COP 27, NOV. 2022, SHARM-EL-SHEIK, EGYPT: ONLY TALK, OR FOCUSED ACTION?

The November 2022 Conference of the Parties (COP)—will it be the same as always? Talk and Promises, but less Action! We hope not. The PRME platform focuses this November 1(11) issue on this.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES—COP 27: Challenged with a burgeoning energy crisis, elevated greenhouse gas concentrations, and intensifying and dangerous weather incidents, the U.N. Conference of the Parties (COP27) will attempt to redress the shortfalls of climate actions promised by nation states in the 2015 Paris Agreement. From November 6-18, Heads of State, and their analysts, along with climate activists, mayors, civil society representatives and CEOs are in the coastal city of Sharm el-Sheikh for the largest annual gathering on climate action. to spur action on a multiple conditions that relate to an array of issues indispensable to confronting the current climate emergency—from urgently reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building resilience, and adapting to the inevitable impacts of climate change, to delivering on the commitments to finance climate action in developing countries. The COP27 global leaders will haggle about who is to blame, tout their own achievements and go home bathed in self-complacency. The JHBC-PRME platform hopes not!

THE UN GLOBAL CLIMATE REPORT: The U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres (image Right, UN) showed disappointment with the Global Climate Report which he termed a “chronicle of climate chaos” in his video message of today (November 6th). In this report scientists estimate that global temperatures have now risen by 1.15°C since pre-industrial times and said the latest eight years were on track to be the warmest on record. The report also warned of the other wide-ranging impacts of climate change,
including the acceleration of sea level rise, record glacier mass losses and record breaking heatwaves.

CLIMATE CHANGES--OBSERVATIONS BY NON-SCIENTISTS: Laymen, themselves reflect on the dire costs for climate change. People see it before their very eyes. Here are some of what we see: (Images Below Right: npr.org; bbc.com)

- Rising temperatures have worsened extreme weather events.
- Chunks of ice in the Antarctic have broken apart raising sea levels.
- Wildfire seasons are more frequent and last months longer.
- Coral reef barriers have been destroyed creating flooding threats to island nations.
- Pests are expanding their territory, able to spread disease.
- Wildlife and plant life are threatened.
- Massive population movements due to lack of water and food, and fears of terrorists, create conflicts where such migrants go. (See image below: Statista)
“CODE RED” is a term attributed to President Joe Biden and UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres in 2021. These strong assertions came about after the Intergovernmental Climate Change Panel Report disclosed that present efforts of climate would need to be fortified because simply decreasing new greenhouse gas emissions is no longer enough.

WORLD’S MASSIVE FINANCIAL SAVINGS: COP27 will be looking for practical, strategic, technical and cooperative partnership arrangement between countries whereby the world’s vast financial savings and funds in developed country regions are professionally efficiently transferred to climate finance globally, and for best outcomes. Some important related reports are shown with their links, below: (Image Right: istockphoto.com)

1. The Fifth Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows can be found at:


2. The Report on progress towards achieving the goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion per year to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency of implementation can be found at:


3. Work on definitions of climate finance can be found at:

https://unfccc.int/documents/620533

4. Work relating to Article 2, paragraph 1(c) of the Paris Agreement (making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development) can be found at:

https://unfccc.int/documents/620459, and,

https://unfccc.int/documents/620484
NUMBERS HAVE GONE DOWN, BUT IS THAT ENOUGH?
Before the 2015 Paris Summit the world was heading for an estimated global warming of 4.5C (8.1F) by the end of the 21st century. Recent scientific projections now show that number down to 2.6C (4.7F). However, climate scientists warn that this is well beyond the 1.5C limit countries agreed to seven years ago in Paris. (Image: Left almay.com)

FINALLY—WHY CHOOSE SHARM-EL-SHEIK?: The choice of the site seems strange, and it begs the question Why was Egypt—as yet a non-democratic nation—chosen as the venue for this august assemblage? Under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi’s government Egypt has experienced one of its worst human rights crises in many decades and the government has also severely curtailed environmental groups’ ability to carry out independent work.

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