

## **A Brief Report on COP 27 at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt 2022**

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I would love to thank Boston College for choosing me as one of its 20 observer-delegates to COP 27, the Schiller Institute for putting the trip together and the CTEWC/Enrico Dolazza for the travel fellowship granted me and one other CTEWC member, Sara Bernard-Hoverstad. Our travel to and participation in this conference would not be possible without your generous efforts.

For a background to this all-important global conference, “COP” stands for Conference of Parties. It refers to the annual UN conference held since 1994 by approximately 200 countries that have, so far, ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).<sup>1</sup> Parties to this convention meet to negotiate its implementations with a focus on 3 actionable goals: to mitigate further climate change by limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, to develop resources for adapting to current realities, and to form a global solidarity that could help poor nations deal with their disproportionate share of losses and damages resulting from climate change. This year marked the 27th conference and it was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from November 6-18. It is the fifth time that the conference has been hosted in Africa and this meant a lot to me as an African with great impacts on my current research interests and new options for future career.

Before highlighting the impact of COP 27 on my research, let me briefly share some of my experiences. I participated in the second week of the conference, precisely November 14-18. During this period, I observed some high-level plenaries and negotiations. I focused on the issue of climate justice, which became a central case at this conference – after 27 years of its inception. One area that justice featured a lot was the persistent call by many developing countries especially from the global south and small Island nations like Nauru and Tuvalu, for the establishment of a global solidarity fund that helps them address losses and damages resulting from climate change. One central argument was that these countries, who contribute less to the global warming, should not be left to solely bear the brunt of the resulting climate crisis by many wealthy countries in the global north, who are contributing more to this crisis, and that a COP held on the African continent cannot be seen as successful without establishing such a fund that will benefit more than 50 African countries. This fund was insistently pushed onto the agenda just at the inception of COP 27, and negotiations stretched for two additional days before it was finally established. Let’s see if next year’s COP 28 in Dubai will lay out the modalities and practical steps towards its implementation.

Finally, one major impact of COP 27 for me is the opportunity to discuss my long-standing interests in developmental ethics and environmental justice with a variety of other researchers as well as state and non-state actors in the field of climate change. Sara and I spoke at a round-table by Catholics at COP27 in collaboration with The Holy See, which recently became a party to the convention. I spoke on the need to recognize the many efforts by women in sub-Saharan Africa who fervently contribute to mitigating the global climate crisis through environmental activism. I started working on this issue in Nigeria and, later, Ireland. It was also the topic of my paper at a conference in Venice earlier this year. I now hope to use my COP 27 resources to develop it further.

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<sup>1</sup>For more, see “UNFCCC,” accessed December 10, 2022, <https://unfccc.int/>. Also, see Cameron katz, “COP27 101,” Action for the Climate Emergency, October 31, 2022, <https://acespace.org/2022/10/31/cop27-10/>.