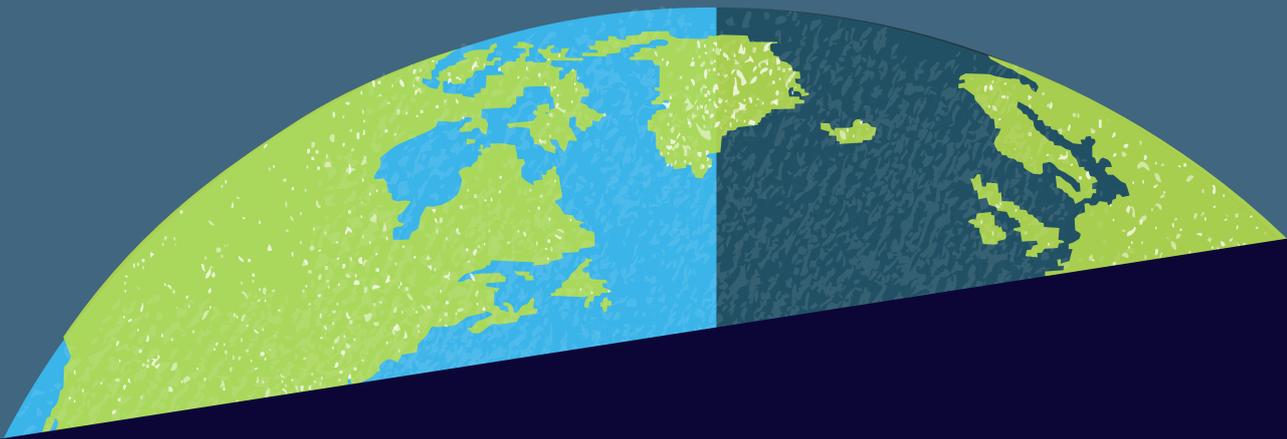


10 YEARS OF CAIRO CLIMATE TALKS



79TH CAIRO CLIMATE TALK REPORT

**10 Years later:
Reflecting on the past and
looking at what is to come**

30TH NOVEMBER 2021 // WRITTEN BY MERNA GHALY
EDITED BY LILLY VON STACKELBERG

On the 30th of November 2021, the Cairo Climate Talks (CCT) celebrated its 10 year anniversary since the first CCT held in Cairo in 2011. The event was held at the German Embassy Gardens and livestreamed through [Facebook](#).

Cairo Climate Talks (CCT) first started in 2011, as a collaboration between the German Embassy in Cairo, the Egyptian Ministry of Environment, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), with the main purpose of becoming a platform to exchange experiences, raise awareness and foster cooperation between policymakers, business, the scientific community, and civil society.

The first ever CCT came after the 17th Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with its first public panel to discuss the outcomes of COP17 and the way forward as the first commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol came to an end. Fast-forward to 10 years later, CCT has continued to build on the strong partnership



between Germany and Egypt on energy and environment, and has grown its platform to encompass much more than public panels and expert workshops with very specific topics.

In 2021 CCT remains dedicated to its goal of encouraging and growing the environmental scene and connecting people from all walks of lives, fields, and age groups to come together and work on climate related issues. The CCT network of partners, supporters, and aligned organizations is ever expanding, and it is this network that allows us to bring the resources to people, and the people to our resources by organizing workshops, partnering for clean-ups, and joining into different annual events.

"GERMANY TAKES CLIMATE CHANGE VERY SERIOUSLY AND IS WILLING TO CONTINUE COOPERATING WITH ITS PARTNERS ALL OVER THE WORLD TO IMPLEMENT THE GOALS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THIS REQUIRES ACTION, LEADERSHIP, RELIABILITY AND COMMITMENT FROM ALL OF US" - AMB. HARTMANN

The event was opened by speeches from Amb. Frank Hartmann, the German Ambassador to Egypt, Amb. Mohamed Nasr, Head of Environment and Sustainable Development Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Ali Abo Sena, CEO Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, and a video speech from the German Minister of State Niels Annen. Followed by the awarding ceremony for the winners of the Garbage Art Competition for school students.



The incredible artwork made and shared by all the competition participants was showcased in the Garbage Art Exhibition, to be viewed by all attendees, and later Livestreamed for everyone watching online.

The evening also included a number of testimonials from different CCT stakeholders, As well as a moderated discussion between Loay Awni from Youththinkgreen, Marwan Rasmy from Greenish, and Lilly von Stackelberg from CCT.

AMB. NASR HIGHLIGHTED THAT THE EVOLUTION OF CCT IS A REFLECTION OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUE FROM BEING JUST AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE TO BE A CROSSCUTTING POLITICAL, DEVELOPMENTAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ONE

Ambassador Hartmann started his speech with a reference to the outcomes of COP26 in Glasgow, with a direct quote from the US president Joe Biden "Climate change is already ravaging the world. It's not a hypothetical threat. It is destroying people's lives and livelihoods, and doing it every single day". He then further elaborated on the need for serious commitments for reducing carbon emissions and the need for implementing necessary adaptation measures, especially for the most affected countries of the global south, who only contribute on a small scale to global warming and carbon emissions, but who will be most affected by its impacts.

The Egyptian perspective on the COP26 negotiations was given by Amb. Nasr, who stated that many things have changed from COP15 in Copenhagen, mainly the global commitment to tackle climate change that was missing 15 years ago, a commitment to move forward, collaborate, and deal with this existential threat. He further highlighted that Egypt's hosting of COP27 in 2022 is an indicator of its commitment to enhance this global commitment to tackle climate change and push for the ambition on all fronts, building on Glasgow and going further. According to Amb. Nasr, the outcomes of Glasgow include both a political element and a technical one, and hoped to see everyone in Sharm El-Sheikh next year for the 27th COP of the UNFCCC.

Third on stage was Dr. Ali Abo Sena, who conveyed the regards of H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad the Egyptian Minister of Environment, and proceeded to comment on the innovative nature of the collaboration between the German and Egyptian governments that led to the establishment of the CCT as a platform 10 years ago, that aimed to reach out to different target groups. This has allowed for building of the local

capacities and understanding of the climate change issues, which will be the base upon which COP27 will rely to bring all the different expertise and stakeholders together. Egypt is one of the most affected countries from climate change, and accordingly will be needing to take substantial measures especially in relation to adaptation and also mitigation. Dr. Abo Sena further stressed on the importance of coming into COP27 with a Climate Action Roadmap and the fostering of fruitful dialogue between developing and developed countries.

Final opening speech was delivered by Minister of State Annen, starting off with stating that with the end of COP26, it is now clearer than ever that countries all over the world will need to drastically increase their efforts to keep the 1.5 degree Celsius goal alive so as to avoid the worst effects of climate change. The good news is that Glasgow showed that countries are willing to work together to find solutions to key questions and issues in relation to climate change. Egypt and Germany have been closely collaborating on several profiles, including Egyptian German Joint Committee on Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Environmental Protection, the National Solid Waste Management Programme, as well as pushing on the climate financing front in the international climate negotiations. By issuing the first Green Bonds in the region, Egypt has become a leading example for all of Africa in the field of climate financing.

AWARDING CEREMONY: GARBAGE ART COMPETITION

Following the opening speeches, the winners of the Garbage Art Competition were announced in an awarding ceremony. The sustainable awards produced by Upfuse included upcycled backpacks and invitations to join any of Upfuse's coming workshops were presented to the three winners by Amb. Hartmann, Amb. Nasr, and Dr. Abo Sena.

Winners of the Garbage Art Competition:

First Place: Karim Shabana, Europa Schule Kairo

Second Place: Jana Mohamed Ibrahim, Sharm El Sheikh College

Third Place: Kamal Magdy Kamal, Mohamed Zahran Experimental Language Schools (Alexandria)

MARWAN BELIEVES THAT IF WE RELY ONLY ON THE TOP DOWN APPROACHES TO TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS, THIS WILL NEVER SUSTAIN LIKE THE BOTTOM UP APPROACH FOR CHANGE, WHICH IS THE BEAUTY OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

The last segment of the evening was moderated statements by key actors and youth civil society organizations that have been engaged with CCT from the very early stages. The statements reflected on the past 10 years, the role CCT has played with their different organisations, and how they see the future for Egypt in relation to the climate issue and efforts to adapt to and mitigate its impending threats. The lively discussion was moderated by Merna Ghaly, CCT coordinator, and started by Lilly von Stackelberg also a CCT coordinator reflecting on her experience with CCT and the opportunity to speak with different people who initially started the CCT and are still very excited that CCT is still active 10 years later with

initiatives that tackle and encourage the different segments in the climate issue, including journalists, school students, and civil society organizations. Lilly further mentioned that CCT is older than both of the two organizations also present on the panel, and has actually played a role in their conceptualization.

This was further confirmed by Loay Awni who stated that at the very start, all Youththinkgreen had was a concept note for the sustainability summer school they had wanted to start in 2014, and that the only place that would provide them the support needed within the limited timeframe was CCT. While Marwan Rasmy from Greenish commented on how CCT was his first introduction to climate change and the climate issues, which led to the current professional choices and success, and that he was introduced to Youththinkgreen as a student through CCT.

Looking to the future, what the organizations think is that what they can do is to make sure that every year has one more unique thing than the one before, they stressed on the vitality of including a bottom up approach for change, and using the built capacities to develop localized content to further engage other segments of society.

SPEAKERS

Amb. Frank Hartmann

German Ambassador,
German Embassy

Amb. Mohamed Nasr

Head of Environment and Sustainable Development
Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Ali Abo Sena

CEO,
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency

Mr. Niels Annen

Minister of State
German Federal Foreign Office

Loay Awni

Youththinkgreen

Marwan Rasmy

Greenish

Lilly von Stackelberg

Cairo Climate Talks

Hosted by:

Philippe Maupai

Head of Science, German Embassy

Moderated by:

Merna Ghaly

Coordinator, Cairo Climate Talks

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Cairo Climate Talks are conceived, organized and hosted as a cooperation between the German Embassy in Cairo, the Egyptian Ministry of Environment, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ).



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