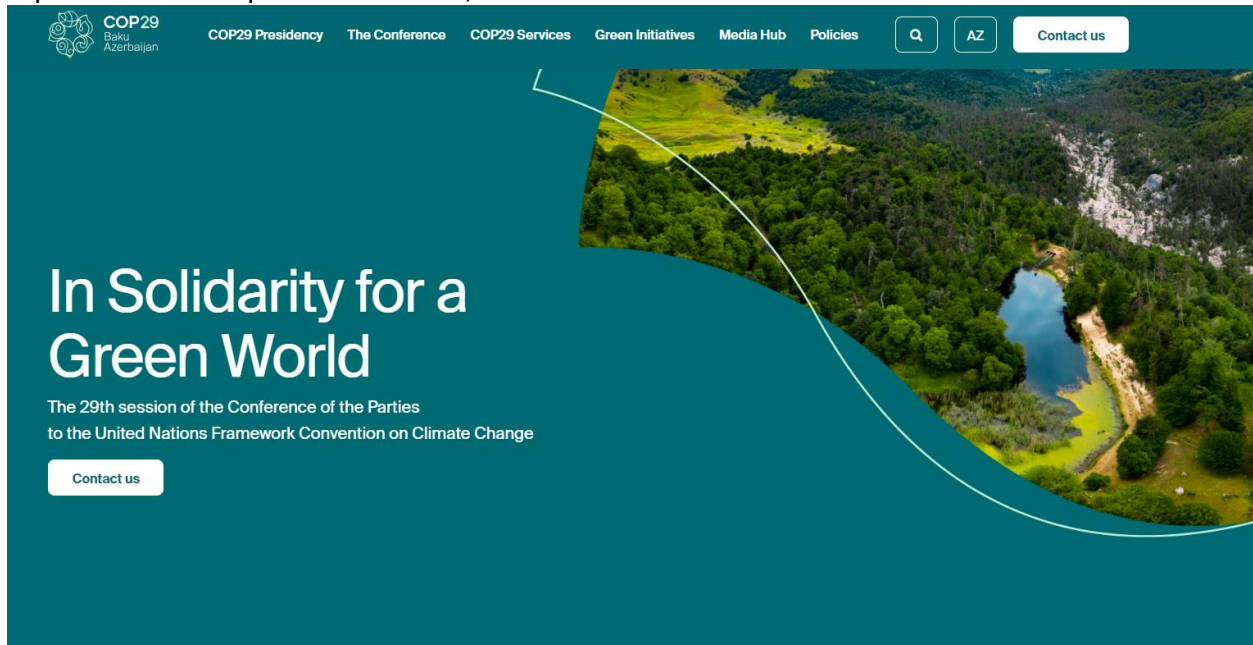


Preparing For Failure In The Lead Up To Cop 29

From November 11 to 24, 2024, the government of Azerbaijan will host COP 29 in its capital, Baku. COP 29 will include the 29th Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 19), and the 6th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 6). Given the large number of government and non-government representatives expected to attend, the conferences will be held in Baku stadium.



<https://cop29.az/en>

The annual conferences of these United Nations climate organizations are preceded each year by over one thousand meetings of officials to address the hundreds of topics that now fall within the purview of the global climate change policy bureaucracy. One of the most important of these pre-conferences was held in Bonn in June of this year. It was described by the organizers as the key meeting to prepare the agenda and basis for progress on the key issues to be discussed at Baku and to build upon the progress made at the last COP meeting in the United Arab Emirates in 2023. From the perspective of the organizers, the “highlight” of last year’s conference was the eleventh hour agreement to include in the communique a reference to “transitioning away from fossil fuels”. According to the *Statistical Review of World Energy 2024*, there has been no substantive progress on that goal, and the meeting in Bonn barely referred to it.



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June Climate Meetings Take Modest Steps Forward; Steep Mountain Still to Climb Ahead of COP29

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About 8,000 delegates attended the meeting in Bonn. Its agenda included one central goal – to examine and agree on the main issues requiring resolution to implement the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance (NCQG). This is the newest UN climate acronym, about much will be heard in future.

What are the Issues?

The co-chairs of the Bonn Conference, Australian Fiona Gilbert and South African Zaheer Fakir, prepared an [“input paper”](#) setting out their ideas as to what might be included in the text of an agreement that they hope will be negotiated in Baku. The 45-page text includes the usual preambles, admonitions and self-reaffirmations typically included in the agreements negotiated by international organizations. In a sense it is a hotch-potch of views and options on what the post-2025 agreement on the NCQG will look like. The following is a list of some of the key issues:

- Whether the NCQG should establish that the floor for future financial resources provided by the “developed countries” is \$100 billion per year;
- Whether to recognize explicitly in the agreement that the current global efforts to “mitigate” climate change by reducing emissions, to adapt to the climate changes that may occur and to pay for “loss and damages” (payments to developing countries to compensate them for economic losses due to extreme weather events that they attribute to climate change) are clearly insufficient;
- Whether to assert in the agreement that “there is no shortage of public finance in the developing countries that could be made available to the developing countries if the political will is there”;

- Whether to assert that the delivery of the NCQG must reflect the principles of historical responsibility (i.e. the rich countries caused climate change), equity (i.e. the developing countries deserve more money) and common-but-differentiated responsibilities (i.e. the developed countries should pay far more than the developing countries to address climate issues);
- How the funding goal should be structured (e.g. should it be an annual quantum of climate finance over a 10-year time period that developed countries parties are “obligated to provide” or a disaggregated amount under each thematic area (i.e. for mitigation; adaptation; loss and damages; readiness support and transparency; capacity building; and technology development and transfer);
- Whether to recognize explicitly that the need for finance in the period 2025 to 2050 is in the range of USD 5.8 trillion to USD 5.9 trillion;
- Which factors should determine the quantum of the financing provided by each developed country; for example, should it be based on a certain percentage of the Gross National Income (GNI) or the Gross Domestic Product (GNP) or on some other basis? and
- Whether just the Annex II countries¹ should be required to contribute to the NCQG or the responsibility should be shared by others, including for example Parties with high per capita GHG emissions, those with high per-capita GNPs, those with a space program or some other factors.

The Arab Group of countries represented at Bonn was especially irked because countries represented there did not negotiate concerning the absolute size of the NCQG quantum. They wanted an annual \$1.1 trillion, plus arrears from the existing \$100 billion per year goal (to none of which they would contribute).

Results and Next Steps

The Bonn Conference ended with virtually no progress made on resolving any of the issues surrounding the NCQG. The co-chairs will attempt to draft an updated version of the input paper for working groups to be held in October. There will follow a high-level ministerial “dialogue” on the NCQG in late October in the hopes of paving the way for an outcome at COP 29.

Observers of global climate diplomacy should by now be used to what it is - a never-ending process that produces more process, not a resolution of the issues. Consequently, the developing countries, which now produce 68 percent of global emissions, will have no incentive to sharply reduce their emissions or to sacrifice their economic development goals on the altar of climate alarm.

¹ Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States

Every year, it becomes more and more difficult for the United Nations and the proponents of climate activism to portray the outcome of the COP meetings as successes. Faced with virtually guaranteed failure at COP 29, which headline will they seek to promote this year?