Nishan-e-Sikhi Khadur Sahib puts this vision into action. By attending conferences like COP 27, Nishan-e-Sikhi will also take its work to the international community.

COP 27 was also useful to us as we gained knowledge regarding scientific research, technological advancements and other activities in relation to the environment. We saw this as an opportunity to see how we can integrate these into our projects.

Two of us, Baba Gurpreet Singh and Dr Kanwaljit Singh Assistant Professor Punjabi, Sri Guru Angad Dev College Khadur Sahib attended the 27th Session of the Conference of Parties at Sharm-el-Sheikh.



# DR KANWALJIT SINGHS (NISHAN-E-SIKHI KHADUR SAHIB) REFLECTIONS

The Conference of the Parties is the world's largest and most inclusive gathering of national Governments, ministries of environmental science and technology, climate change and environmental improvement organisations and individuals. There are also many eminent individuals, specialists and academics. The scope for networking and learning was immense from other organisations, countries and specialists. There was much interaction, exchange of ideas and information and many decisions taken at the conference. The responsibility of developed countries towards least developed countries was a big issue that we felt needed to be upheld through commitments and funding.

It was very encouraging to see people from different cultures, nations, religions and races sitting together and discussing common concerns. Knowledge was exchanged and many were interested in the work of Nishan-e-Sikhi. When knowledge is exchanged, new relationships are also developed. This increases the ability to work together on such important issues.

Participating in this conference as a serviceman of Nishan-e-Sikhi Kar Sewa Khadoor Sahib has been immensely beneficial. We held meetings with representatives and activists of many organizations working on different agricultural issues. We also learnt the method of communicating with the international community and to some extent how politics and diplomacy function.

We have brought quite a bit of useful scientific and technological information back to Khadur Sahib and we hope to integrate it in accordance with our approach and philosophy. All this has been possible with the support of the Sikh Human Rights Group. We hope to attend future COP conferences.



A photograph of the United Nations Secretariat Building in New York City, viewed through a long, straight perspective of numerous tall flagpoles lined up on a green lawn. The building's facade is visible in the background, featuring the United Nations emblem and the words "UNITED NATIONS" and "NATIONS UNIES".

# FURTHER INFORMATION & CONTACTS

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