

From: Edward Bottomley

Sent: 21 October 2024 17:46

Subject: COP29 Presidency publishes final text of COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste

Hello,

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 agricultural space, I thought you might be particularly interested in the update to the Reducing Methane from Organic Waste Declaration. This initiative 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, and is an important route through which the Global Methane Pledge can be implemented.

I have also attached the final text of the Declaration for your interest. I have also included a quote from Martina Otto, Head of Secretariat, UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition, that endorses this initiative: *"Fast-tracking actions to reduce methane from organic waste is critical to keep the goals of the Paris Agreement within reach and can strengthen our food systems globally and harness circular economy opportunities. Given over 50% of municipal solid waste is organic waste that emits methane, and nearly 1/3 of all food produced is lost or wasted each year, this declaration will help to increase ambition in improving waste management, including through targets in the next round of countries' climate plans, cooperation across all levels of government, and emphasizing avoidance, diversion, valorisation strategies to reduce organic waste ending up in landfills and dumpsites."*

The COP29 Presidency is also delivering progress on agriculture and climate change through the Harmoniya Initiative, which will serve as an aggregator that brings together the disparate landscape of initiatives that support farmers and rural communities into one place, facilitating better access and targeting of finance and support.

I would be happy to go through any questions you might have, and talk to you more about this Initiative, or any other aspects of COP29. Please contact me at anytime!

The full text of the newly released declarations can be found on the COP29 website [here](#).

Best,

Ed

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Press Release:

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.

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Annex 7: COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste

We, national governments;

Recognising that by reducing methane emissions in all relevant sectors, principally in fossil energy, agricultural and waste sectors by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030, the world has the potential to avoid projected global warming by at least 0.2°C by 2050 as outlined in the Global Methane Assessment, making it an important action to keeping the global average temperatures within the 1.5°C threshold;

Further recognising that such reductions could generate important health, nature, livelihood, and economic benefits, preventing an estimated 255,000 premature deaths annually, 775,000 asthma-related hospitalisations, 73 billion hours of lost labour due to extreme heat, and significant crop losses in the agricultural sector while protecting biodiversity by reducing ground-level ozone pollution and impacts from rising temperatures;

Noting that methane in the waste sector is the rapidly growing source of anthropogenic methane emissions, resulting primarily from the decomposition of organic waste in landfills, open dumps, and wastewater, and contributing almost 20% of anthropogenic methane emissions;

Acknowledging food waste and food loss is a significant global issue affecting countries worldwide, with substantial environmental, economic, and social impact. Noting that the UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2024 estimated that 8-10% of total global emissions relate to food loss and waste alone;

Noting that poor waste management and the effects of open dumps or illegal landfills adversely impact social and environmental justice efforts;

Emphasising the importance of cooperation at local, regional, and global levels to tackle waste management challenges, including those related to shipment of waste and ocean pollution;

Recalling the findings of recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessments that to be consistent with IPCC 1.5C scenarios, globally methane emissions from the waste sector must drop by 30-35% below 2020 levels by 2030 and nearly 55% by 2050;

Noting that the outcome of the first global stocktake (GST) under the Paris Agreement recognised the need to substantially accelerate the reduction of methane emissions by 2030;

Underscoring that addressing and reversing the current surge of waste generation necessitates action on waste prevention, circular economy and zero waste practices adhering to the waste hierarchy, including composting of organic waste or other treatment of organic waste;

Noting that these actions come with important economic opportunities as well as opportunities to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss;

Recalling that today, about 25% of the total land area across the globe is degraded, directly impacting 3.2 billion people, especially small-scale farmers and rural communities, and affecting millions more through food insecurity, higher food prices, climate change, environmental hazards, and the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, making solutions to rebuild soil an issue of urgency;

Recalling the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and noting outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Pact of the Future;

Recognising that strategies to prevent, reduce and reuse organic waste, whether by making use of it as a resource material, composting it to enrich soils as fertilizer, or using it to produce bioenergy offer numerous economic and environmental benefits. These strategies serve as climate solutions while also contributing to enhancing food security and energy access, promoting bioeconomy, avoiding open burning and related air pollution, creating local jobs, improving living standards and reducing costs for cities while contributing to more sustainable urban development;

Emphasising that solutions to harness the above potential are available and affordable and that partnerships, policies and finance can help their uptake;

Stressing the importance of developing and strengthening public-private partnerships as a progressive effort towards sustainable waste management;

We declare our intent to work collaboratively and expeditiously to increase the pace and scale of action in pursuit of the following objectives:

1. Prioritise and accelerate solutions that focus on avoidance, diversion, valorisation and infrastructure (ADVI) in the waste sector;
2. Maximise climate, environment, circularity and food and nutrition security benefits;
3. Promote organic waste management and tackle food loss and waste aiming to close cycles, rebuild soils, enhance urban and rural food systems and strengthen the bioeconomy;
4. Effectively integrate circular economy and waste measures in climate policies, including in the design of NDCs and implementation plans;
5. Strengthen collaboration across key stakeholders, including internationally, regionally, across levels of government, and by engaging local stakeholders such as farmers, waste pickers and bioenergy suppliers in diverting and productively utilising organic waste;
6. Respond to the need to substantially scale up financial flows towards initiatives and projects that address methane emissions from the waste sector including solutions that avoid organic waste, enhance collection, separation and transportation systems, technology transfer and infrastructure development as well as the need for enhanced funding from other promising but underinvested solutions;
7. Assist developing countries in improving their existing waste management infrastructure and strengthening their capacity to develop such technologies in alignment with circular economy and resource efficiency practices;
8. Enhance capacity building and promote public awareness campaigns to educate and engage the public on the importance of sustainable waste management and methane reduction.

To achieve these aims, we intend to pursue efforts within our respective mandates, in a nationally determined manner, in partnership with international, regional, national and local actors to expedite the integration of organic waste management into our climate action and, simultaneously, to mainstream climate action across our policy agendas and actions related to waste management.

In seeking to fulfil these aims by 2030, we intend to strengthen our respective and shared efforts in five key enabling areas for a waste sector transformation, and we encourage commitments and pledges with respect to:

1.5°C-consistent waste sector components informing the design of future NDCs

Setting specific quantified national targets and/or measurable actions, plans, roadmaps, and policies for reducing methane in waste and food systems in the design of future NDCs where appropriate and communicating these in the context of implementation plans; information for clarity, transparency and understanding; or other relevant documents.

National and sub-national policies and actions

Developing and implementing national and, where appropriate, subnational policies, roadmaps, and action plans in the waste sector, recognising that household waste management is a core function of cities, and considering the role of private sector waste management companies in this context.

Stepping up finance

All relevant actors stepping up finance, identifying bankable projects, supporting feasibility studies and business plans to scale up subnational action while also mobilising financial resources for the waste sector.

Data for action and transparency

Increasingly utilising observation-based techniques to understand where and how much methane is being emitted, to identify key opportunities for mitigation and to support broader transparency efforts through data.

Striving to continuously improve the accuracy, transparency, consistency, comparability, and completeness of national greenhouse gas inventory reporting under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

Innovative partnerships

Commitments, such as through the Global Methane Pledge (GMP) and the Lowering Organic Waste Methane (LOW Methane) initiative, to significantly reduce sources of emissions have catalysed cooperation and knowledge-exchange mechanisms. This includes South-South and triangular cooperation.

Also, promote climate actions in organic waste management through global partnerships and dialogue, considering the perspectives of indigenous peoples, local communities, women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, and people in vulnerable situations including informal waste pickers.

Via a Baku-to-Baku process, from COP29 to World Environment Day and the World Urban Forum to be held in Baku in 2026, and cooperation with Rio-Trio platform, we intend to revisit progress and keep the topic high on the agenda. **From COP29 to World Environment Day and the World Urban Forum in Baku in 2026, we will use a 'Baku-to-Baku' approach, regularly reviewing progress and keeping this issue high on the global agenda.** For coordination and support, the effort will rely on the existing GMP Secretariat capacity within the UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air and Climate Coalition and other GMP implementers within UNEP, and other UN agencies.

National governments can endorse this Declaration through:

Any official written communications (letter, note verbale, etc.) to the COP29 Presidency or email to methane@cop29.az

