

KAIROS CANADA AND FOR LOVE OF CREATION

DELEGATION TO COP27



KAIROS Staff with KAIROS / For the Love of Creation COP27 Delegates in Sharm El-Sheikh.



FOR THE **LOVE**
OF **CREATION**

A. Introduction

The joint KAIROS and For the Love of Creation (FLC) delegation, with support from KAIROS, The United Church of Canada (UCC), FLC members and Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) sent global partners, and Indigenous partners and youth from Canada to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Conference of the Parties 2022 (COP27) which took place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt between November 8-18, 2022. Delegates received accreditation through The United Church of Canada and the Canadian Pavilion at COP27. The delegation was framed around the theme, **Decolonizing Climate Action**, with the goal of bringing the voices and experiences of women peacebuilders, land defenders, youth and Indigenous peoples to COP27 to raise awareness of their critical role in addressing climate change. The objective of the delegation was to increase understanding and visibility of the urgency and importance of meaningful participation and leadership of women human rights defenders and peacebuilders, youth and Indigenous peoples from Canada and the Global South in decision-making spaces related to climate policy, programming, and action. Another key objective was high level advocacy with the Canadian government on the policies and programs needed to support the leadership and solutions of communities most impacted by the climate crisis.



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B The Delegates

The delegation included four women peacebuilders and environmental defenders from the Global South who have been partners of KAIROS through the Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security program and more recently the emerging work on gender, conflict and climate.

Chantal Bilulu, Project Manager for the Women, Peace and Security program at Héritiers de la Justice, Democratic Republic of Congo

Hana Elias Antoun Kare, a researcher, trainer and peace activist with Wiam: Palestine Conflict Transformation Centre, West Bank, Palestine

Juan Rachael Michael Roberto, Advocacy Coordinator for the South Sudan Council of Churches Kelly Campo, a member of the coordinating committee of the Organización Femenina Popular (OFP), Colombia

Kelly Campo, a member of the coordinating committee of the Organización Femenina Popular (OFP), Colombia



From Left: Hana Elias Antoun Kare, Chantal Bilulu, Kelly Campo, Rachel Warden KAIROS, and Juan Rachael Michael Roberto

The delegation also included three delegates from Canada:

Clifford Mushquash, KAIROS Blanket Exercise facilitator, advocate and health promoter, Anishinaabe from Pawgwasheeng (Pays Plat First Nation) on the north shore of GichiGami (Lake Superior)

Tia Kennedy, Indigenous Youth Advocate, speaker and consultant, Oneida Nation of The Thames and Walpole Island First Nation

Yusra Shafi, international student from Kuwait at the University of Toronto, volunteer and former intern at Development and Peace



Delegates Tia Kennedy, Clifford Mushquash and Hana Elias prepare tobacco ties before the KAIROS Blanket Exercise at COP27.

Youth delegates, Tia Kennedy and Yusra Shafi, were selected and sponsored by For the Love of Creation (FLC).

As well, three KAIROS Global solidarity partners who focus on Climate Justice and Indigenous Rights and were part of other delegations to COP27 joined the KAIROS/FLC delegation and lent their support, including:

Noble Wadzah, Coordinator of Oil Watch Africa's Ghana chapter

Ivonne Yanez, a founding member and current president of Acción Ecológica, Ecuador

Paul Belisario, Assistant Global Coordinator for the International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self Determination and Liberation, Philippines

C Key Outcomes

At COP27 the delegation covered a lot of ground, participating in more than 200 events, including official side events, government and civil events in the blue and green zones as well as the civil society hub, advocacy meetings and direct actions. Delegates attended the meetings that were most interesting and relevant to their work and contexts and participated in events with other delegates and as a full delegation.

A few of these individual delegate experiences that contributed to the collective success of the delegation included:

- **Tia Kennedy** was invited to a meeting of Indigenous, Black and other racialized youth with Steven Guilbeault, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.
- **Yusra Shafi** attended a negotiators' training session and sat with members of the Canadian negotiating team.
- While at the Colombian Pavilion, **Kelly Campo** had the opportunity to talk to the Colombian Minister of Environment.
- **Juan Rachael Roberto** lent her voice to the ACT Alliance [Youth COP Climate Caravan](#) Twitter Space.

Key outcomes of the delegation also included delivering two very successful events.

Canadian Pavilion Event – Global Perspectives on Climate, Conflict & Peace and Gender Equality.



Chantal Bilulu and Canada's Climate Change Ambassador, after panel at the Canadian Pavilion.

KAIROS' Women, Peace and Security partners were featured in an event co-hosted by KAIROS and the Equality Fund at the Canadian Pavilion – **Global Perspectives on Climate, Conflict & Peace and Gender Equality**. The partners brilliantly presented their contexts and work as local peacebuilders, addressing the climate crisis, ongoing conflict and gender violence. This increased the understanding of the urgency and importance of their leadership and these perspectives from women peacebuilders in the Global South in climate policy, programming and action.

This event was also an opportunity to meet our objective of high-level advocacy with the Canadian government. Indeed, delegates Chantal Bilulu and Hana Kare were able to exchange and build connections with Canada's Climate Ambassador, Catherine Stewart, about the nexus of climate, conflict and gender inequality in DRC and Palestine after the Ambassador's participation in their group discussion at our event at the Canadian Pavilion. Later that day, KAIROS' staff and a delegate, Yusra Shafi, met with the Ambassador and were able to follow up on the messages and recommendations from partners. Canadian Senator Bovey was also present, and greeted and thanked the partners after their presentations.

KAIROS Blanket Exercise at COP27



Clifford Mushquash, KAIROS Blanket Exercise facilitator, advocate and health promoter, Anishinaabe from Pawgwasheeng (Pays Plat First Nation) on the north shore of GichiGami (Lake Superior), helped facilitate the KAIROS Blanket Exercise at COP27.

Another collective highlight was the entire delegation's involvement in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise under the leadership of Clifford Mushquash. Clifford's blog is a powerful account of this experience. From the onset, delivering the KAIROS Blanket Exercise at COP27 was a key delegation objective.

The event brought together participants from a diversity of backgrounds in the Social Justice Civil Society Hub of COP27 and was an opportunity to better understand and communicate the relationship between colonization, land and the climate crisis. Delegates, participants and partners, guided by Indigenous delegates Clifford Mushquash and Tia Kennedy, were able to share their experiences of the impacts of colonization and climate change on their communities and demonstrate the devastating impacts of historic and ongoing colonization on the land and the environment. A number of participants were themselves Indigenous from the Global South, including Guatemala and the Philippines. The event also exemplified the urgent need for a different relationship with Mother Earth, a decolonization led by Indigenous peoples.

Besides the many events delegates attended, COP27 was also an important opportunity for real cohesion, friendships and for lasting relationships between delegates as well as the people they met with forged around a common commitment to climate justice.

D Advocacy

Another key objective of the delegation was high level advocacy with the Canadian government on the policies and programs needed to support the leadership and solutions of communities most impacted by the climate crisis. KAIROS delegates and staff who had experience in advocacy provided mentorship for other delegates. We worked with allied organizations and networks including ACT Alliance and the World Council of Churches, and solidarity partners, who have considerable experience with advocacy at the COP meetings, during joint advocacy meetings. In this way the delegation was also an opportunity for leadership development on advocacy for KAIROS and the delegates.

Key advocacy activities included:

- Delegates participated in the daily briefing meetings of CAN-RAC (Climate Action Network – Réseau action climat Canada)
- Briefing with the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Climate Change Ambassador and chief negotiator for civil society (all delegates)
- Meetings with members of Canada's negotiating team (Yusra)
- Meeting with Member of Parliament, Mike Morris, Green Party with ACT Alliance (Clifford, Tia, Yusra and Rachel)
- Meeting with Canada's Climate Change Ambassador, Catherine Steward with ACT Alliance (Radia, Rachel and Yusra)
- Meeting with Minister Guilbeault for Indigenous, Black and racialize youth (Tia)



Delegates participated in, No more Stolen Sisters and Stolen land, a public action at COP27

E Public Engagement in Canada

Public Events

KAIROS and For the Love of Creation held seven public online events inspired by or supporting the COP27 delegation. Two of these events had most of the delegates present (Nov 3 and Dec 1). Two more events had recordings of the delegates available and the last three spoke about the themes of the delegation. There were also three prayer sessions in October, led by an Indigenous minister, Rev. Tony Snow, and focused on the themes of COP and supporting the delegation. The reach of the events was extended by holding events with delegates in three languages, as well as circulating recordings of the events to everyone who registered and [posting them online](#).

		Participants
September 13	Meet the Delegation (KAIROS)	45
October 4	Road to COP: Spirit and Justice (FLC)	60
October 18	Road to COP: Spirit and Solidarity (FLC)	51
November 3	Voices to COP27 (Joint)	100
November 3	Following the Voices (Joint)	30
November 22	Road past COP: Spirit and Change (FLC)	69
December 1	Voices from COP27 (Joint)	52



Delegates participated in the Peoples' March at COP27

Animators' Circle

The Animators' Circle was made up of individuals in Canada who were committed to following the COP27 proceedings closely and to sharing what they learned with their own networks. There were 31 people on the Animators Circle list, from ecumenical staff to delegation applicants to volunteers. The Circle met four times on its own (before, twice during and after COP) and met once online with the delegates in the middle of their time in Egypt. Both the delegates and the animators were very pleased to be able to connect like that. Animators wrote articles for community papers or newsletters, circulated their thoughts or summaries of COP proceedings to their personal networks, shared social media or blogs and supported the delegates through prayers and messages. The Circle gave people a place to feel like they were not alone and that their small part contributed to something bigger. One person said that being part of the circle and following COP27 closely changed her whole perspective on climate change work and deepened her commitment. Many others were grateful for the time together and felt integrally connected to the global work.

Candles for COP

Candles for COP27 vigils happened in at least 19 locations across Canada from Victoria to Whitehorse to Prospect, NS on the weekend of November 11-13, in the middle of COP27. More people joined in prayer for COP27 in their own homes and churches through this initiative. For the Love of Creation partnered with ClimateFast in the development of the initiative and promoted it through [a listing on the FLC website](#), supported by KAIROS staff. [This 2-minute video](#) shows photo highlights of the vigils.

F Media Coverage and Communication

The 10-member delegation to COP27 enjoyed strong media coverage, particularly from the CBC. Coverage included TV, radio, online publication, two opinion articles and a letter to the editor. While the Canadian coverage focused on the three delegates from Canada, Yusra, Clifford and Tia spoke of the Global South delegates to amplify their experiences. Coverage was also reposted on platforms such as NationTalk, Yahoo! News, and MSN Canada.

We recorded 5 printed articles, 12 online articles, 3 radio appearances, 3 podcasts interviews, 2 TV appearances, 2 online videos and 2 online Op-eds with a total reach of 24,442,324. Delegates attended meetings that were most interesting and relevant to their work and contexts as well as participating in events together. Each day we posted [a blog](#) written by a different delegate.

G Lessons learned, recommendations and future plans

In our evaluation meetings, we reflected on how instrumental the COP27 experience was in terms of centering the voices of partners and Indigenous people and youth in climate discussions and policy before, after and during COP, building leadership and strengthening ongoing work on climate justice. Strong delegates were identified, and staff, animators and supporters felt encouraged by the amplification of the voices and messages from the delegation. The delegation generated interest, extending beyond COP27. The engagement of the KAIROS and FLC networks, the involvement of COP26 virtual delegates as animators and event hosts allowed for continuity and added insights and support pre and post COP. Adding youth delegates to the delegation also made it stronger and ensured a greater diversity of voices.

The theme of Decolonization was a strong unifying thread that very much linked to the work and messages of the delegates. The KAIROS Blanket Exercise at COP27 demonstrated that the KBE was a great way to center Indigenous history and leadership across the world, particularly as it relates to the connection to land, water and environment. The KBE at COP27 communicated a valuable lesson: Indigenous people are and must be at the forefront of climate action.

Beyond the many events, partners built valuable connections with other delegates and discussed opportunities going forward, including participation in regional climate action weeks, possibilities for COP28 and how the KBE and discussion about colonization apply to their own regional contexts.

We will continue to listen to and amplify the voices of the delegates, supporting them in their contexts and communities as well as in creating a thread to extend from COP27 to COP28.

Further recommendations for follow and future engagement in COP:

- ♦ Continued emphasis on Indigenous participation at COP, including through the KBE; possibly including a climate action version of the KBE.
- ♦ Ongoing support for delegates and partners where they are at, including supporting their participation in the UN Regional Climate weeks or supporting them in organizing their own delegations to COP.
- ♦ Build on what delegates have said and learned from COP, and support partners and KAIROS to a deeper dive into the understanding of decolonizing climate action.
- ♦ Develop a COP27 video to highlight the experiences of delegates (in process, expected release in early June 2023).

- ♦ Support delegates' and partners' work on Loss and Damage. For example, as a result of their participation to COP27, Oil Watch Africa will be focusing their 2023 solidarity partnership funding from KAIROS on research and education on effective and sustainable establishment and management of the Loss and Damage fund.
- ♦ A KAIROS policy brief on Loss and Damage to highlight partners voices and to complement their work and research (in process, expected release in March 2023).
- ♦ Youth delegates to lead a workshop about their experiences at COP27 at the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering in August 2023.
- ♦ Connect delegates with Canadian networks for further speaking engagements.



Delegates at COP27 connecting to animators' circle in Canada

Appendix A: COP27 media metrics

- CFCR 90.5FM (Saskatoon's Community Radio Station), October 26, 2022: [From The Ground Up Ep. 253: COP27 and environmental justice](#), with Yusra Shafi (radio and podcast)
- CBC Superior Morning, November 3, 2022: [Clifford Musquash: COP27](#). (radio and podcast)
- CBC News (web), November 4, 2022 (Tia Kennedy is interviewed): [Human rights defenders warn activists are being arrested ahead of Egypt's climate summit](#) (online)
- CBC Canada Tonight with Dwight Drummond, November 4, 2022 (Tia Kennedy is interviewed. Begins at 26:53 mark): [Climate Change Conference](#). (TV)
- CBC News Network, November 6, 2022 (Clifford Musquash is interviewed): [COP27 \(Climate leaders should take cue from Indigenous stewardship, activists say\)](#) (TV)
- Broadview Magazine, November 18, 2022: [Anishinaabe COP27 delegate challenges non-Indigenous Canadians to 'reset the table'](#) (online)
- The Catholic Register, November 19, 2022 (Yusra Shafi is featured): [Opportunity, frustration for COP27 delegate](#) (print and online)
- The Catholic Register, November 23, 2022 (Yusra Shafi is featured): [COP27 deal 'simply isn't enough,' says D&P delegate](#) (print and online)