



26/11/2022

COP27 ATTENDANCE REPORT: MS MANASITI OMAR

Introduction

As a youth leader, climate/gender justice advocate and a founder of a startup non-profit organization, I felt compelled to attend COP27 to not only make my voice heard but also that of my community's. Being from a pastoral community in Kenya, I witnessed firsthand the effects of the climate crisis through extreme weather events such as droughts which devastated our lives. I strongly believe that by telling my community's story and representing them in important climate conferences, we stood a chance to not only get reparations, transition into more sustainable livelihood activities but also to save our culture, people and ancestral land.

The 27th conference of parties of the UNFCCC took place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from 06-20th November 2022. This climate summit, termed as "the action COP" brought countries together to take action in achieving the goals set under the Paris agreement and the convention. Some of the themes discussed at COP 27 were; adaptation, finance, net zero, loss and damage etcetera.

Activities at COP 27

1. Official spokesperson on gender of the COP 27 children and youth pavilion.
2. Panel speaker: 10th November 2022 Event organized by IUCN, topic: (NbS) for climate adaptation in mountains: promoting women leadership in agricultural landscapes- Korean Pavillion 09:30-11:30am
3. Side event: 27 minutes of climate action at COP 27: Our project "Greening the ASAL's" was among the 27 videos selected to be showcased at this event by voices for just climate action by Akina mama wa AFRIKA, Avina Foundation, Hivos, South South North and WWF.
4. Speaker: 14th Nov 2022, IUCN, GEF event on: Rising to the challenge; driving gender responsive and inclusive climate actions, GEF pavilion, 9:30-11:30am
5. Speaker: Bankimoon Center for Global Citizens event on: Seeds of equality; young women shaping regenerative agriculture and empowering female farmers in the global south. In this event, I presented about my organization, Spring of the arid and semi-arid lands (SASAL) and particularly on our land restoration/regenerative agriculture project (Greening the ASAL'S). Bankimoon Center was

showcasing stories from 3 women in regenerative agriculture.

6. Speaker on the Feminist action for climate justice action coalition of the generation equality forum event; as an indigenous youth leader and member of Fridays for Future MAPA. Topic: Engage with grassroots organizations community methodologies; how we drove climate resilience in our communities and our personal stories. I showcased a video about my story and the current climate situation back home, what my community was facing.

7. Keynote listener; High level side event organized by UN Women, Nordic council of ministers, African Union with African and Nordic leaders on panel as well as the UN Women director to discuss why gender is key to the green transition. My role alongside 3 other youths (2 African, 2 Nordic) involved keenly listening to the leaders discussions and give reflections and ask questions.

Other sessions attended

1. Bankimoon center of global citizens changemakers networking event: I attended this meeting as a Global citizen scholar of the institution. I got to meet fellow changemakers as well as the BKMC staff. We told our stories and exchanged contacts.
2. People's plenary session
3. Negotiations; loss and damage, ACE
4. Conversation with the BRAC executive director Asif Saleh.
5. Actions on loss and damage
6. Presenting group results at the C & Y pavilion.
7. Several side events on climate finance, loss and damage, sharing personal stories, gender and climate etcetera.

Media Interviews

As the official spokesperson on gender for the children and youth pavilion as well as a climate and gender justice advocate; I did several media interviews to give my views on the COP discussions, my personal story as well as to discuss other topics related to climate change. I had the opportunity to speak to the following media and campaigns;

- BBC sci and env
- BBC Nairobi
- Did a press briefing with several media stations
- The independent (Twice, follow with Gabi)
- Sci Dev
- Greenpeace International social media
- LetMe Breath In
- Currently
- Korea times
- NHK Japan
- Earthrise studio;
- Nigeria Tribune
- Nation Media group
- The Ugandan freelance media
- Italian: ilfattoquotidiano

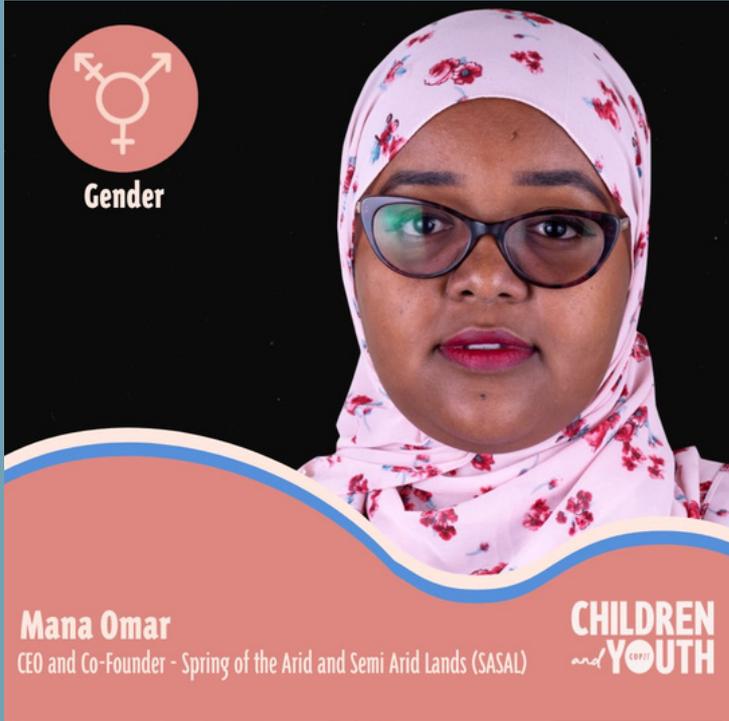
All my media features can be found here

Except those i'm yet to get the link to.

My Key takeaways and reflections from COP27

- A loss and damage finance facility set to compensate poor nations suffering impacts of climate change:
Despite this breakthrough, this fund will take years to even figure out how the money will be distributed and which nations will benefit.
- No real progress was made to drastically cut and reduce greenhouse gas emissions necessary to attain the ambitious target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial level. As it is, 1.1 degrees, countries in the global south are already facing devastating impacts of climate change.
- There is insufficient women leadership indicating a clear gender gap. The negotiations on the gender action plan also ended up with no substantial progress.

Pictorials









Conclusions

From all the parallel discussions and negotiations at this climate summit, it is evident that a lot has not been achieved. Even though a loss and damage finance facility was agreed upon, there are a lot of gaps. There is no clear structure of which countries are contributing to this fund, how the money will be distributed and which poor countries qualify. To top it up, the root cause of the whole problem which is fossil fuels was not phased out neither did countries agree to make more ambitious and drastic emission cuts. The lack of inclusivity is also clearly evident, in decision making spaces especially where we see no gender equality. The lack of substantial progress on the review of the gender action plan clearly depicts that these negotiations have not served the purpose of gender equality in climate action and hence inconsiderate to women and girls at the frontlines of the climate crisis.

My hope as a young woman from one of the most affected communities is that these agreements, pledges etc. will be legally binding to ensure accountability. Climate change isn't an issue to gamble with.