

National Council

**REPORT OF THE 29th (TWENTY-NINTH) SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES (COP29) AND RELATED MEETINGS TO THE UNITED NATIONS
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
(UNFCCC) BY MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, BAKU,
AZERBAIJAN, 11-22 NOVEMBER 2024**

MAY 2025

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ABBREVIATIONS

APDBs	Agricultural Public Development Banks
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
CGIAR	Consortium of International Agriculture Research Centres
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
CMP	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
COP	Conference of the Parties
COP29	Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference of the Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHGs	Greenhouse gases
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
MDBs	Multilateral Development Banks
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
GGA	Global Goal on Adaptation
NPS	Non-Party stakeholders
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFCCC	United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Background and Introduction

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted in 1992. It came into effect on 21 March 1994 and has since then been ratified by 196 countries including the European Union, making a total of 197 Parties. The UNFCCC sets out the basic legal framework and principles of international climate change cooperation with the aim of stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

To boost the effectiveness of the 1992 UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in December 1997. It committed industrialized countries and countries in transition to a market economy to achieve quantified emissions reduction targets for a basket of six GHGs. The Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period took place from 2008 to 2012. In December 2015, Parties adopted the Paris Agreement which requires all parties to determine, plan and regularly report on the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) that it undertakes to mitigate climate change. Its primary goal is to limit the global average temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial levels while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Parties also submit aggregate progress on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation which are reviewed every five years through a Global Stocktake.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) as well as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) are held simultaneously each year. These conferences are the highest decision making bodies on climate change, providing critical guidance on the implementation of the provisions of the convention and decision aimed at addressing global climate change. The CMP and CMA also play crucial roles in overseeing the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement respectively ensuring that countries meet their commitments and make progress towards their climate goals.

Namibia has been an active participant in this global effort. Namibia signed the UNFCCC on 12 June 1992 and ratified it on 16 May 1995. This commitment underscores Namibia's dedication to addressing climate change and contributing to international climate policies. This active participation does not only demonstrate the country's responsibility but also its willingness to collaborate with the international community in finding solutions to this pressing

issue. Namibia's efforts in climate adaptation, sustainable development and resilience-building are commendable and reflect its proactive approach to environmental stewardship

The 29th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the UNFCCC, along with the 19th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP-19) and the 6th Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA-6), took place from November 11th to 22nd, 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. These meetings brought together representatives from nearly every country in the world, as well as observers from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The primary objective of the COP each year is to review the implementation of the provisions of the convention to ensure its effectiveness in addressing climate change. COP29 focus was to address the urgent need for the increase in climate finance with a new goal of USD 300 billion annually by 2035 to support developing countries in their climate actions. The conference also aimed to enhance global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build resilient communities and ensure that all countries have the means to take stronger climate action.

2. Objectives

Members of Parliament from the National Council Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources attended COP29 and related meetings from 13th to 18th November 2024. This conference served as a crucial platform for gaining knowledge and understanding of climate matters, engaging with other stakeholders, sharing experiences and learning best practices, develop new initiatives and strengthening their collective efforts to address global climate change. The goal was to facilitate discussions and negotiations on actions to combat climate change and ensure the effective implementation of international climate policies.

3. Composition of the delegation

The Conference was attended by the following Members of the Standing Committee and Secretariat:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Hon. Elder Filipe | Vice-Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Nicodemus Motinga | Member |
| 3. Hon. Willem Labuschagne | Member |

SECRETARIAT

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ms. Elizabeth Andreas | Parliamentary Clerk |
|--------------------------|---------------------|

4. Methodology

The information presented in this report was gathered from engagements, discussions, meetings and presentations of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) and related meetings.

5. MEETINGS ATTENDED

5.1 The Namibian Pavilion

Namibia's Pavilion at COP29 stood out as a hub of innovation and collaboration. It served as the main platform for the country to showcase its climate action efforts, build valuable international partnerships and the urgent need for enhanced climate finance. The Pavilion convened meetings for leading experts and policymakers to share insights and perspectives on innovative approaches to climate action.

The discussions highlighted how Namibia is striking a balance between contributing to decarbonizing the planet and driving its green industrialization strategy. There were a series of presentations and dialogue sessions covering a broad range of topics including climate action, localising green industries, community-led adaptation, investment opportunities emanating from unlocking Namibia's green economy.

Namibia highlighted the need for enhanced transparency in climate action. Under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, Namibia advocates for the swift finalization of reporting formats to ensure transparent tracking of greenhouse gas emissions and the support provided to developing countries. Namibia also emphasized her commitment to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which promotes voluntary international cooperation to support the implementation of NDCs.

By engaging in carbon markets, Namibia seeks to attract investment and generate revenue for climate change mitigation and sustainable development, while preserving its natural resources. This integrated approach, combining mitigation, adaptation, and finance, will be crucial for Namibia to meet its climate goals and contribute to global efforts to combat climate change.

5.2 The Food, Agriculture and Water Pavilion

The meeting was organized in collaboration with the Consortium of International Agriculture Research Centre (CGIAR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It attracted stakeholders across the agro food and climate sectors, including government, civil society, private sector, academia, scientist, farmers, producers, consumers, women and youth for knowledge exchange and decisive action in the collective fight against the impacts of the climate crisis to foster ambitious collaborations and drive the implementation of agro food system solutions to address climate change.

The Pavilion served as a platform showcasing solutions derived from transforming agro food systems to address climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, food security and poverty and drive decisive action in addressing the impacts of the climate crisis on food and agriculture. The meeting emphasized the urgent need for collective action to combat climate change, highlighting the crucial role of agro food systems. It provided an assurance that both FAO and CGIAR are committed to supporting countries and farmers in adapting to climate change impacts and mitigating emissions from food production, transportation, and consumption.

The meeting stressed on the impact of climate change on agriculture that it is threatening food and water security for people around the globe. Climate action in agriculture has the potential to address multiple challenges across adaptation, mitigation, ensuring food security, combating land degradation and water scarcity as well as supporting the sustainable development goals. Global biodiversity, climate and land degradation neutrality goals are unattainable without agro food systems solutions.

The meeting addressed topics such as the integration of agro food systems into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the role of agro food systems in voluntary carbon markets. It has also called for collaborative efforts to transform global agro food systems, making them more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable and reiterated on the importance of achieving better production, nutrition, environment, and life for all, ensuring no one is left behind.

To help farmers navigate their way through dozens of initiatives and programs working to support climate resilient agro food systems transformation, the FAO in partnership with the

Azerbaijan COP29 Presidency launched the Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for farmers by focusing on three main goals as follows:

1. Clarifying the landscape of initiatives and offering a platform for better collaboration and exchange of knowledge and experiences,
2. Making investments in agro food systems transformation from both private and public sectors more attractive, while building on strong collaborations with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Agricultural Public Development Banks (PDBs),
3. Supporting the development of climate resilient villages and rural communities and strengthening the role of fisheries and farmers in particular for adaptation action in the food, agriculture and water sectors.

5.3 The Africa Pavilion

The Pavilion was hosted by the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission (UNECA) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA) in collaboration with other regional entities including Africa Risk Capacity. It served as a space for African nations to convene, strategize and advocate for Africa's common positions and interests throughout COP29.

The meeting highlighted that despite contributing less than 4% of global greenhouses gas emissions, Africa faces severe impacts of climate change. The continent is highly vulnerable due to its reliance on rain-fed agriculture, weak infrastructure and limited adaptive capacity. Effects of climate change are already evident, including extreme weather events, prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall and rising temperatures which threaten food security, livelihoods and ecosystems.

It was stated that Africa is at a critical juncture in its fight against climate change. According to the African Development Bank's African Economic Outlook, the continent requires approximately USD 2.7 trillion by 2030 to adequately respond to climate change. While Africa's current contribution to global emissions is low, its role in global mitigation is becoming increasingly important. With the rising of energy demand, population growth and economic development, the continents emissions are projected to increase significantly. By



2030, Africa's energy related emissions could double if high emissions pathways are followed. Consequently, Africa faces the dual challenge of fostering development while pursuing low-carbon growth.

Attention was also drawn that the Africa NDC Hub assists countries in enhancing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, aligning development with climate goals. Despite the challenges, Africa holds immense potential for renewable energy, with some of the world's highest solar potential and significant opportunities for wind, geothermal, and hydropower. Scaling up these resources will not only contribute to global climate mitigation but also address Africa's energy poverty and development needs.

5.4 The Parliamentary Pavilion

The Pavilion acted as a hub for Parliamentarians at COP29. It was initiated by GLOBE Legislators for the first time at COP28 in Dubai and had devoted significant resources to supporting and tracking parliamentary engagements in the UNFCCC and related climate matters. The Parliamentary Pavilion at COP29 attracted parliamentarians from every corner of the world and served as the most visible for legislative leaders on enhanced climate action in Baku.

The Pavilion offered a vibrant space for dialogue, creativity and partnership building. It served as a vital platform to pioneering solutions to urgent challenges including climate finance, Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0 (NDCs), biodiversity, disaster risk reduction and legislative framework. The meeting provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for climate governance, emphasizing the need for sustained collaboration and accountability. Parliamentarians showcased how they are progressively building momentum for meaningful change in addressing climate change.

One of the focal points at the Parliamentary Pavilion was on the critical issue of climate finance. This involves the allocation and mobilization of financial resources to support climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Parliamentarians discussed various funding mechanisms that includes international funds like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund as well as national and regional financial instruments. There was a significant emphasis on the role of the private sector in climate finance, discussions were centered around creating enabling environments in climate smart projects and encouraging public private partnerships.

Recognising the need for robust financial governance, parliamentarians highlighted the importance of capacity building for both policy makers and financial institutions. This includes training and technical support to effectively manage and deploy climate finance. By ensuring transparency and accountability there is a need for clear reporting and monitoring frameworks to track the impact of funded projects and ensure that resources are used effectively.

5.5 The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting

The meeting was jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan, gathering representatives from parliaments across the globe. The meeting was held over two days on 16 and 17 November 2024, to allow ample time for critical discussion and reflection on how parliamentarians can drive the global transformation towards a more sustainable and climate-resilient world.

The meeting addressed that parliamentarians hold significant responsibility in this urgent phase of climate action, bridging the gap between international agreements and national implementation. With the authority to draft, enact, and oversee legislation, they should ensure that climate policies are ambitious, practical, and enforceable. Members of Parliament are uniquely positioned to scrutinize government actions, allocate resources effectively and mobilize public support. This will make climate action a priority at every level.

COP29 carried a unique significance by advancing fundamental areas essential to shared climate goals. The emphasize was on the importance of new climate financing commitments, increased national climate ambitions and important steps forward in adaptation and loss and damage efforts. Building upon the momentum from COP28, Members should turn to implementing these ambitions with clarity and urgency.

The meeting indicated that parliamentarians must not only advocate for ambitious climate commitments but should also ensure that they translate it into measurable, impactful results. Parliaments role is to drive accountability ensuring that government take decisive steps towards their climate goals. The unity and collaboration are essential to sustaining global climate efforts, regardless of shifting global priorities.

Climate change is increasingly impacting all aspects of our lives and societies. Climate change is driving food and nutrition insecurity which in turn affect health, livelihoods and ultimately



people's and communities' ability to survive and thrive. Integrating nutrition into climate policies and Nationally Determined Contributions is essential to ensure resilient populations.

6. Namibia's position at COP29

1. *Finance:* Namibia is concerned by the underperformance of financial commitments made by developed countries, especially the shortfall in the USD 100 billion per year target to support developing nations mitigation and adaptation efforts. The country is calling for a more robust financial mechanism that ensures adequate and predictable funding, with a particular emphasis on increasing grant-based support.
2. *Adaptation:* Namibia insists that climate finance should be balanced between mitigation and adaptation, with a focus on long-term, sustainable support for developing countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Namibia calls for the establishment of a clear Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) to guide global efforts. The country emphasises that adaptation must be treated with the same level of priority as mitigation, with climate finance split evenly between the two pillars. Namibia urges that proceeds from carbon markets under the Paris Agreement should be allocated to the Adaptation Fund, enabling developing countries to build resilience against the impacts of climate change. Additionally, Namibia highlights the need for a comprehensive strategy to address loss and damage caused by climate change. With increasing climate-related disasters across the African continent, Namibia advocates for the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund and calls for new, additional financial resources based on the polluter-pay principle.

3. *Mitigation:* Namibia advocates for more ambitious global targets, calling on countries, particularly developed ones, to submit stronger and more robust NDCs to ensure that global temperature rise remains below 1.5°C. Furthermore, the country stresses that developed countries must take the lead in emission reductions, adhering to the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). The country urges the international community to accelerate efforts to achieve net-zero emissions and support developing nations' transition to a low-carbon economy.

4. Namibia also underscores the importance of technology transfer and capacity building to support its transition to a green economy. The country seeks to accelerate the transfer of climate technologies, enhance collaboration with stakeholders, and ensure that capacity-building initiatives are effectively coordinated. Namibia calls for the mobilisation of financial resources for these initiatives, and for developed countries to fulfil their obligations under the Paris Agreement to provide both technology and financial assistance.

7. Broader COP29 outcomes

1. A significant outcome was the operationalisation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, establishing a framework for international carbon markets. This mechanism is expected to reduce the cost of implementing national climate plans up to USD 250 billion annually, facilitating global cooperation in achieving emission reduction targets.
2. In terms of climate finance, developed countries committed to a new collective quantified goal of USD 300 billion per year with a target of reaching USD 1.3 trillion annually by 2035.
3. The Loss and Damage Fund was another notable success, becoming fully operational with initial pledges amounting to USD 800 million including contribution from Australia, Germany and Sweden.
4. To redefine climate finance and reforming fossil fuel subsidies. This highlights the significant strides made in addressing financial mechanisms for climate action and tackling subsidies that promote fossil fuel use.
5. COP29 saw a significant progress in transparency and the development of reporting frameworks. These advancements are crucial for ensuring accountability and effective implementation of climate policies to strengthening national commitments. Enhanced reporting frameworks help track progress, identify gaps and provide a clear picture of how countries are meeting their climate commitments.

8. Conclusion

Parties expressed a renewed sense of urgency and commitment to address climate change. They highlighted the importance of increased climate finance, with a new goal of USD 300 billion annually by 2035 to support developing countries in their climate actions. Also, the emphasize was on the need for stronger global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build resilient communities, and ensure that all countries have the means to take stronger climate action¹. Overall, the conference reinforced the critical role of national governments in implementing the Paris Agreement and achieving its goals. Members of Parliament returned home with a clear mandate to fast-track climate policies and collaborate more closely with national and international partners to tackle this pressing global issue.

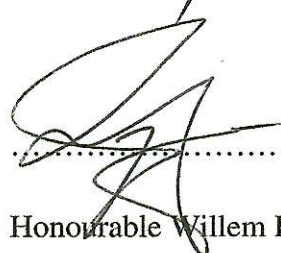
9. Recommendations

Taking into account the lessons learned, the Committee hereby recommends that:

10. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism should promote and support initiatives for the conservation and restoration of forests, oceans and other biodiversity hotspots including the implementation of sustainable ecosystem management practices, combating deforestation, preserving biodiversity and addressing pollution;
11. Parliament facilitates the active participation and involvement of its Members in both international and national forums that focus on raising public awareness of climate change, environmental pollution, loss of biodiversity, and other pressing environmental challenges through the resurgence and sufficient funding of the Namibia Conservation Parliamentary Caucus (NACOPAC);
12. Parliamentary Committees responsible for biodiversity and environment should address, through their legislative, oversight, and representation functions the needs of groups disproportionately affected by climate change, especially vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, young people, and minorities and implement climate goals in accordance with the principle of gender equality and equity;
13. The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism should address the mitigation and adaptation measures in accordance with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as well as the goals and principles outlined in the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement; and

14. The Ministry of Finance and Social Grants Management must develop a framework that encourages innovative financing, specifically aimed to engage the private sector in climate change mitigation and adaptation programs and to foster a conducive legal environment for private sector investments in sustainable initiatives in order to enhance the national efforts in addressing climate change Adoption of Report

This report was adopted by the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources at its meeting of15 May 2025..... in theSector Room....., National Council Administration Building.


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Date.....19 May 2025.....

Honourable Willem Labuschagne, MP

Member: Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources

