

From: Tomas Vitas  
Sent: 21 October 2024 15:46  
Subject: PR: COP29 Declaration on Green Digital Action

Hi ,

The COP29 Presidency today published the final texts of nine Declarations and Pledges as part of its Action Agenda for the upcoming UN climate summit in Baku this November. These documents provide pathways for all global actors to come together and commit to enhanced ambition across key climate priorities. The COP29 Presidency's Action Agenda is a comprehensive set of initiatives designed to complement the formal UNFCCC negotiation process.

I have included the wider press release below, but given your work in the digital space, I thought you might be particularly interested in the update to the Declaration on Green Digital Action. The outcome Declaration aims to accelerate climate-positive digitalisation and emission reductions in the Information and Communication Technology sector and enhance accessibility of green digital technologies. Here is a quote from the ITU that endorses this initiative: *"The Green Digital Action Declaration, expected to be agreed at the Digital Ministers' Roundtable during the COP29 Digitization Day, is our chance to boost the role of digital technologies in fighting the climate crisis, while ensuring that the digital industry owns up to its own sustainability responsibilities. Together, we can ensure that digital solutions and green digital infrastructure serve as the foundation for low-carbon socio-economic development, helping us achieve a more prosperous, connected, inclusive and, importantly, sustainable world."* - Tomas Lamanauskas, Deputy Secretary-General of the ITU

I would be happy to go through any questions you might have and talk to you more about the Green Digital Action, or any other aspects of COP29. I have also attached the final text of the Declaration for your interest.

Best, on behalf of COP29

Tomas Vitas

### **COP29 Presidency publishes final texts of Declarations and Pledges for upcoming UN Climate Summit**

- **COP29 Presidency calls on government and non-government stakeholders to endorse COP29 pledges and declarations**
- **COP29 Truce Appeal already supported by 127 countries and 1,100 non-state actors**
- **Full details revealed of COP29 Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge to increase storage capacity six times to 1,500 GW**
- **Host Azerbaijan to publish full programme of events to galvanise global climate action**

**BAKU, 21 October:** The COP29 Presidency today published the final texts of nine Declarations and Pledges as part of its Action Agenda for the upcoming UN climate summit in Baku this November. These documents provide pathways for all global actors to come together and commit to enhanced ambition across key climate priorities.

The COP29 Presidency's Action Agenda, first outlined in an open letter to Parties and Constituencies in September, is a comprehensive set of initiatives designed to complement the formal UNFCCC negotiation process. While not part of the official negotiations, these Declarations and Pledges aim to catalyse action and ambition across all sectors of society.

With the final texts now published, government and non-government stakeholders have the opportunity to endorse these documents, which will be formally launched at the COP29 climate summit in November.

The texts, finalised following a period of public consultation, include:

- COP29 Truce Appeal
- COP29 Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge
- COP29 Green Energy Pledge: Green Energy Zones and Corridors
- COP29 Hydrogen Declaration
- COP29 Declaration on Green Digital Action
- COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste
- COP29 Multisectoral Actions Pathways (MAP) Declaration to Resilient and Healthy Cities
- COP29 Declaration on Enhanced Action in Tourism
- COP29 Declaration on Water for Climate Action

The COP29 Truce Appeal has already gained significant traction, with support from 127 countries and nearly 1,100 non-state actors. It calls for a pause in conflicts during the COP29 period to reduce emissions from military activities and promote global peace.

In line with the COP29 Presidency's two-pillar plan for the year, the Declarations and Pledges aim to enhance ambition across all climate pillars. They present opportunities for governments to incorporate sectoral targets into national climate plans and for stakeholders to agree on principles to strengthen collective climate efforts.

Alongside the Declarations and Pledges, the COP29 Presidency will release a programme of Presidency-hosted events for the UN climate summit. These sessions will bring together relevant stakeholders for focused discussions on thematic items and serve as platforms to launch the various declarations.

COP29 President-Designate Mukhtar Babayev said: "These Declarations and Pledges are vital tools to drive progress on climate action. They send strong market signals, help direct financial flows, and foster a sense of shared responsibility. I call on all parties and non-state actors to endorse

these documents and help build momentum ahead of COP29. While signing these pledges alone will not deliver the changes we need, they play a significant role in supporting the COP29 Presidency's vision to enhance ambition and enable action."

He added, "The final texts reflect valuable input from a wide range of stakeholders, demonstrating the power of inclusive and transparent processes in addressing the climate crisis. We thank our partners for their collaboration throughout this process. We are particularly encouraged by the early support for the COP Truce Appeal, which highlights the interconnectedness of climate action and global peace."

These initiatives are designed to complement, not replace, the critical work of the formal UNFCCC negotiations. They provide additional avenues for commitment and action, particularly for non-state actors who play a crucial role in the global response to climate change.

The Presidency encourages all stakeholders to review the final texts and consider endorsing these important climate initiatives, which collectively aim to accelerate progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement.

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to editors**

The COP29 Presidency shared a substantive update on the Action Agenda in its second open letter to Parties and Constituencies in September. This letter, containing descriptions of each Action Agenda initiative, can be found [here](#).

A brief explanation of the declarations and pledges in the Action Agenda can be found below:

#### **COP29 Truce Appeal**

The appeal for a COP Truce, modelled on the Olympic Truce, will highlight the importance of peace and climate action. It will aim to remind all nations of the interplay between conflict and climate change and emphasise the imperative of finding collective solutions to protect the most vulnerable.

#### **COP29 Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge**

The outcome Pledge will aim to increase global energy storage capacity six times above 2022 levels, reaching 1,500 gigawatts by 2030. To enhance energy grids, endorsers will also commit to enhance grid capacity through a global grid deployment goal of adding or refurbishing 25 million kilometres of grids by 2030, recognising analysis from the IEA on the need to add or refurbish an additional 65 million kilometres by 2040 to align with net-zero emissions by 2050.

#### **COP29 Green Energy Pledge: Green Energy Zones and Corridors**

The outcome Pledge will commit to green energy zones and corridors, including targets to promote investment, stimulate economic growth, develop, modernise and expand infrastructure, and foster regional cooperation.

#### **COP29 Hydrogen Declaration**

The outcome Declaration will unlock the potential of a global market for clean hydrogen and its derivatives with guiding principles and priorities, to address regulatory, technological, financing, and standardisation barriers.

**COP29 Declaration on Green Digital Action**

The outcome Declaration aims to accelerate climate-positive digitalisation and emission reductions in the Information and Communication Technology sector and enhance accessibility of green digital technologies.

**COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste**

The outcome Declaration will streamline work towards 1.5-aligned waste sector commitments in national climate policy documents with quantified targets to reduce methane in waste and food systems.

**COP29 Multisectoral Actions Pathways (MAP) Declaration to Resilient and Healthy Cities**

The outcome Declaration will seek to enhance multisectoral cooperation to address climate challenges in cities and an initiative to create coherence in all urban climate efforts and catalyse urban climate finance.

**COP29 Declaration on Enhanced Action in Tourism**

The outcome Declaration will include sectoral targets for tourism in NDCs and promote sustainable practices by reducing emissions and increasing resilience in the sector. A further initiative with outcomes to enhance transparency in the sector and provide frameworks for sustainable food systems in tourism.

**COP29 Declaration on Water for Climate Action**

The outcome Declaration will call upon stakeholders to take integrated approaches when combating the causes and impacts of climate change on water basins and water-related ecosystems, strengthen regional and international cooperation, integrated water-related mitigation and adaptation measures in national climate policies. The Declaration will launch the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action to enhance COP-to-COP continuity and coherence in the field.

***This material is distributed by Teneo Strategy LLC on behalf of COP29. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice at the US Department of Justice in Washington D.C.***



## **COP29 Declaration on Green Digital Action**

**We**, national governments and other stakeholders, including international organisations, financial institutions, philanthropies, private sector entities, academia, and civil society organisations;

**Recognising** the imperative to mitigate and adapt to climate change and underscoring the important role of digital technologies in achieving these objectives, the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the goals of the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Pact of the Future;

**Highlighting** that digital innovations can have enabling and systemic effects in reducing GHG emissions across various economic sectors and adapting to climate change impacts when properly used and governed;

**Noting with concern** the adverse climate impacts associated with the full life cycle of digital technologies and related tools, devices and infrastructures, including with regard to the energy and water consumption of the digital sector, notably in the case of data processing centres, artificial intelligence development and deployment, coupled with the carbon footprint and pollution of producing digital tools and devices, as well as the unsustainable disposal of obsolete digital infrastructure, that need to be addressed;

**Acknowledging** that more consistent, technically rigorous and comprehensive data on GHG emissions and energy consumption from the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector can significantly enhance our progress towards accurately assessing its climate impacts and setting more effective climate targets;

**Underlining** the various digital divides as substantial impediments to achieving equitable, inclusive, just and digital transitions, and cognisant that disparities in digital access, capacities and resources can deepen inequalities and obstruct global climate efforts;

**Expressing deep concern** about the potential effects that disinformation and misinformation may have on the credibility of scientific knowledge and on the global perception of the causes and potential impacts of climate change, as well as on public awareness, mobilisation and collective action to prevent and combat these impacts;

**Reaffirming** the imperative to address these disparities to fully leverage digitalisation for global sustainability, ensuring that all benefit from a meaningfully connected world while leaving no one behind, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, children, youth, and persons with disabilities;

**Emphasising** the importance of stronger collaboration between governments, the private sector, academia, technical communities, civil society and other stakeholders - in conformity with their roles and responsibilities, as well as synergy building among international organisations, and collective action and strengthened partnerships as a way to leverage digitalisation for climate action effectively;

**Affirm** within our respective mandates the following common objectives:

- I. **Leveraging Digital Technologies and Tools for Climate Action:** Encourage the development and adoption of sustainable digital technologies to accelerate GHG emissions abatement, reductions, and removal and energy efficiency across sectors and to support climate-resilient communities, including through the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism. Additionally, enhance climate monitoring and forecasting and strengthen emergency response and preparedness capabilities through the broader use of digital technologies, including mobile early warning systems. Encourage improvement of digital technologies for energy modelling and forecasting to make grids more resilient to climate change's impacts and support clean energy initiatives that are adopting digital solutions.
- II. **Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure:** Emphasise the importance of designing digital infrastructure resilient to climate change impacts, ensuring the continued functionality of critical digital systems in adverse conditions.
- III. **Mitigating Digitalisation's Climate Impact:** Develop policies and technical advancements to contribute to achieving net-zero emissions and minimize the resource intensity of digital technologies. This includes powering digital infrastructure with clean energy, promoting energy-efficient practices, reducing emissions embedded in digital infrastructure and supply chains, extending product lifecycles, and improving recycling and e-waste management systems. It also includes establishing metrics and indicators to measure climate impacts of ICTs and to monitor the impact of digital actions on climate.
- IV. **Promoting Digital Inclusion and Literacy:** Promote the accessibility of digital technologies for climate action to developing countries, including Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. This involves supporting digital skills, digital literacy and capacity-building initiatives, especially for young people and women. Foster local digital ecosystems by providing support and resources for startups, small and medium-sized enterprises, and research institutions working on sustainable digital solutions.
- V. **Data-driven decision-making:** Deploy assessment methodologies to estimate the net climate impact of green digital solutions, implement effective systems to accurately track and standardise climate-related data and energy usage and effectively monitor regulatory adherence and data quality and integrity.
- VI. **Fostering Sustainable Innovation:** Mobilise existing climate funds and invest across all channels in innovation, research and development and implementation of environmentally sustainable digital technologies and resilient infrastructure,

encouraging collaboration across sectors to integrate climate considerations early in and throughout the technological development process. Recognise the importance of protecting intellectual property rights to incentivise innovation while also enhancing cooperative action to facilitate the widespread adoption of digital and green technologies. Promote policies that account for the protection of intellectual property and the need for open access to technologies that contribute to global climate goals.

- VII. **Encouraging Sustainable Consumer Practices:** Promote awareness and education on sustainable digital consumption and practices among consumers.
- VIII. **Facilitating the Sharing of Best Practices:** Leverage existing mechanisms and develop and implement new mechanisms that facilitate the sharing of best practices, including both good policy practices and effective technology applications, among countries in using digital technologies to reduce GHG emissions and enhance adaptation and resilience. By creating platforms for knowledge exchange and fostering international collaboration, we can ensure that successful initiatives, both in policy and technology, are replicated and adapted to diverse contexts, thereby accelerating global progress toward achieving climate and environmental goals.

### **Implementation Framework**

We intend to incorporate these objectives into policies that address both digital and low-emission transition pathways, ensuring mutual support among digital, energy and climate policies and goals. This includes, amongst others, when and where applicable, integrating digital environmental sustainability into national climate strategies and policies, investing in environmentally sustainable digital technologies, using science-based methodologies that demonstrate the net positive contribution of digital solutions, and strengthening the role of digital technologies as enablers of climate solutions in countries' Technology Needs Assessments, Technology Action Plans and technical assistance provided by the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), which help inform countries in the development, updating and implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

### **Collaboration**

We intend to convene, when necessary, with stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, and international organisations through the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism and the ITU Green Digital Action initiative to enhance collaboration.

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**National governments and other stakeholders can endorse this Declaration through:**

Any official written communications (letter and note verbale) to the COP29 Presidency or email to [digitalisation@cop29.az](mailto:digitalisation@cop29.az)