

From: Edward Bottomley

Sent: 21 October 2024 15:29

Subject: COP29 Presidency publishes final text of Water for Climate Action Declaration

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 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 water and biodiversity space, I thought you might be particularly interested in the update to the Water for Climate Action declaration. This Declaration will call upon stakeholders to strengthen regional and international cooperation on water and climate change, and to integrate water-related mitigation and adaptation measures in national climate policies. The Declaration will also launch the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action to enhance COP-to-COP continuity and coherence in the field.

I have also attached the final text of the Declaration for your interest. I have also included a quote from Professor Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), that endorses this initiative: *"At the core of WMO's mission is ensuring that nations have access to timely, reliable hydrological data and forecasts, empowering policy and decision-makers to manage water resources more effectively and enhance resilience to related disasters. The Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action provides a vital platform for international cooperation, enabling us to bridge knowledge gaps and advance effective water management strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation."*

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 10: COP29 Declaration on Water for Climate Action

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

Recognising that water is at the heart of climate change, with the majority of climate impacts being experienced worldwide through floods, droughts, glacier mass loss, landslides, degraded water quality, water scarcity and changing water availability, as well as other substantial changes in the water cycle at global and regional scales;

Emphasising the vital role that protecting, conserving, and restoring water resources, water basins, including seas, rivers and lakes, groundwater and other water-related ecosystems play in delivering effective climate action for both mitigation and adaptation;

Highlighting the critical role that the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus plays for both climate mitigation and adaptation, and recognising that water is truly multisectoral and cross-cutting in its nature, and that without addressing water security within all relevant sectors, the climate and sustainable development goals will remain out of reach;

Alarmed that 2.2 billion people still do not have access to safe drinking water, and approximately half the world's population is currently subject to severe water scarcity with 3.5 billion lacking access to safely managed sanitation;

Concerned that one-fifth of the world's river basins are experiencing rapid changes in the area covered by surface waters, indicative of flooding and drought events associated with and exacerbated by climate change; glaciers have suffered the largest mass loss in 50 years; over 90 percent of disaster-affected people and nearly 95 percent of infrastructure loss and damage were impacted by water-related disasters; and that floods are one of the major sources of water pollution, threatening water quality and human health and safety; and noting that these challenges are linked to the degradation of water-related ecosystems and related biodiversity;

Acknowledging that addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts, strengthened actions, dialogue and partnerships at international, regional, national, river and basin levels, through applicable integrated and intersectoral approaches, as well as relevant water-related climate mitigation and adaptation actions for achieving the objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objectives of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, set out in decision 2/CMA.5 on the global goal on adaptation;

Reaffirming our respective commitments under 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, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), as well as our collective support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its Sustainable Development Goal 6 and other related goals, the Pact for the Future and taking note of the UN 2023 Water Conference, the Water Action Agenda, United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/334, and UN Environment Assembly Resolution 6/13;

Welcoming the ongoing efforts on the margins of previous UN Climate Change Conferences to address water-related climate challenges and ecosystem degradation, including initiatives such as the Glasgow Partnership for Fair Water Footprints, the Action for Water Adaptation and Resilience Initiative (AWARe), the Freshwater Challenge, and the Enhancing Nature-based Solutions for an Accelerated Climate Transformation Partnership (ENACT), and the efforts made within the Water for Climate Pavilion;

Seeking to increase concerted efforts to strengthen leadership and cooperation on global water security, address climate change-induced water scarcity, water-related hazards, and disasters including water pollution, conserve, protect and restore water resources, water basins including seas, rivers, lakes, groundwater and other water-related ecosystems, including in the terrestrial and coastal areas adjacent to freshwater and marine environments, taking into account the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, children, youth, migrants, persons with disabilities, and people in vulnerable situations.

In fulfilling these objectives by 2030, we resolve to:

1. **Promote dialogue and partnerships** among countries at international, regional, river and basin levels, to:

- a) Strengthen COP-to-COP synergies, continuity and coherence on water-related processes of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as water-related processes in the UN Climate Change platform;
- b) Support the development of collaborative and aligned climate action and policy;
- c) Enhance the effective implementation of water-related initiatives launched on the margins of UN Climate Change Conferences, and coordinate with major multilateral water events, including the next UN Water Conferences in 2026 and 2028;

2. **Strengthen the generation of scientific evidence** on the causes and impacts of climate change on water resources, water basins and water-related ecosystems by leveraging existing knowledge platforms, as well as considering the creation of new regional knowledge hubs to:

- a) Promote sharing of knowledge and relevant data on climate observations and research, including on water cycle, water levels, fluctuations and depletion, as well as experiences and best practices;
- b) Promote access to technology and innovations;
- c) Utilise existing and, as required, develop new basin-wide climate scenarios, and climate risk and vulnerability assessments, including strengthening relevant monitoring and data-sharing mechanisms;
- d) Explore the links between conserving, protecting, restoring and sustainably managing water resources, water basins, and water-related ecosystems and their contribution to both climate mitigation and adaptation efforts;

3. **Enhance water-related climate policy actions** through:

- a) Effectively integrating water considerations in the design of climate policies, including national adaptation plans (NAPs) or strategies, nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and associated implementation plans, as well as national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), as appropriate, using existing tools;
- b) Improving prevention, preparedness, resilience and recovery in response to water-related hazards and disasters, in particular strengthening national and regional early warning and anticipatory action systems for drought and flood prediction and mitigation of their impacts;
- c) Addressing water challenges by 2030 through enhancing sustainable and efficient use and management of water resources, water-related ecosystems, soil and land resources, improving environmental management, environmental quality regulations, pollution control, water quality monitoring and analysis, and early warning and monitoring systems, and ensuring recycling, treating, and reusing of wastewater, control on runoffs and other relevant measures;
- d) Expanding the use of relevant integrated approaches such as integrated water resources management (IWRM), nature-based solutions (NbS), ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), source-to-sea approaches and other applicable tools and methods.

To enable the implementation of these actions we:

Launch the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action as a COP-to-COP collaboration platform for continuous and coherent water-related climate action;

Support the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action;

Resolve to contribute to the implementation of this Declaration in line with our respective mandates;

Encourage future Presidencies to reconvene the Baku Dialogue at each UN Climate Change Conference;

Explore future pathways to bolster the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action, and enhance the implementation of activities planned under this platform.

National governments and other stakeholders can endorse this Declaration through:

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