



**COP29**

Baku  
Azerbaijan

## **COP30 Opening Ceremony**

### **Opening Speech by COP29 President, Mukhtar Babayev**

Senhor presidente, vossas excelencias, distintos delegados, senhoras e seahores, queridos amigos, bom djia, bem-vindo ao Belem!

It is an honour to address this forum as COP President, one last time.

And it is a pleasure to meet back in Brazil, where the convention began.

This country has given us so many beautiful things.

It is the land of the Amazon rainforest.

The land of Machado de Assis, Jorge Amado, Paulo Coelho, the legendary Pelé...

And now, the land of COP30.

I must express my deepest gratitude to those who made the journey from Baku to Belém possible.

First, I must thank the President of Azerbaijan, His Excellency Ilham Aliyev.

His leadership and ambition to bring COP to the Caucuses and advance regional cooperation is bringing us the benefits of green energy...

And even the green shoots of peace.

To the entire COP29 team, our negotiators, the High-Level and Youth Climate Champions, the operations team, and the people of Azerbaijan,

To the Secretariat,

To our Troika partners from the United Arab Emirates, and the Brazilian COP30 Presidency,

And the new COP President, my dear friend Andre Correa do Lago, we are deeply grateful for your support.

Dear friends,

Every year we face challenges.

And COP29 in Baku was no different.



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Our region understood the need for action because we face many environmental crises, from the shrinking Caspian Sea, to melting glaciers and creeping deserts.

So we needed to unite in common purpose.

And we needed to make multilateralism work.

We were proud to play the role of honest broker, pushing for the highest possible ambition.

We invested in many new friendships.

Our President told us that we have a moral duty to support SIDS and LDCs.

So, we made sure that communities on the frontlines of the crisis were at the centre of our work.

And in the end, we delivered many critical outcomes.

But we faced one challenge much greater than the others – getting a deal on climate finance.

Many said we could never get it done.

Recently, negotiations in other forums have fallen at the final hurdle.

To land a deal, we would have to call upon the spirit of Rio, Kyoto, Paris and Dubai.

In the end, we secured the historic Baku Finance Goal.

This was the UN's largest ever pledge.

And it will guide how we support the Global South during the next decade.

We understand that the goal was not everything for everyone.

We know it was hard.

Difficult times demand difficult decisions.

But it was a make-or-break moment and a litmus test for the Paris Agreement.

Failure would have shaken the multilateral system at a dangerous moment.

So, we humbly thank everyone who agreed that it was essential to move forward.



After such difficult negotiations, now there can be no excuses.

We asked vulnerable communities to accept the limits of how much support they could expect.

Now, in equal measure, we insist that donors deliver in full...

With developed countries taking the lead.

A changing world is no excuse for backtracking.

We already knew that the world was changing when we agreed the goal.

Many used these changes to justify not going further.

They cannot be used again as a reason for not meeting commitments.

And this comes at a critical moment, as countries are submitting their latest climate plans.

Because every plan has a price tag.

And delivering the Baku Finance Goal will be essential to success.

Countries cannot cut emissions or protect communities if they cannot count on capital.

Going backwards in the first year of the new goal would clearly be against the spirit of the agreement.

It would undermine the entire process.

It would leave communities underfunded and unprotected.

We will therefore work to keep the Baku Finance Goal on the global agenda.

As an outgoing Presidency, this is our solemn duty.

By fulfilling past promises, we restore faith in the system.

We prove that building more agreements is not in vain.

We dismantle the distrust that we have seen too often.

And we restore COP's sense of purpose.

But the history of holding donors to account for the 100 billion is a disappointing one.



It was raised at these podiums many times, by many leaders.

And we are forced to find more **creative** ways to make our point.

So let me try this.

Today we are presenting donors with this invoice, which you can find on the COP29 media channels.

This covers what donors have already promised.

It includes the essential milestones that will keep us on track.

First, we must double adaptation finance.

This was due at the end of 2025.

And that deadline is almost upon us.

So, developed countries must use every moment remaining to close the gap.

Second, we need to triple the UN climate funds by 2030.

This was a key demand of Small Island Developing States.

And we all agreed.

So, we need substantial contributions to each fund's next replenishment round.

The invoice concludes with the 300 billion, promised by 2035.

And, in the same way that we expect countries to publish ten years of plans in their NDCs and NAPs,

We also expect donors to publish their plans for how they will deliver their fair share of the 300 billion over these years.

At COP29 we set out a vision to enhance ambition and enable action.

Now it is time to enact the pact.

These were collective agreements.

But delivery depends on individual acts – country by country.

And moving forward...



Given, that countries already agreed that there should be balance between adaptation and mitigation...

And, that the NCQG triples the previous 100 billion goal...

We believe that it is only logical that we can set a target to triple adaptation finance.

Dear friends,

Public finance is the backbone of the Baku Finance Goal.

And there can be no distraction from donors' duties to deliver.

But we all must embrace the mutirão.

We need everyone to move forward in every possible direction.

That approach inspired the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap.

It can now serve as a central reference for our work.

And it has shown that the pathway to 1.3 trillion is possible.

But it demands political will and global action.

Dear friends,

It is a great honour to join a long line of former COP Presidents.

Building on the legacies of one COP to the next is essential.

In Baku, we started to take the next logical steps to deliver the UAE Consensus.

And in Belem we must make progress on the Baku Finance Goal.

But this handover between COP presidencies is different.

And it is special.

Because last year we closed the Paris rulebook.

We finished a decade-long chapter.

And with the NCQG we set a framework, for how to support developing countries over the next decade.



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So, we are now entering the first full implementation cycle of the Paris Agreement.

This is a new era.

It is a decade that demands delivery, not debate.

And with this gavel, my dear friend Andre will open this first full COP of implementation.

But on the eve of this new era, we can see that some people still find themselves in a moment of doubt.

They see challenges to multilateral cooperation.

They question whether we can deliver.

But we hold an annual climate summit to remind everyone that they are not alone in facing these obstacles.

To everyone in this room and to everyone listening outside it...

You are not alone.

You are all part of an unstoppable wave, that keeps building momentum.

Every community fighting for survival,

Every young person demanding a future,

Every business investing in solutions,

We are all part of this wave.

And we are far greater, than the challenges we face.

Brothers and sisters,

Azerbaijan is still with you.

Our team is still here.

Myself, Yalchin, Narmin, Nigar, Leyla, Umayra, Rashad, Elchin, Elmaddin, and all the rest of us, are still standing shoulder-to-shoulder with you.

Together, let us show the world how many of us there are.



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Let us back Brazil and embrace the mutirão.

Let us fulfil our promises.

And let us deliver this COP of implementation, in solidarity for a green world.

I thank you

Muito obrigado!

Boa sorte!

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