

Report on the Global Goals for Peace Event held on Saturday 23 September 2023
at the Global Peace House, Pamplemousses, Republic of Mauritius

The Global Goals for Peace was a significant confluence organized by the Brahma Kumaris Global Peace House, Republic of Mauritius. This gathering aimed to raise awareness about the pivotal role of building peace, both within and outside, and its profound impact on achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event served as a unique platform for stakeholders engaged in each SDG to foster interaction, showcase their work, and explore local solutions that address global challenges using an inside-out approach. Furthermore, it offered participants an opportunity to experience inner peace and gain insights into constructing sustainable solutions for a harmonious world.

Event Highlights:

The event commenced with a symbolic candle lighting ceremony, signifying the illumination of peace and cooperation.





The first part featured an opening message and event launch by Honorable Luchmun Roy Subhasnee, PPS and Representative of Mauritius at the Pan African Parliament, who passionately emphasized the importance of peace and the Sustainable Development Goals. Her message set the tone for the event and highlighted the significance of the Global Goals for Peace confluence. *“it is always better to*

start at least with few of the SDGs and then with time reach out to all , it will take some time but we have to be patient”

During this segment, Dr. Gowtam Chintaram, Desk Officer at ECOSOCC - African Union, delivered a message on behalf of Mr. William Carrew, the Head of Secretariat, via ZOOM, further underscoring the event's global importance. *“we are thus very happy to see the prominent role of the Brahma Kumaris movement on the African stage; we commend Sister Vedanti for this and we look forward to welcome your team in our core Peace & Security Cluster activities.”*



Mr. Bossoondyal, CEO of UNA Mauritius, read the peace message of the United Nations Secretary-General, reinforcing the global commitment to peace and the event's alignment with international goals. Key highlights of the message: *“...This year's theme reminds us that peace is not automatic. Peace is the result of action.....Action to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure that no one is left behind. Action to end the*

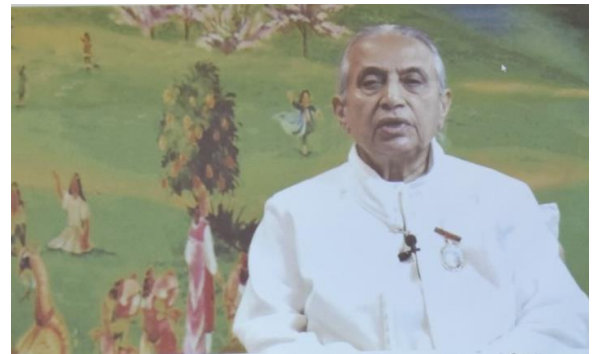
war on our planet and its natural gifts.....Peace is not only a noble vision for humanity. Peace is a call to action. Let us commit to build, drive and sustain peace for all.”

The event featured also two video messages from two prominent individuals:

Mrs. Elizabeth Mutunga, Head of the Governance, Peace, and Security Secretariat at COMESA, conveyed shared a heartfelt message emphasizing the importance of peace in the region and the role ion the SDGs and impact of the Ukraine war. Full video message is here. https://youtu.be/AzMDzbVtk7s?si=S_9V0h-jDjM_tIRf



Sister Vedanti, Director of Brahma Kumaris Africa, shared a heartfelt message emphasizing the importance of peace within and in the region and the role ion the SDGs and impact of the Ukraine war. Full video message is here (<https://youtu.be/YbAWHpVPk6w>)



In the second part of the program, distinguished speakers delivered their keynote addresses namely:

1. Mr Vassen Kaupaymuthoo, Environmental Engineer and Consultant who explored "*Climate Change: A Uniting Factor for Peace or Precursor of Conflicts? What Wisdom Has Humanity Learnt So Far?*"



"We form part of a greater universe and we are made up of star dust. We often forget that our destiny is linked to the destiny of the cosmos because we focus on futile day to day issues. We need to reconnect with our origins and we will understand why we need to protect the environment. "

2. Dr. Takesh (Kavi) Luckho, Economist and Lecturer at Open University discussed *"Towards an Economy of Harmony: Balancing Social Progress and Environmental Stewardship."*

"Pursuing an "Economy of Harmony", there need to be a change in the economic philosophy of policy making. Today economic growth is the main measure of progress and prosperity but growth alone does not lead to social well-being and a happy population. Policy need to be sustainable: synergy between development, social well-being and environment."



3. Rajiv Ramlugon, Chief Sustainability Officer at Omnicane shared insights on *"Best Practices in Sustainability – The Way Forward."*



"By promoting peace, business can derive value from enhanced socio-economic prosperity and development. Promotion of Peace and harmony under SDG 16 need to be looked at with a holistic approach by looking at the interrelation with the other SDGs. Genuine Partnerships between government, corporates and civil society will be key in promoting a better society and a better world for future generations."

4. Sister Gaitree from the Brahma Kumaris dwelled on *"Consciousness – The Missing Dimension in Sustainability"*

"The Power of Silence: When we move within the inner space of our pure original consciousness...we move beyond the effect of law of gravity. We enter a sublime dimension which...like the surface of a still lake....a mirror... reveals our inherent, innately precious, and invaluable treasures of peace, love, purity, strength, light of an inner knowing, happiness, and bliss ...the fundamental nature of our Divinity. They rise to the surface of our minds, and hearts bring us closer to the Creator, the Supreme Being and they enhance our thoughts, speech, actions, interactions, behaviours and attitudes."



After the discussion, Mrs. Stephanie Noellis, local artist and composer (picture below) sang a heartfelt rendition of "Heal the World," creating a harmonious atmosphere that resonated with the event's message of peace and unity. Dr. Rachna Kallee delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and organizers for their commitment to the event's objectives and invited the audience for a vegan lunch as a symbol of unity and sustainable living.



Themes and Messages:

Throughout the event, several key themes and messages were emphasized, reinforcing the significance of peace and cooperation in achieving global sustainability. Participants were reminded of the interconnectedness of peace and sustainable development, where inner peace served as the foundation for global peace. Collaboration among stakeholders, including private and public organizations, civil societies, and individuals, was highlighted as essential for realizing the SDGs. The event also underscored the importance of empowering young people and promoting environmental sustainability.

Achievements and Outcomes:

The "Global Goals for Peace" event successfully achieved its goals and objectives. It effectively raised awareness about the integral role of peace in advancing the SDGs and encouraged participants to recognize the value of inner peace as a catalyst for global peace. Around 50 attendees present left with fresh insights and a strengthened commitment to contribute to a more harmonious world.

The atmosphere at the event was one of positivity, inspiration, and a deep commitment to global peace and sustainable development. Sister Gaitree words of wisdom, rooted in over 40 years of meditation practice, resonated with the audience and inspired them to seek inner peace as a means of becoming mentally strong and resilient in the face of adversity.

The "Global Goals for Peace" event at the Global Peace House in Mauritius was a remarkable gathering that highlighted the paramount importance of peace in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. With distinguished speakers, insightful presentations, and a harmonious atmosphere, the event succeeded in fostering a deeper understanding of how inner peace can be a transformative force in building a more sustainable and peaceful world



Audience participating in exercise during the programme



Group photo of speakers with organisers at the end