



**UNFCCC Climate Change Conference**

**COP28**

**Expo City, Dubai, UAE**

**November 30th to December 12th 2023**

**[WWW.ROTARY-UN.ORG](http://WWW.ROTARY-UN.ORG)**

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COP28 was the third time Rotary International had an official delegation, which I was privileged to lead as Dean of the Rotary Representatives Network to the United Nations and International Agencies. The 31 Rotary Representatives represent Rotary at 22 UN and other agencies. UNFCCC and the host government organise COP conferences. The Rotary COP28 delegation was comprised of President Gordon McNally, Chair of Rotary Foundation Barry Rassin, General Secretary John Hewko, Judith Diment, Dean of Rotary Representatives to the United Nations and International Agencies, Dr Chris Puttock, Chair Rotary Action Groups Council, and Mohamed Delawar Rotary Representative to the Arab League. Thirteen other Rotarians attended in their capacity as programme leaders, moderators, or speakers at breakout sessions. Twenty Rotaractors attended, including eight members of Rotaract in Dubai and twelve selected from Rotaract clubs around the world representing every continent.

**Judith Diment MBE**

**Dean of Rotary Representatives Network to the UN and International Agencies**

## UNFCCC and COP28

Rotary has had Observer status since the formation of the UN in 1947. COP28 was organised by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and hosted by the UAE Government in Expo City, a state-of-the-art destination built to promote sustainability and circularity principles. COP28 was attended by 154 Heads of Government and country delegations and 1,600 IGOs and NGOs. Some 85,000 participants attended COP28, including the member states (or Parties) of the UNFCCC, business leaders, young people, climate scientists, Indigenous Peoples, journalists, and various other experts and stakeholders were among the participants to share ideas and solutions and build partnerships and coalitions. The Conference of Parties (COP) is the world's only multilateral decision-making forum on climate change, with almost complete membership from every country.

COP is where the world comes together to agree on ways to address the climate crisis, such as limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, helping vulnerable communities adapt to the effects of climate change, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

The conference was organised in a Blue Zone and a Green Zone. The Blue Zone held the governments' plenary sessions, the Delegations Pavilions, and individual Government and NGO Pavilions and was open to registered delegates and organisations with Observer status only. The Green Zone was open to the public and included exhibitors from businesses and NGOs.

After 13 days of intense negotiations, COP28 concluded on 13th December with every Party at COP28 - representing almost 200 countries - with a breakthrough agreement that signals the "beginning of the end" of the fossil fuel era by laying the ground for a swift, just and equitable transition, underpinned by deep emissions cuts and scaled-up finance.

In a demonstration of global solidarity, negotiators from nearly 200 Parties came together in Dubai with a decision on the world's first 'global stocktake' to ratchet up climate action before the end of the decade - with the overarching aim to keep the global temperature limit of 1.5°C within reach. The World Climate Action Summit began the two-week conference, which brought together 154 Heads of State and Government. Parties reached a historic agreement on the operationalisation of the loss and damage fund and funding arrangements - the first time a substantive decision was adopted on the first day of the conference. Commitments to the fund started coming in moments after the decision was made, totalling more than USD 700 million.

Climate finance took centre stage at the conference, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) received a boost to its second replenishment, with six countries pledging new funding at COP28, with total pledges now standing at a record USD 12.8 billion from 31 countries, with further contributions expected.

# 2. UNFCCC AND COP

For the first time at a COP, the UNFCCC designated eight thematic days on the following topics:

Health, Relief, Recovery, Peace, Finance, Trade, Gender Equality, Energy and Industry, Just Transition, Indigenous People, Urbanisation and the Built Environment, Transport, Youth, Children Education and Skills, Nature, Land use, Oceans, Food, Agriculture and Water.

This reflects that climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) impact every aspect of society.

These thematic days match what Rotary International does through the service of its clubs, districts, and, indeed, globally through the seven focus areas.

## 2. UNFCCC AND COP

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AT COP28 ADDRESSING HUMANITARIAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

For the past 118 years, Rotary International has been at the forefront of humanitarian efforts. Rotary's engagement at COP28 is a testament to our ongoing commitment to address the critical intersection between humanitarian actions and environmental sustainability. Through robust collaborations, educational initiatives, youth engagement, networking, digital outreach, and feedback mechanisms, Rotary International and its partners aim to foster a culture of sustainable solutions and responsible stewardship for the planet. This engagement will serve as a platform for showcasing ongoing efforts and a catalyst for future innovations and collaborations that will drive society towards a sustainable and equitable future.

Rotary International was allocated a Pavilion in the Blue Zone for the first time. UNFCCC received 3,000 applications for 365 Pavilions. Partners including Global CSR Foundation, GAVI, IEEE, IET, Sand Dams Worldwide, Global Biodiversity Alliance, PDG Vicente Arbesu and PDG Kikis Arbesu, Rotary Clubs and Districts funded the Pavilion.

### 3.1 Objectives with five partner organisations

Rotary International, with five partner organisations, aimed to highlight humanitarian and environmental goals in reaction to and pre-emption of the world's three-fold crises: biodiversity, pollution, and climate, and also the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG) reflected by Rotary's seven Areas of Focus.

#### 3.1.1 Priorities

- Enabling High-Level Engagement of the Rotary International President and Chair of the Rotary Foundation
- Strengthening relations with delegates from the UN and UN agencies and other international agencies, especially those with Rotary representatives.
- We are creating opportunities for action by developing environment service projects with partners.
- Giving young people a voice
- Providing Rotary and Rotaract in UAE a platform to create awareness

Because of the conference's scale and the Rotary delegation's small size, it was essential to have a clear focus based on existing relationships to achieve anything meaningful. Our focus was on UN and International agencies, Government agencies, NGOs, academia and corporations, building on the engagement of Rotary Representatives to UN and International Agencies and contacts made at the previous COP conferences in 2021 and 2022. At COP28, we strengthened relations with delegates from UN agencies, including UNFCCC (Rotarian Paul Desanker), UNEP, UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO, UNDP, IUCN, WHO, UN Office for Partnerships, Commonwealth Secretariat and various Commonwealth accredited organisations, and WWF.

We engaged with more than 300 individuals in the Pavilion, including many Rotarians attending COP28 professionally with their organisations and companies. They were all delighted to see that Rotary had a Pavilion. Many expressed an interest in joining a Rotary club.

### 3.2 Programme

We presented 30 breakout sessions on all eight thematic days: 22 breakout sessions in the Rotary Pavilion, one in a larger Presentation arena in the Blue Zone, and two in the Slovenia Pavilion in the Green Zone. All sessions were recorded and will be available online in January. See Appendix 1.

In addition, Rotaractors ran five sessions in the Green Zone. See Appendix 2.

These sessions included over 100 world-class speakers from many organisations without previous contact with Rotary.

Many of the speakers expressed an interest in working with Rotary, including:

- WHO Diarmid Lendrum-Campbell Head of Climate and Health wishes to explore a partnership with Rotary on Climate and mental health
- The Institute of Electronics and Technology has 140,000 members globally, with an average age of 45. Judith Diment, MBE has arranged to meet with them in London in January.
- Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and Natural History Museum London are discussing hosting an event on climate and health in March when President Gordon McNally is in London. The Royal Botanic Gardens are interested in working with the Rotary Club Kew Gardens.
- Judith Diment, MBE will attend the Kew Road Map to 2030 meeting on January 16th 2023.



## 3.3 Further Rotary Engagement at COP28

### 3.3.1 Women in Climate Gala Dinner

The Women in Climate Gala Dinner was attended by Judith Diment, MBE and Dr Mina Venkataraman, with 200 women worldwide.

### 3.3.2 UNICEF High-level Breakfast

The UNICEF High-Level Breakfast was attended by Barry Rassin and David Gibson-Moore and hosted by UNICEF Deputy Director Kitty van der Heijden.

### 3.3.3 Reaching The Last Mile Forum

Barry Rassin, John Hewko, and Judith Diment, MBE attended Reaching the Last Mile Forum. This full-day global health conference raised \$777 million, including \$100 million from the Islamic Development Bank for polio eradication in Pakistan.

### 3.3.4 Mississippi River Authorities and Ganges River Authorities MoU Signing

Barry Rassin hosted the signing of the MOU between MRCTI (Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative) and NMCG (National Mission for Clean Ganga) through the connection with Rotarian Salvador Rico. He has been attending the yearly Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative meetings since 2019, which has allowed him to learn and observe the organisation and all the opportunities it offers to Rotary locally and worldwide.

The MOU is part of a significant initiative that involves other organisations to be part of the global River Cities Alliance. The Lord Mayor of London, Michael Mainelli, spoke at the Rotary session on energy transition. We should consider including London and the River Thames in this initiative as we are working with the Lord Mayor on a new project to plant seagrasses and restore the habitat in the Thames estuary.

The National Mission for Clean Ganga director, Asok Kumar, will continue the conversation for future cooperation; Rotary is already working on many WASH projects with the National Mission for Clean Ganga in India. There are plans to have an MOU between all those parties in the River Cities Alliance and the Amazon Watershed for COP30, and we hope to get Rotary International to be part of that MOU in COP30 in Brazil.

### 3.3.5 UNESCO Session on Greening Education Launch

Through the work of Rotary Representative to UNESCO, Cyril Noirtin, Rotary was accepted into the UNESCO Global Education Coalition in November. Rotary was invited to the Greening Education Launch at COP28. Judith Diment, MBE attended with Rotaractor Cinderella Ndoku from Zimbabwe.



### 3.3.6 Commonwealth Intergenerational Dialogue with Secretary General

The dialogue with the Secretary-General Baroness Scotland was held on Youth Day, and was attended with Judith Diment, MBE with Rotaractor Cinderella Ndoku. At this event, they launched the Commonwealth Youth Climate Report. They also launched the Commonwealth Youth Oceans Group, which Rotaractors can join.

### 3.3.7 UNICEF Bilateral with Deputy Executive Secretary

Barry Rassin and Judith Diment, MBE had a bilateral meeting with UNICEF Deputy Director Kitty van der Heijden and UNICEF Programmes Director Dr George Laryea to discuss the polio eradication programme communication channels.

### 3.3.8 Dinner with Ghanaian Royal Ambassador

Dinner meeting with Barry Rassin, David Gibson Moore and Judith Diment, MBE to meet Oheneba Yaw Otchere, Royal Ambassador Ashanti Kingdom Ghana. Oheneba attended the Gala dinner later in the week and is interested in joining Rotary. Judith Diment, MBE introduced him to Rose Cardarelli, a Washington Global club member.

### 3.3.9 Gavi Bilateral Meeting

Judith Diment, MBE had a bilateral meeting with Pascal Barollier and Anamara Bejar to discuss the polio eradication programme strategy for 2024

### 3.3.10 FAO Bilateral with Deputy Director

Judith Diment, MBE met with Manuel Barange Deputy Director of FAO. We discussed ways that Rotary clubs can engage with FAO in countries, and he advised of a pilot programme in the Caribbean to provide a bank of fishing boats, which will be distributed during hurricane and cyclone damage. The fishing boats are a new design which can withstand hurricanes. He is interested in working with Rotary, and she has connected him to Guido Franchetti, Rotary Representative to FAO in Rome.

### 3.3.11 WWF World Wildlife Fund

Salvador Rico has scheduled a meeting with Stuart Orr in January with Christopher Puttock, Keith Madden and myself. WWF work with Rotary clubs in India and the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico

### 3.3.12 Rotary Reception

80 COP28 delegates attended the very successful Rotary reception, including many sponsors, speakers and representatives from the UAE government and Italian Minister for the Environment for the Lombardy region Rotarian Giorgio Maione.

### 3.3.13 Kucoin Dinner At Atlantis Hotel

Barry Rassin, David Gibson-Moore, John Hewko, and Judith Diment, MBE attended the KuCoin Dinner organised by the Global CSR Foundation at Atlantis Hotel, attended by 200 businesspeople.

### 3.3.14 Rotary Presidential Gala Dinner

More than 330 delegates attended the very successful Rotary Gala Dinner with guest of honour UAE Minister Dr Maryam Matar. The dinner was organised by Rotary clubs in Dubai in honour of Rotary President Gordon McInally.

### 3.3.15 Resonance Climate Concert At Dubai Opera House

The concert was hosted jointly by George Jacob, CEO of San Francisco Bayecotarium, the world's largest climate museum, Rotarian Angelina Preza, and UNCCD. A group of our Rotary delegation and Rotaractors attended the concert, which was a very inspiring event with speeches by leading climate activists and music by Indian celebrity Ricky Jev, UN Goodwill Ambassador and The POLICE DE-RANGED with legendary drummer and co-founder of the rock band Police, Stewart Copeland, and All Female Firdaus Orchestra.

### 3.3.16 Brazil Indigenous Community Leader

Salvador Rico connected with Shirley Krenak, an Indigenous community leader from Brazil, whom he will meet in early January to help participate in the Kumnhmela for 2025. He participated in this event in 2019 with indigenous community leaders from around the globe; participating in these events is meaningful for these groups, and we should be part of them.

### 3.3.17 Dinner With RPN Mario Cesare

Local Rotary officers organised a dinner in honour of Rotary President Nominee Mário Césare Martins de Camargo, attended by four of our team. At the restaurant, we met John Kerry, the US Presidential Climate Envoy. We shared that we hosted the MOU of the MRCTI and NMCG River Cities Alliance at the Rotary Pavilion. He was delighted to see Rotary engaged in COP28 and shared that his father was a Rotarian. His daughter, Dr Vanessa Kerry, is the Climate and Health Ambassador for WHO and was due to speak at our health session but had emergency surgery and was not allowed to travel. Judith Diment, MBE said we would be delighted to have her speak at a Rotary event in the future.

### 3.3.18 Food Forever Experience

This event, attended by Chris Puttock and Judith Diment, MBE, was a celebration of diversity in food and utilising the variety of the world's edible plants – from a nutritional and environmental perspective and in terms of culture. Pioneering chefs Anahita Dondy from India and Conor Spacy from Ireland devised exciting dishes based on diverse, forgotten, or underused ingredients. We had the chance to interact with the chefs, scientists, and experts worldwide. The keynote speech was given by Hon Minister Anne Beathe Tvinneim, Minister for International Development of Norway, about the critical importance of conserving and using these diverse crops for the future of food security and resilient climate-adapted food systems.

### 3.3.19 UK Pavilion Side Event On Nature-Based Solutions

Judith Diment, MBE attended a side event on nature-based solutions at the UK Pavilion; the keynote address was given by Rt Hon Steven Barclay, Secretary of the State Department for Environment, Food and Agriculture. Various mangrove projects were highlighted.

The Rotary team visited various other booths in the Blue Zone, including FAO, WHO, UNICEF, WWF, Commonwealth, and the Siemens Pavilion in the Green Zone, as the CEO was one of our speakers and a Rotarian. Siemens exhibited many innovative solutions.

### 3.3.20 UAE Ministry And Sorbonne University

Rose Cardarelli, Rotary Representative to UNICEF in New York, presented at a UAE Ministry and Sorbonne University breakout session on education.

### 3.3.21 Mangroves Visit

December 7th was designated a rest day, and the Blue Zone was closed. A small group took the opportunity to visit a mangrove site at Al Zorah, where we could plant some mangroves as part of a restoration scheme. We were generously hosted by Rotarian George Saad Manager of the Al Zorah site and Rotarian Alison Burrows and Dr Christopher Puttock gave advice on mangrove restoration.

### 3.3.22 Rotarian Engagement

Niven Huang who is the Managing Director of KPMG in Taipei advised that all KPMG offices have a sustainability officer and he agreed to connect Judith Diment, MBE with the KPMG offer in London to discuss cooperation at COP29.

Rotarian Charles McNeil, Senior Advisor at UNEP, was delighted that Rotary had a pavilion and offered to help with COP29.

## 4. ROTARACT

Participation of Rotaract at COP28 was a crucial element in the planning process. The objective was to bring international Rotaractors from various environmental backgrounds to Dubai. Twelve outstanding Rotaractors were selected from six continents, showcasing the global reach of Rotary and its diversity.

A team of local Rotaractors in Dubai was formed to coordinate and facilitate this process and to lead their programme. These participants advocated for pressing topics, shared best practices, and networked to facilitate the development of projects. The process was overseen by Dr Christopher Puttock.

For a full report of their activities, see Appendix 2.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

### 5.1 Media Advisory Distribution Through UNFCCC

- All Rotary advisories were posted on the COP28 media page:
  - <https://unfccc.int/cop28/media-advisories-and-press-releases>

### 5.2 Rotary-Owned Platforms

- All media advisories and material were published on Rotary.org:
  - <https://www.rotary.org/en/cop28-media-advisories>
  - <https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-amplify-climate-action-cop28-dubai>
- A new article on Rotary at COP28 was published on Rotary.org:
  - <https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-leads-28-sessions-united-nations-climate-conference>

### 5.3 Other Media Coverage

#### 5.3.1 Youth Volunteers

##### 5.3.1.1 Advika Agarwal (U.S.)

- <https://mocoshow.com/2023/11/27/richard-montgomery-high-school-student-chosen-to-participate-in-international-climate-summit-cop28-in-dubai/>
- <https://www.nbcwashington.com/community/in-the-community/maryland-student-presents-at-climate-change-summit-in-dubai/3494290/>

##### 5.3.1.2 Lamech Opiyo (Kenya)

- <https://www.kbc.co.ke/young-kenyan-environmentalist-chosen-to-participate-in-cop28-summit-in-dubai/>
- <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/opinion/article/2001486291/how-the-youth-are-driving-climate-solutions-through-eco-action>
- <https://twitter.com/KBCChannel1/status/1729530660535050506>
- <https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2023/11/kenyan-environmentalist-lamech-opiyo-to-represent-youth-voices-at-cop28/>
- <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/realtime/2023-12-01-young-kenyan-environmentalist-chosen-to-participate-at-cop28-in-dubai/>
- <https://newsafricanow.com/kenya/kenyan-environmentalist-lamech-opiyo-to-represent-youth-voices-at-cop28/>
- <https://allafrica.com/stories/202311300354.html>

##### 5.3.1.13 Abdul Rashid Wumpini Alhassan And Eva-Marie Mawuena Abia Ecklu (Ghana)

- <https://citinewsroom.com/2023/11/two-young-ghanaian-environmentalists-chosen-to-participate-in-cop28-in-dubai/>

#### 5.3.1.4 Rob Sisson (U.K.)

- <https://www.capitalfm.com/northeast/>
- <https://newcastlemagazine.com/newcastles-environmental-champion-rob-sisson-selected-for-cop28-in-dubai/>

#### 5.3.1.5 Rotary Members – Interviews And Opinion Pieces On The Environment

- <https://nation.africa/kenya/blogs-opinion/blogs/let-s-protect-the-environment-our-source-of-life-4409006>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yP5DX2GEyhk>
- <https://www.the-star.co.ke/opinion/2023-09-23-humanity-and-the-environment-nurturing-a-sustainable-future/>
- <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001482119/we-can-nurture-a-sustainable-future-through-our-rivers>
- Op-Ed on WASH and Climate Change (Kenyan Rotarian and environmentalist) - Print
- <https://nation.africa/kenya/blogs-opinion/blogs/azeb-asrat-building-climate-resilience-for-east-africa-s-future-4459220>
- Op-Ed on Climate Change and Peace/Conflict Resolution by Rotary Peace Fellow – Print
- <https://theasianindependent.co.uk/ecologist-flags-assams-balipara-project-as-conservation-success-story/> (Dr. Meenakshi Venkataraman)
- The story has also been picked up by other media publications like – [The Asian Independent](#), [The Hawk](#), [The Morung Express](#), [Menafn](#) & [Lokmat Times](#)

#### 5.3.1.6 President Gordon Mcinally – World Mental Health Opinion Piece

- <https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/world-mental-health-day-2023-the-camaraderie-of-sport-and-breaking-the-stigmas-can-help-tackle-this-life-and-death-issue-gordon-mcinally-4365381>
- <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/world-mental-health-day-2023-035500573.html>
- <https://www.the-star.co.ke/opinion/2023-10-10-giving-voice-to-the-unheard-breaking-the-mental-health-stigma/>
- <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/health/opinion/article/2001483113/cultivate-national-culture-of-openly-discussing-mental-health-issues>

#### 5.3.1.7 Rotary And Mention Of The Environment

- <https://stream24.ilsole24ore.com/video/italia/clima-gordon-mcinally-rotary-negli-ultimi-5-anni-18-mln-dollar-cause-legate-ambiente/AFU3Tfz>
- [https://www.gazzettadinapoli.it/eventi/gordon-r-mcinally-presidente-internazionale-del-rotary-in-visita-a-roma-e-napoli-creiamo-speranza-nel-mondo/#google\\_vignette](https://www.gazzettadinapoli.it/eventi/gordon-r-mcinally-presidente-internazionale-del-rotary-in-visita-a-roma-e-napoli-creiamo-speranza-nel-mondo/#google_vignette)
- <https://cnnportugal.iol.pt/videos/rotary-internacional-nao-e-uma-organizacao-de-elite- apenas-quer-tornar-o-mundo-melhor/6526b0a30cf23250d70b1135>
- <https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA766620754&sid=sitemap&v=2.1&it=r&p=AONE&sw=w&userGroupName=anon%7E4b9e68d0&aty=open-web-entry>

### 5.3.2 Social Media

Many speakers and Rotary delegates were active on social media throughout the two weeks, gaining great coverage and comments, including the following from LinkedIn.

#### 5.3.2.1 Ambassador Amna Fikri, UAE Ambassador To Finland

“With many thanks to Rotary International, I also had the opportunity to share my insights on “The UAE’s Women Empowerment Policies and their Importance for Climate Action and Sustainability” at their pavilion. In my remarks, I underlined that when the COP28 UAE Presidency had to pick its team, it understood the power of #inclusion and #diversity. Two COP28 presidency officials – Youth Climate Champion Shamma Al Mazrui and UN Climate Change High-Level Champion Razan Al Mubarak – are women. This, along with 2/3 of the management and negotiations teams, as well as our Chief Climate Negotiator for COP28, are women. So yes, if we want a #just and orderly #transition to a more climate-resilient world, we need to ensure women’s participation in the climate response.”

#### 5.3.2.2 Michael Mainelli, Lord Mayor Of The City Of London

“I’ve returned from an incredible few days at COP28 in UAE. This was truly international in nature. From the delegates to the quality of discussions and the renewed focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, there was a real drive to implement innovative and transformative measures. #COP28 We now look to Net Zero Delivery Summit in 2024.”

#### 5.3.2.3 John Hewko

“I was honored to introduce a panel on climate change and its impact on health, held in the Rotary International pavilion at #COP28. Great panellists with insights who shared the effects of climate change on the growth of infectious diseases and child development.” #COP28UAE

#### 5.3.2.4 Pascal Barollier, Gavi

“Thank you for your generous hosting and invitation to contribute to some of your sessions. I much appreciated it and look forward to further collaboration, particularly in the space of climate and health.”



#### 5.3.2.5 Cinderella Ndoku

"I am deeply grateful to Rotary International for providing me with the extraordinary opportunity to participate in [#cop28uae](#) as one of the 12 Rotaractors representing diverse regions across the globe. It was an honor to be part of the inaugural Rotary pavilion in the Blue Zone, where I engaged in over 20 sessions led by esteemed experts from various institutions, all sharing their innovative efforts toward [#environmentalsustainability](#)."

#### 5.3.2.6 Sarah Field, CEO Sand Dams Worldwide

"Shortly putting [#cop28](#) [#cop28uae](#) behind me, having met some awesome change makers and sustainability-driven organisations in the water and food security space and beyond. I am more convinced than ever that scaling up and capacity building for the implementation of 🌍 Sand Dams 🌍 across the world's Drylands is the way forward for water-scarce communities to restore, rebuild and regreen the environments that support them.

Partners like [Rotary International](#) have a deep understanding of the importance of this work. Thanks to [Judith Diment MBE](#) [Christopher F. Puttock](#) for the opportunity to represent the amazing team at [Sand Dams Worldwide](#) at this globally important event."

#### 5.3.2.7 Rotaractor Lamech Opiyo

"Grateful for the incredible journey at COP 28 with the Rotary International delegation([Rotary International](#)) - a team of Changemakers committed to making a difference. For the first time, Rotary International had its own pavilion at COP 28, a testament to Rotary's commitment and dedication to Environmental stewardship, Climate Action and the crucial role it plays in driving positive change worldwide."

#### 5.3.2.8 David Gibson-Moore, CEO Of Gulf Analytica

"Financing the necessary steps to tackle climate change challenges is one of the most pressing issues of our time. At the recent COP28, I had the pleasure of moderating a panel discussion on this critical topic with a group of exceptional thought leaders and visionaries."

#### 5.3.2.9 Michael Mainelli, Lord Mayor Of London

"We explored the mounting interest in impact investing and the imperative to scale up sustainable financial markets despite the complexities involved. We examined a range of pioneering financial tools, such as feed-in tariffs, diverse tax incentives, and renewable portfolio standards, which are vital in this endeavour."

#### 5.3.2.10 Avinash Persaud, Emeritus Professor At Gresham College

"I reviewed the role of the UNFCCC Loss and Damage Fund, which was finalised on the first day of COP28. This fund is designed to provide financial assistance to less affluent nations that are battling the severe repercussions of climate change, including phenomena such as rising sea levels and extreme weather events.

#### 5.3.2.11 Dr Aditya V. Bahadur, Chair Of The Research At The International Institute For Environment And Development

"This COP brought into focus the specific challenges of financing climate change measures in urban settings."

#### 5.3.2.12 President Gordon Mcinally

"Being part of the Rotary delegation at [#COP28](#) was an honor. [Rotary International](#) had such a robust place within the inner Blue Zone. So many informative presentations and opportunities to have meaningful conversations with the UAE Government, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization (WHO) on potential partnerships in the field of mental health."

#### 5.3.2.13 Shakil Karim

"Other things you thought you would never find at a COP, I am delighted to connect with Mayor [Mitch Reynolds](#) from La Crosse, Wisconsin, right here in Dubai. With half of my family hailing from that region, it felt like a full-circle moment—or perhaps a half-circle? The presence of local leaders at COP is crucial for a successful transition. While a top-down approach has its merits, true progress occurs when local communities actively participate. Change begins at the grassroots level, and incorporating local leadership in policy formation is pivotal for a just transition. I'm advocating for increased local inclusion and was impressed by La Crosse, WI's strategic approach to navigating a changing landscape.

Thank you to [Rotary International](#) for setting this up. [#cop28](#) [#justtransition](#)"

#### 5.3.2.14 Judith Diment MBE

"Proud to host the signing of the MOU at Rotary Pavilion between Mississippi River authorities and the Ganges River authorities to help restore the rivers' health. A great example of Rotary supporting local communities in USA and India and bringing them together to share best practices."

### 5.3.3 Broadcast Media

#### 5.3.3.1 Saving Our Planet, Live Webinar

Christopher Puttock, Neil van Dine and Judith Diment, MBE were interviewed by Charles Appleby and Honey Kalaria, for a live-streamed hour-long programme on COP28 for Saving Our Planet, a joint initiative with Rotary in London. Honey and Charles conducted live interviews from COP28 every day for 12 days from 1-12 December.

#### 5.3.3.2 Bloomsbury Radio

Arif Zaman interviewed Judith Diment, MBE, on Bloomsbury Radio for a particular programme on COP28 with Alexandre Antoinelli Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. This will be broadcast at 20.00 GMT on Mon. 22 January 2024 on [Bloomsbury Radio](#) with supporting social media and will be added to [Spotify](#) the same week with a blog to follow.

# Promoting climate action through conflict resolution

Climate change is an environmental challenge and a daunting global peace and security threat.

As the ongoing UNFPA global environmental discussion takes center stage, it is crucial to delve into the intricate relationship between climate change and peace, steadily becoming an imperative in Africa. Climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and acts as a threat multiplier, intensifying social, economic, and political tensions. Rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and resource scarcity lead to displacement, food insecurity, and competition for land and resources. This is a fertile ground for violent that leads to conflict.

The intricate link between climate change and peace lies in the potential for heightened competition over dwindling resources, regional pressures, and increased vulnerability to natural disasters. These factors can strain social and political systems, potentially leading to conflicts within and between communities and countries. Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change, with its impacts evident in water scarcity, changing rainfall patterns, and desertification. These changes have led to resource competition, displacement, and economic stress, intensifying



ELIZABETH SMELLO

Addressing climate-related challenges is crucial for ensuring stability and peace

leading to conflicts in regions like the Sahel. Addressing climate-related challenges is crucial for ensuring stability and peace on the continent. Rotary International is pivotal in addressing the climate crisis through various initiatives. Past Rotary International President Markku Mäkelä conceptualized a vision to see the planet with a roof to plant some green trees. The Malindi Rotary Club planted over 80,000 propagules and 10,000 seedlings in Kenya, contributing significantly to environmental restoration. Similarly, the Wichita Rotary in Queensland, Australia, has raised awareness about the importance of mangroves in environmental conservation.

Meanwhile, in the Bahamas, the East Nassau Rotary is spearheading a mangrove reforestation project in collaboration with other Rotary clubs to clear swamps of toxic chemicals, working closely with the Bahamas National Trust to safeguard the island's mangrove systems. Rotary International's focus on

sustainable development, renewable resources, and access to clean energy aligns with mitigating the impacts of climate change. Promoting environmental sustainability contributes to reducing the root causes of conflict by ensuring access to resources through knowledge development and transfer.

Rotary International leads peace efforts and promotes peace activities at the Peace Center at Mahidola University by equipping them with holistic models incorporating the science of peace as a sustainable development goal.

In conflict-ridden regions where water scarcity is a key concern, such as the Middle East, Rotary clubs initiate water management projects to address security issues exacerbated by climate change. The goal of implementing sustainable water solutions, like efficient irrigation systems and community water management programs, is to mitigate tensions over scarce resources and contribute to peaceful coexistence. In health

care, community-based agriculture and sustainable farming practices such as introducing climate-resilient crops, efficient irrigation methods, and training programs have been very successful. The initiatives address food security concerns while building climate change, potentially reducing tensions over agricultural resources.

We must individually and collectively promote peace by fostering community engagement, dialogue, and cooperation through educational programs, awareness campaigns, and projects addressing the environmental impacts of climate change to empower communities to build resilience.

We urgently need to foster cross-boundary collaboration between governments, Non-Governmental organizations, and international bodies. In conclusion, as the COP28 discussions continue, addressing the complex interplay between climate change and peace is essential and exemplifies the positive impact organizations can have in mitigating challenges posed by climate change and fostering a more harmonious world.

—The writer is the Rotary Peace fellow, Rotary East Africa Peace Activator



## Abraham Lincoln iconic hat missing from sculpture

For more than a decade, a large bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln sitting on a rock in Louisville, Kentucky's Pioneer Park and, until recently, the city's iconic landmark, was missing a key detail: the president's hat. The hat, which was once prominently displayed on the statue, was recently found by a local resident. The hat, which was once prominently displayed on the statue, was recently found by a local resident. The hat, which was once prominently displayed on the statue, was recently found by a local resident.

In a world where peace, harmony and justice are the goal, the hat, which was once prominently displayed on the statue, was recently found by a local resident. The hat, which was once prominently displayed on the statue, was recently found by a local resident.

## How the youth are driving climate solutions through eco-action

### ENVIRONMENT

Young people are more affected by long-term consequences of climate change than older generations. They will live with the environmental, social and economic impacts for years. Their involvement in climate action is critical for long-term success. Their engagement through various environmental initiatives, such as tree planting, energy conservation, and recycling, empowers them to make a difference in their communities and the world at large.

Collectively, young people can contribute to building a sustainable future for positive environmental sustainability, thus driving climate action through recycling, reducing waste, and practicing eco-friendly lifestyles. Young people can also contribute to building a sustainable future for positive environmental sustainability, thus driving climate action through recycling, reducing waste, and practicing eco-friendly lifestyles.



Lamech Opiyo

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### HEALTH

## Cultivate national culture of openly discussing mental health issues

The recent unveiling of Workplace Mental Wellness Guidelines in Kenya couldn't have come at a more pivotal time. Addressing the stress and strain that countless professionals bear, this initiative isn't merely about safeguarding well-being—it's a testament to the broader transformation society is undergoing.

The focus is not confined to the workplace; it reaches into wider conversation about the importance of mental health in our daily lives, reflecting a global movement that we should wholeheartedly champion. While figures may not capture the full magnitude of the issue in the country, Kenya's own numbers underline the urgency.

The Kenya Mental Health Policy's findings, which reveal that at least one in four Kenyans will experience a mental illness in their lifetime, resonate deeply with many, including myself. The tragic loss of my youngest brother to suicide remains a poignant reminder that mental health challenges are often suffered in silence, even by those closest to us.

Could we have noticed the signs? What could we have done differently? While we can't change the past, we have the power to shape the future. As an ambassador for Bipolar UK, my commitment is both personal and profound. It's why I've dedicated myself to furthering mental health awareness, especially in my role as President of Rotary International. With over 1.4 million members worldwide, Rotary has been at the forefront of confronting mental health challenges, urging



Gordon McNally, 2023/2024 Rotary International President

communities to break the stigma and create pathways to support and care.

The Rotary Club of Nairobi, Eastleigh, organizes an annual Mental Health Bazaar to launch a technology platform for self-diagnosing common mental health disorders and substance abuse, and to raise funds for mental health initiatives. Rotary Clubs in Bungoma and Western Kenya are embarking on missions to train community leaders and health workers in mental health screening, treatment, and outreach, further underscoring their dedication to the cause. Rotary Clubs have been proactive in facilitating discussions by creating platforms for dialogue with mental health experts. Mental health intricately weaves through every facet of our society, from ensuring

peaceful communities and driving socioeconomic development, to navigating the challenges posed by climate change.

As we grapple with "eco-anxiety" and the need for resilient mental health structures amidst climate disasters, the significance grows clearer. I will be leading the Rotary delegation at COP28 in Dubai, highlighting the profound intersections between mental well-being and our environment. Despite recognizing the vast implications of mental health, society grapples with gaps in support and a culture that stigmatizes these issues. Anyone, our friends, family, or even ourselves, can be affected. Cultivating a culture where we openly discuss these issues and seek help is important.

Our goal is clear: Foster dialogue, champion community support, and roll out projects that address present concerns and resolute for years to come. As Kenya unites in the Workplace Mental Wellness Guidelines, let us remember that mental health requires our collective voice, action, and compassion. Join us as we champion this cause. Recognize mental health challenges in your communities and ignite conversations.

The bonds formed through a sense of belonging – at work, as part of a religious community, a Rotary Club, or any communal setting – are pivotal in nurturing our mental health, offering a network of support and understanding that can be our stronghold in times of need. Together, we can ensure the silence surrounding mental health transforms into understanding, support, and hope.

5. MEDIA COVERAGE

# Gordon McNally



President, 2023-24  
Rotary International  
Rotary Club of South Queensferry, Lothian, Scotland

**Gordon R. McNally**, a member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, Lothian, Scotland, is the designated President of Rotary International for the 2023-24 term. McNally's career in Rotary began in 1984. He has since held significant leadership roles including serving as president and vice president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland.

Follow Gordon McNally on X: [@GordonMcNally](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

# Barry Rassin



Chair 2023-24  
Trustee 2020-24  
Rotary Club of East Nassau Bahamas

**Barry Rassin** is a director and former president of Doctors Hospital Health System in Nassau, Bahamas, where he retired after a 38-year career. He was the first fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives in the Bahamas and was honored with the National Award of Health Hero by the Bahamas Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization.

Visit Barry Rassin on X: [@BarryRassin](#) and on [LinkedIn](#).

# John Hewko



General secretary and chief executive officer,  
Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation  
Rotary Club of Kyiv, Ukraine

**John Hewko** is the general secretary and chief executive officer of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation.

Visit John Hewko on X: [@JohnHewko](#) and [LinkedIn](#)



# Judith Diment, MBE



Dean, Rotary Representatives to the United Nations and International Agencies  
Rotary Representative to the Commonwealth  
Rotary Club of London, United Kingdom  
Vice Chair of the International PolioPlus Committee

**Judith Diment, MBE**, serves as the Dean of the Rotary Representatives to the United Nations and International Agencies, leading a team of 30 Rotary Ambassadors, and is also the Rotary Representative to the Commonwealth.

Follow Judith Diment on X: [@RotaryEndPolio](#), on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

# Dr Christopher Puttock



Plant Systematist, Environmental Scientist  
Chair of the Rotary Action Groups Council  
Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Endangered Species (RAG4ES)  
Senior Advisor, Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) and member of the Rotary Club of Honolulu

**Dr Christopher Puttock** is the Program Manager for Rotary at COP28, focusing on the thematic days. He previously served as Rotary biodiversity-lead Delegate at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, showcasing his active involvement in global environmental initiatives.

Visit Christopher Puttock on [Facebook](#) and on [LinkedIn](#).

# Mohamed Delawar



PDG, Mohamed Delawar  
Rotary International District Governor 2002-2003  
Rotary Representative to the Arab League

**Mohamed Delawar** began a lifelong investment in Rotary when he joined the Rotary Club of Alexandria East at the age of 35. For the past 27 years he has trained leaders in business, Rotary clubs, and Rotary International in principle of leadership, communication, strategic planning and membership as well as TRF development.

Visit Mohamed Delaawar on [LinkedIn](#).

# Yaseem Jaffer



Group CEO at Proclad Group Limited  
President, Association of Rotary Clubs UAE  
Rotary Club of Bur Dubai

**Yaseem Jaffer** has also been involved with Rotary, contributing to community service and leadership within the organization. His is currently the President of the Association of Rotary Clubs UAE and is holding the position of Deputy District Governor for Rotary District 242 in the UAE.

[Visit Yaseem Jaffer on LinkedIn.](#)

# Margarita Poposka



Association of Rotary Clubs UAE  
Rotaract Club of Shirok Sokak Bitola

**Margarita Poposka's** Rotary journey began with her receiving a Rotary scholarship at the University of Oslo, Norway. Within the Rotary community, Poposka served as the District Rotaract Representative (DRR), President of Rotaract Dubai, Vice District Rotaract Representative (VDRR) of the UAE, and Rotary District Training Country Chair.

[Visit Margarita Poposka on LinkedIn.](#)

## 7. UAE ROTARY DELEGATION



# Rose Cardarelli



Rotary International Representative to UNICEF  
Rotary Representative to UNICEF New York

Dr Rose Cardarelli is Founder & CEO of the Education for All Coalition, NGO Representative to United Nations DGC/ECOSOC, Education & Climate Resiliency Consultant, and the author of 'Children and the Climate Migration Crisis'

[Visit Rose Cardarelli on LinkedIn.](#)

# Sibylle Rupprecht

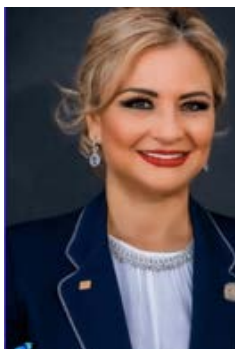


Founding Member, Rotary Club Genève International  
President, Swiss/Liechtenstein Rotarian Action Group for Peace  
Rotary International Representative to the UN Geneva  
Co-Chair, Rotarian Peace Projects Incubator

Sibylle is a coach, trainer and mentor at SR-Coaching, Geneva

[Visit Sibylle Rupprecht on LinkedIn.](#)

# Kikis Arbesú



Rotary Club, Puebla Industrial, Mexico  
District Governor 4185 2022-2023

María Enriqueta López de Arbesú "Kikis"

[Visit Kikis Arbesú on Facebook](#)

# Rotarians at COP28 in Dubai

Ahmad Belselah (UAE)

Angela TenBroek (FL, USA)

Aziz Memon (Pakistan)

Christopher Nial (Ireland)

David Gibson-Moore (UAE)

DGE Bashar Haddad (Jordan)

Felix Kimani (Kenya)

Jaffar Yaseen (UAE)

Karen Philbrick (CA, USA)

Meenaskhi (Mina) Venkataraman (India)

Neil Van Dine (Haiti)

Ryan Rowe (Canada)

Salvador Rico (CA, USA)

Selin Calik (UK)

Vicente Arbesú García (Mexico)

Yaşar Atacik (Turkey)

## 7. ROTARIANS

# Volunteer Rotaractors

- Abdul Rashid Wumpini (Ghana)
- Advika Agarwal (USA)
- Awais Jahangeer (Pakistan)
- Carol Montoya (Mexico)
- Cinderella Ndlovu (Zimbabwe)
- Elliot Lancaster, MBE (UK)
- Eva Marie Ecklu (Ghana)
- Fatima Haneekah (Sri Lanka)
- Kyle Rasmussen (USA)
- Lamech Opiyo (Kenya)
- Rob Sisson (UK)
- Sofia Moreira (Bolivia)

## Lead Rotaractor Team

- Audrey Kalchinoska
- Maggie Poposka
- Ramzi Nassar

## Supporting Rotaractor Team

- Amer Bassam
- Djakirri Crafter
- Glenn Daniel
- Mohamed Yaseen
- Tejas Hariharan

## District Rotaractor Team

- Elie Gharios
- Hussein Serhan
- Melia Haddad
- Mira Machmouchi

# 7. ROTARACTORS

# OUR PARTNERS IN SERVICE



Global **CSR**  
Foundation



## 8. ROTARY COP28 PARTNERS





9. PHOTOS





## 9. PHOTOS





9. PHOTOS



This was the first time Rotary International hosted a Pavilion at a significant global event alongside governments, UN and international agencies, NGOs, academia, and business.

With the largest delegation to date, it raised the profile of Rotary on the world stage. It attracted many world-class speakers who were delighted to participate in the sessions at the Rotary Pavilion. It also facilitated discussions for developing new partnerships and projects and reinforcing existing relationships with UN agencies through the Rotary Representatives.

The Rotary Representatives to the UN and International Agencies played a pivotal role in the two weeks' success, bringing in more than half of the funding and most speakers. Four Representatives attended COP28, moderating and running sessions. The introduction of the UN thematic days was a great innovation which benefitted from the participation of many Rotary Action Groups.

There was a membership benefit as sessions inspired several delegates to say they wanted to join Rotary. Participation of 20 Rotaractors was essential; they were terrific ambassadors for Rotary.

Thank you to everyone who made COP28 possible.

In the words of the President of COP28, Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, **"We united. We acted. We delivered."**

I strongly recommend that Rotary International participates at the same level at COP29 in Azerbaijan in November 2024.

Judith Diment, MBE

Dean of Rotary Representatives Network to the UN and International Agencies

# APPENDIX 1 - PROGRAMME

Date	Time	Program
December 1st	11:00	Rotary's Mission and Goals
December 2nd	11:00	Climate Crisis and Health of Women and the Girl Child
December 2nd	13:00	Rotary Addressing Environmental Climate SDGs
December 3rd	11:00	What's in the Watershed?
December 3rd	11:00	Green Sustainable Finance Forum
December 3rd	13:00	An Inter-generational Approach for Climate Advocacy
December 3rd	15:00	Ecology of Peace
December 4th	11:00	Addressing the Health Consequences of Climate Change
December 4th	13:00	Finance and Trade/Accountability
December 4th	15:00	Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality
December 5th	11:00	Energy Transition
December 5th	13:00	Circularity Gap
December 5th	15:00	Mental Health
December 6th	11:00	Urbanization and Built Environment
December 6th	13:00	Transport
December 6th	15:00	Innovation and Partnerships
December 8th	15:00	Leadership in Education for Just Future
December 9th	11:00	The Integrity of our Oceans
December 9th	13:00	Making Forests Pay
December 9th	15:00	Land use and First Nations
December 10th	11:00	Health of the Rivers
December 10th	13:00	Desperation is the mother of Innovation
December 10th	15:00	Farming Carbon to Reach Net Zero

## 10. APPENDIX 1

## APPENDIX 2 - ROTARACT REPORT

# 10. APPENDIX 2



**COP28**  
**Journey**  
**Rotary**  
**Volunteers**  
**Experience**  
**Report**



**COP28**  
**UAE**



# The Content.

- Foreword and Introduction
- The Team
- Volunteer Profiles
- Session Highlights
- Impact and Reflections
- Public Image
- Lessons Learned

# Foreword.

Dear Readers,

We are excited to share our report for, "The COP28 Journey: Rotaract Volunteers Experience Report," with you.

This is an actual outlook on what our team of volunteers organized, experienced and learnt at COP28 in Dubai.

COP28 was a chance for people from all over the world, to come together and work on important issues about our environment. In this report, you'll find stories and experiences from our volunteers. Each one of them has something unique to say about what they saw, learnt, and felt during the event.

We are really proud of what our team did at COP28. Everyone worked hard, learned a lot, and most importantly, made a difference.

Hope this report will give us the platform for the future involvement with COP.

Thanks to every volunteer who shared their story for this report. Your hard work and insights are what makes this extra special.

Yours in Eco Promise,  
Rotaract Team at COP28





# INTRODUCTION

Since the announcement of Rotary's first Pavilion at COP, youth participation has been a crucial element.

The objective was to bring International Rotaractors to Dubai, UAE, from a range of environmental backgrounds. These participants came to advocate for pressing topics, share best practices, and network to facilitate the development of projects and initiatives.

We were pleased to welcome **12 Rotaractors** representing six different continents, showcasing the global reach of Rotary and the diversity of this initiative.

An immediate team of local Rotaractors was formed to coordinate and facilitate the process and lead the group.



# COP28 at the city of aspiration.

Rotary



COP28  
UAE

# THE TEAM

ROTARACT COP28

*Lead Team*

Tap each photo to connect



Maggie Poposka



Ramzi Nassar



Audrey Kalchinoska

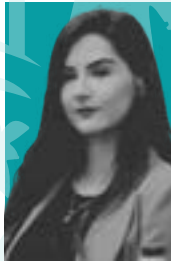
*Presidents*



Glenn Daniel



Amer Bassam



Djakirri Crafter



Mohamed Yaseen



Tejas Hariharan

*District Team*



Melia Haddad



Mira Machmouchi



Hussein Serhan



Elie Gharios



**act. unite.  
deliver.**



**COP<sup>28</sup>  
UAE**

# MEET THE VOLUNTEERS

Abdul Rashid Wumpini Alhassan, from Ghana, is a fervent advocate for sustainable development. He currently serves as the Ambassador for Rotary EndPlasticSoup Ghana and Rotaract Operation Chair for WASH RAG at the Rotaract Club of UDS, Tamale. With a diverse academic background including Development Practice and Project Management, Abdul focuses on environmental sustainability. He founded Ummy Farms for organic farming and leads the Agroforestry Project in Northern Ghana. Additionally, he established the Ummy Relief Foundation, tackling climate change, WASH, education, and agricultural development, and is passionate about educating youth for a sustainable future..



Abdul  
Rashid  
Wumpin  
i



Advika Agarwal is an 18-year-old high school student from Maryland, USA.

Advika is the co-founder of Compostology ([www.compostology.org](http://www.compostology.org)), a nonprofit that operates on 3 prongs: school food waste diversion, legislation, and environmental & civic education. In Montgomery County, Maryland, Compostology composts 234,000 lbs of food waste and recovers 315,000 unopened food items annually from schools, and has successfully advocated for a government requirement of food recovery and food service employees in all county public schools. In addition, through Compostology, Advika has introduced and advocated for a \$1.25M state bill funding school food waste programs in Maryland, which has since passed. She also guides student-led teams in 10 other US states to launch similar programs and policies. Advika has collaborated with Rotary over the past five years to fund and teach global students/community leaders about food waste programs, and served as president of her local Interact club before being selected as a Rotaract volunteer for COP28.

As a leader of her state student government association, Advika believes in empowering students at early ages to lead their own community-based solutions and develop a strong sense of civic engagement. Outside of advocacy and sustainability, she is a singer who loves all types of vocal music, from choral to Hindustani classical! Advika hopes to study international relations with a focus on climate justice in the future.



Advika  
Agarwal





# MEET THE VOLUNTEERS

## Awais Jahangeer



Awais Jahangeer, from Multan, is a Forestry and Range Management graduate from Agriculture University Faisalabad. He works as a Socio-Economic and M&E Expert at the Ministry of National Food Security & Research and is the Founder & CEO of Axiom Marketing Private Limited and Algo Freights LLC. In Rotaract since 2016, he has held various roles, including DRR for Rotaract District 3272, Pakistan, in 2021-22, and currently serves as the District Learning Facilitator. He joined the Rotary Club in 2022, now serving as Club Secretary for 2023-24 and as the Rotary Rotaract Dual Membership Chair. Awais is also involved in environmental initiatives, chairing the Climate Action Task Force and participating in the Rotary Smart Villages program.



## Carlos Montoya



Since I was a boy, I've held the concept that cities are chaotic on almost every imaginable topic, with the notion that my city was an example of 'how not to plan a city. I sought a degree that would help me develop an international standards mindset to understand the best practices on various topics and how to implement them in my city. I pursued a degree in International Relations and obtained accreditations such as LEED Green Associate & EcoDistricts Accredited Professional, aiming to comprehend the best practices in Urban Planning

I strive to raise awareness of the benefits in health, economics, inclusion, and the environment by employing strategies like Urban Density, Sustainable Mobility, regional biodiversity utilization, and sourcing construction materials based on regional weather to reduce energy consumption.

I've advocated for these causes among various stakeholders, serving as a board member of Business Unions and Associations, Counselor of Mobility-Focused NGOs, engaging in conferences with governmental authorities, and delivering several presentations within the Rotary family worldwide, serving as a Rotaractor, ESRAG Board Member, and co-chair for the Latinamerican Region.

I advocate for Urban Codes to incorporate sustainability and international best practices as their guiding principles. The absence of these considerations transformed car ownership from a luxury to a necessity in many parts of the world, amplifying our carbon footprint and needlessly inflating living costs for many. Recently, I assumed the role of Head of the Integrated Transport Department in the Transportation Office of the State Government in my city. I'm initiating a Climate Change mitigation strategy. It's time for action.



# MEET THE VOLUNTEERS



**Cinderella  
Ndlovu**



Cinderella is a distinguished climate change scientist, holding a degree in Environmental Sciences and a Master's in Chemical and Environmental Processes Engineering. She established the Green Hut Trust, a non-profit organisation, and currently serves as its Executive Director. Cinderella is a COP delegate, trained in climate diplomacy, and a member of the Climate Reality Leadership corps. Her expertise also includes completing various training programs on mitigation actions and NDCs, earning her commendation in the climate change field. Cinderella's involvement in COP27 as a rapporteur earned her the opportunity to represent Zimbabwe at a media feedback meeting. As a Rotaract past president and Rotary new generations chair, she is a respected figure in her community championing environmental sustainability. Additionally, Cinderella is a GHG inventory compiler, focusing on compiling emissions in the waste sector. Her environmental work has received grants from esteemed institutions such as the International Center for Climate Change and Development.

Elliott works tirelessly with many charitable organisations across the UK, focusing on creating opportunities for young people to reach their potential. He founded Utter Rubbish to advise residents and local authorities on recycling and reducing fly-tipping. He has dedicated his time to reporting on best practices for treating waste and communicating what can be recycled and when.

He has written several articles about this in publications such as the Sustainability Times and a case study in the United Nations PRiME report. This year, he received an MBE from King Charles III.



**Elliott  
Lancaster**  
**MBE**

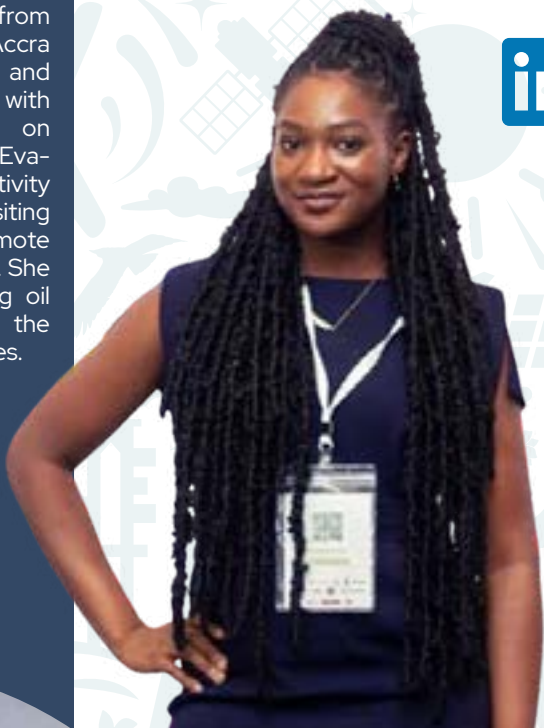




# MEET THE VOLUNTEERS

Eva-Marie Ecklu, a food process engineer from the University of Ghana, is a member of Accra Ring Road Central club, District 9104, and serves as their project secretary. Working with Solidaridad West Africa, she focuses on sustainable oil palm and coconut sectors. Eva-Marie is dedicated to enhancing productivity through climate-smart practices, often visiting rural areas to work with farmers and promote sustainable methods in these communities. She is involved in an innovative project using oil palm biomass for energy, reducing the environmental impact of traditional practices.

**Eva Marie  
Ecklu**



**Haneekah  
Rahil**



Haneekah Rahil, an LLM graduate from Cardiff Metropolitan University and LLB from Staffordshire University, has a diverse educational background including a diploma in Diplomacy, World Affairs, and Commercial Arbitration. Active in youth advocacy for over eight years, she focuses on Peace, Conflict Resolution, Education, and Climate Justice. She's the Director of Pearl Commerce Lanka, an independent legal consultant specializing in Intellectual Property Law and IT, and the President Elect of Rotary Club of Colombo North. Haneekah also holds key roles in the Commonwealth Youth Peace Network, World Economic Forum's youth wing, and various civil societies, and was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary.

# MEET THE VOLUNTEERS



**Kyle  
Rasmussen**

Kyle currently serves as the District Rotaract Representative of Rotary District 5060 and is the immediate past president of the Rotaract Club of Yakima. Kyle is an avid traveler having traveled to 33 countries across six continents and all 50 U.S. states. He is passionate about making a positive impact on the world through inspiring people to action.

He is a writer, podcaster, and coach. He works daily to inspire the next generation by providing caring, passionate leadership. He believes that giving young people the opportunity to travel, pursue their dreams, and learn in a hands-on manner will create a world that is better for everyone.



**Lamech  
Opiyo**

Lamech Opiyo, an award-winning environmental conservationist and climate activist from Kenya, graduated in Environmental Science from Kenyatta University. He works at UNESCO HEDGES and is an active Rotaractor at the Rotaract Club of Nairobi Central. Lamech has served various roles, including President of the Rotaract Club of Kenyatta University, Assistant District Rotaract Representative, and Chairperson for the Green Rotaract Concept in District 9212. He is currently the District 9212 Membership Chair, continuing his commitment to environmental conservation and community development.



# MEET THE VOLUNTEERS

With the challenges we are facing and the technology we have, there are more opportunities for generosity now than ever before - but overcoming these hurdles takes previously unseen collaboration between parties that typically conflict: that's where Rob comes in.

Running several international organisations, chairing boards for global charities, and providing decarbonisation consulting for the fossil fuel and shipping industries, he speaks the language of business. He's also sat on the other side of the table; representing communities from a wide variety of backgrounds in high powered negotiations, pioneering national award winning EDI policies, and ensuring voices that often fall by the wayside are heard.

With the mind of an entrepreneur and the heart of a community champion, Rob loves navigating difficult conversations and finding an outcome that's a win for all.

**Rob  
Sisson**



**Sofia Moreira  
Balderrama**



Sofia Moreira, a 22-year-old environmental activist and veterinary medicine student from Bolivia, is dedicated to public health and environmental impact research. She co-founded the first international Rotaract Eclub for the environment and is an ambassador for the Goethe Institut Barcelona's ecological change program. Sofia created the "QORI QAYTU" campaign promoting slow fashion and indigenous textiles, advocating for sustainable practices. She is passionate about storytelling, optimism, and action, encouraging youth to voice their concerns and be part of positive change.



Rotary



COP<sup>28</sup>  
UAE





# The Advocacy Sessions



Voice for Action was a Hub created in the Green Zone that enables civil organizations a platform to express their environmental concerns.



**VOICE FOR ACTION**  
COP28 GREEN ZONE



**COP28**  
**UAE**

**VOICE**  
**FOR ACTION**

READ MORE



COP28  
UAE

VOICE  
FOR ACTION





Advocacy Session for

## NATURE'S WEB AND IMBALANCE: THE INTRICATE INTERCONNECTION OF ECOSYSTEMS

Our Youth Advocates:



ROB SISSON  
UK



KYLE RASMUSSEN  
USA



ADVIKA AGARWAL  
USA

**Overview:** This session talked about how everything in nature was linked. We used the latest science to show what was happening to our planet because of climate change. We also heard from people who were seeing these changes firsthand. Our goal was to give a clear picture of the challenges we faced and why it was important to act then.

A broad look was taken at the interconnected aspects of climate change, exploring the key factors that threw nature out of balance, such as air pollution and cultural habits of overconsumption. By using up-to-date facts and figures, grounded in foundational science, we dove into the deeply interwoven world of ecosystems and humanity, including how every aspect of existence as we knew it would be impacted. It might have been a bit doom and gloom, but by shining a light on the reality of the situation, we aimed to find our way to a better world.

Advocacy Session for

## WE NEED GREEN POWER

Our Youth Advocates:



CARLOS MONTOYA  
MEXICO



ELLIOTT LANCASTER  
MBE, UK

**Overview:** In the session, several environmental challenges associated with power generation were identified. These included contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation due to land clearance for renewable energy infrastructure, and significant water consumption during energy production. Technological, economic, political, and social challenges were raised around power production and usage.

Widespread low-density urbanization and limited urban mobility options were discussed, and how these increased greenhouse gas emissions and harmful air pollutants. This situation escalated living costs, reduced productivity, contributed to health problems, and amplified our carbon footprint.

Advocacy Session for

## VANISHING VARIETY: THE CRISIS OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Our Youth Advocates:



ABDUL RASHID WUMPINI  
GHANA



LAMECH OPIYO  
KENYA

**Overview:** Every creature plays a role in the balance of nature. But as species disappear, that balance is threatened. This session advocated for the importance of every species in our ecosystem.

It brought into sharp focus the critical issue of biodiversity loss, as well as discovered the vital connection between biodiversity and ecosystems through the lens of transparency. The focus was on the critical issue of biodiversity loss, emphasizing the vital role every creature played in maintaining the balance of nature. The session focused on how inadequate transparency in environmental practices led to overlooked threats to ecosystems, contributing to the disappearance of species and threatening this delicate balance. Specific instances were explored where closed environmental policies directly led to biodiversity loss, addressing the disconnect between local communities, global entities, and policymakers caused by a lack of transparent communication and data sharing. Advocating for every species' importance in our ecosystem, this session aimed to highlight the urgent need for increased transparency and open environmental dealings to safeguard the intricate web of life that sustained our planet.

Advocacy Session for

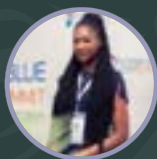
## YOUTH "FUTURE" ENIGMA

Generations Gap, Fast Fashion and Digital Age

Our Youth Advocates:



FATIMA HANEEKAH  
SRILANKA



EVA MARIE ECKLU  
GHANA



SOFIA MOREIRA  
BOLIVIA

**Overview:** The communication between different age groups and understanding the unique challenges faced by each was critically examined in this session. Additionally, a thorough exploration of the fast fashion industry and its environmental consequences was undertaken, advocating for a shift towards sustainable fashion practices. The session emphasized the urgent need to address and reverse the damage inflicted by rapid consumption trends.

**The Youth "Future" Enigma - Part 1 - GENERATIONS gap** Navigating Intergenerational Challenges. Session. The communication between different age groups and understanding the unique challenges faced by each.

**The Youth "Future" Enigma - Part 2 - The Hidden Price of Fast Fashion** Examined the fast fashion industry's significant environmental and social impacts, highlighting its resource-intensive practices, contribution to pollution and climate change, and the challenges it posed to sustainability and ethical labor standards. This session advocated for a shift towards sustainable fashion practices, emphasizing the urgent need to address and reverse the damage inflicted by rapid consumption trends.

**The Youth "Future" Enigma - Part 3 - The Digital Age's Sustainable Promise** Highlighted the enormous potential of the digital transformation in finding environmental consciousness. The session explored how emerging technologies could initiate green initiatives, foster environmental education, and amplify advocacy efforts. It was focused on the concern for policy and ethical usage of the modern digital era.

Advocacy Session for

## THE INVISIBLE LINKS

How Deforestation contributes to climate change  
and it's effects on Public Health

Our Youth Advocates:



CINDERELLA NDLOVU  
ZIMBABWE



AWAIS JAHANGEER  
PAKISTANA

### Overview:

1. **Deforestation Dynamics:** This session delved into understanding the causes and extent of deforestation globally.
2. **Climate Change Connection:** Explored how deforestation exacerbates climate change through carbon emissions and ecological imbalances.
3. **Public Health Implications:** Examined the direct and indirect effects of deforestation-driven climate change on human health, including the emergence of diseases and impact on air quality.

This outline focuses on "The Invisible Links," a topic that explored the intricate relationship between deforestation, climate change, and public health. It examined how the destruction of forests contributed to global climate shifts and the subsequent effects on human health, emphasizing the interconnectedness of our environment and well-being. The outline aimed to highlight the unseen yet profound consequences that deforestation has on both the planet and its inhabitants, underscoring the urgency of addressing this critical issue.



# COP28 IN REVIEW

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## The Teams' Experience & Feedback

**ROB SISSON**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**KYLE RASMUSSEN**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**ADVIKA AGARWAL**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**CARLOS MONTOYA**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**ABDUL RASHID WUMPINI**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**LAMECH OPIYO**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**CINDERELLA NDLOVU**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**ELLIOTT LANCASTER**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**EVA MARIE ECKLU**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**HANEEKAH RAHIL**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**SOFIA MOREIRA**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**AWAIS JAHANGEER**

[CLICK HERE](#)

# THE FLOW OF EVENTS

## Social and Training

### Social Meet-up

Location: Cuba Rooftop Bar - Jumeirah Creekside Hotel  
Time: 5:30 pm

30th Nov

### Volunteer Training - 1

Location: Rotary Office - Jumeirah Creekside Hotel  
Time: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

1st Dec

### Volunteer Training - 2

Location: Rotary Office - Jumeirah Creekside Hotel  
Time: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

2nd Dec

### Slovenia Pavilion Visit

Location: Cop 28 Green Zone - Expo City  
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

3rd Dec

### Rotary Gala Dinner

Location: Hilton, The Palm Jumeirah  
Time: 6:15 pm

5th Dec

### BBQ in the Desert

Location: Al Qudra Desert  
Time: 6:30 pm

7th Dec

### DRR Outing

Location: Garden on 8 - Media One Hotel  
Time: 7:30 pm

8th Dec





14.00  
12.12.2023



Wow Rotary is trending...

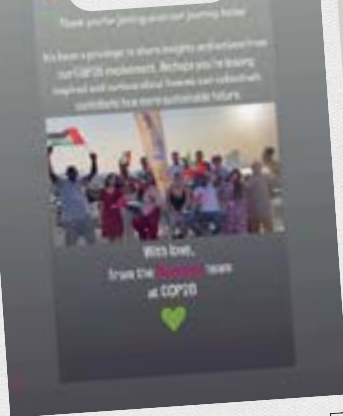
Because we overtook  
the Instagram Account 🤗



🇪🇺🇪🇺🇪🇺 So proud of you



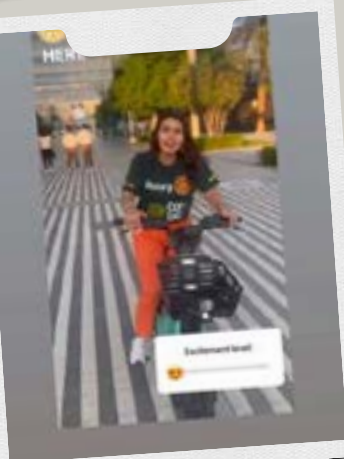
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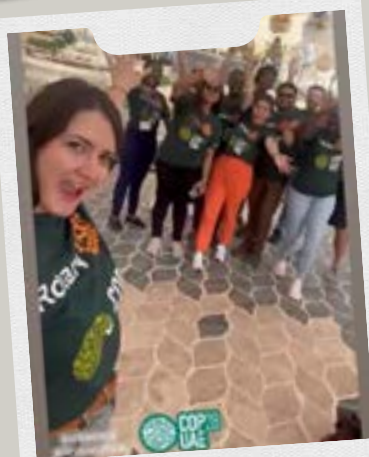
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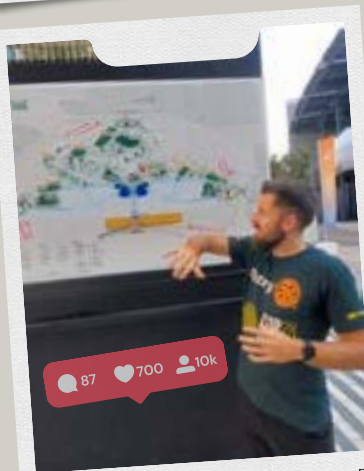
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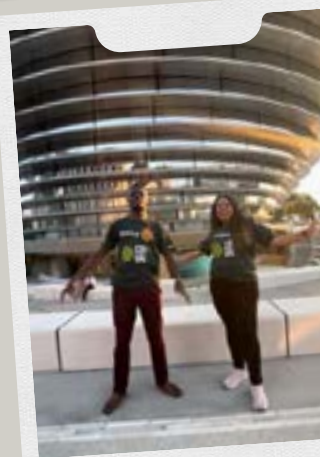
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# RELATED PUBLISHED MEDIA



## Headlines:

## Link:

## Embedded hyperlink:

01.

Newcastle's Environmental Champion: Rob Sisson Selected for COP28 in Dubai



**Newcastle's Environmental Champion: Rob Sisson Selected for COP28 in Dubai ...**

newcastlemagazine.com

02.

Young Kenyan environmentalist chosen to participate in COP28 Summit in Dubai - KBC



**Young Kenyan environmentalist chosen to participate at COP28 in Dubai**  
Lamech Opiyo is among 22 young volunteers chosen by Rotary for the ...

03.

How the youth are driving climate solutions through eco-action



04.

18-year-old Maryland student presents at climate change summit in Dubai

Richard Montgomery High School Student Chosen to Participate in International Climate Summit COP28 in Dubai



05.

Two young Ghanaian environmentalists chosen to participate in COP28 in Dubai



06.

Episode 99 - Rotaract Delegates Coming Together in Dubai to Create Positive Change



07.



08.



09.







# The Lessons Learned

“Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world.”

**Joel A. Barker**

# The Lessons Learned

## **Team Structure and Responsibilities**

- Establishing a clear structure with designated departments
- Allocating duties and responsibilities effectively
- Role Clarification

## **Communication**

- Ensuring understanding of roles and responsibilities
- Implementing a clear hierarchical communication flow
- Setting and communicating clear expectations
- Centralized Coordination
- Point of Contact is easily accessible to all team members
- Transparency

## **Logistics and Planning**

- Developing a comprehensive checklist for planning
- Considering convenient accommodation with easy access to public transport

## **Agenda Setting**

- Creating a concise agenda with common activities
- Allowing space for free planning and individual agendas

## **Needs Assessment**

- One point of contact for coordination and requests
- Utilizing sponsorship opportunities effectively

## **COP28 Specifics**

- Gaining a clear understanding of participation requirements, especially for the Blue Zone
- Maintaining a consistent point of contact through a main leader

## **Feedback Mechanisms**

- Establishing a system for continuous feedback during and after the event
- Using feedback to make real-time adjustments and future improvements

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Setting up a robust monitoring and evaluation system to assess the impact of participation and provide timely updates
- Using data-driven insights for future event planning and strategy development
- Partnership and Networking metric system

# Legacy



**[www.rotary.ae/cop28](http://www.rotary.ae/cop28)**



**[rotarycop28](https://www.instagram.com/rotarycop28)**



**[Photos & Videos](#)**



**[Webinar Link](#)**



**[The Legacy report](#)**

**Until we  
meet  
again!**

*Rotaractly  
Yours* 



[WWW.ROTARY-UN.ORG](http://WWW.ROTARY-UN.ORG)

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collaboration with  
**FINN**  
PARTNERS