

## Dear President of COP 29, H.E. Mukhtar Babayev, and Ministers at COP 29,

This week, you hold the future in your hands. You are tasked with working together, over the next five days, to establish a [new collective quantified goal on climate finance](#) (NCQG). The decisions you make this week have the power to set the world on a new trajectory towards a brighter future.

Nearly nine years ago, at [COP 21](#) in Paris, Parties to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC or the Convention) agreed to establish a new collective quantified goal on climate finance before 2025, as a continuation of the effort (admittedly weak, given that the first goal of mobilising 100 billion USD a year by [some accounts](#) was only achieved in 2022 and by [others has yet to be achieved](#)), to support developing countries in implementing climate action, costs which are [now in the trillions](#). Over the past (nearly) three years there have been 11 technical expert dialogues, three meetings of the ad-hoc work programme, two high-level ministerial meetings, dozens of submissions and hundreds of pages of reports summarising discussions.

All of that work has brought us here, to the moment of truth. The NCQG must be established prior to 2025 and we only have five days left to make that deadline. We are counting on you, not just to make that deadline, but to ensure that the NCQG is ambitious and aligned with the needs of developing countries as prior decisions mandate and moral and legal obligations dictate. The goal must include minimum allocations for mitigation, adaptation and Loss and Damage, to ensure developing countries have finance for all three pillars of climate action. It must also ensure that, in taking climate action, Parties respect the call from the Paris Agreement to:

“respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of [I]ndigenous [P]eoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity”

The [right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment](#), universally recognised by the UN [General Assembly](#) also applies to the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, as affirmed for the first time in the [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#).

Last Saturday afternoon in the closing of the contact group, Parties agreed to place the text, a culmination of three years of work, in your hands. In their closing intervention, Colombia, speaking for the [Independent Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean States](#) (AILAC), reminded us that the survival of developing countries —and of the multilateral climate regime and the Paris Agreement itself— is at stake in the NCQG negotiations. As Colombia stated last Saturday, we have a chance to make things right in Baku, to mobilise finance at the level for the spectrum of climate action —mitigation, adaptation and Loss and Damage— and we must take it.

As Parties spoke in plenary in Baku on the sixth day of COP 29, [Super Typhoon Man Yi](#) hit the Philippines, the sixth major storm to do so in 30 days. The storm brought winds up to 195 kilometres an hour and waves up to 14 metres in height. An estimated 160 people have died since the first typhoon landed, and nearly 650,000 people have fled their homes, unsure of whether or not they will have homes to return to —this, on top of damage to infrastructure and farmlands.

Five days ago, on the second day of COP 29, [Colombia declared a state of emergency](#) as torrential rains hit the country, displacing 93,000 people and leaving dozens of communities submerged, with no relief in sight. Heavy rainfall has triggered landslides, widespread flooding—including flash floods—and caused loss and damage to infrastructure across the affected regions. Costa Rica and Honduras have also [declared national emergencies](#), due to [flooding from Tropical Storm Sara](#), which has also affected El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua and right now thousands [remain in shelters](#) throughout the region.

Meanwhile, in another part of the world, southern Africa is in the midst of its [worst drought in a century](#) leaving [27 million people](#) food insecure and 21 million children malnourished across the region. Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe have all declared national disasters as a result of the drought, which has also affected parts of Angola and Mozambique.

These are just some examples of the many ways in which climate impacts are ravaging developing countries and the households and communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis within them.

We are here in Baku, establishing a new finance goal, because lives, livelihoods, ecosystems, cultural heritage and everyone's future depend on it. We are here because the [inaction of developed countries](#) has brought us here, to an [era of loss and damage](#). We are here because peoples' lives, futures, dignity and cultures are not up for debate.

The Convention recognises the historical responsibility of developed countries and acknowledges that developing countries' share of global emissions will grow to meet their "social and development needs". Yet, emissions in developed countries continued to grow, leaving a diminishing slice of the global carbon budget for developing countries to meet their social and development needs, which corresponds to an [enormous financial debt](#) owed to developing countries by developed countries.

We are counting on you to get us back on track towards creating a world in which all humans, all other species and all ecosystems are thriving on a healthy planet at this COP. A [human-rights and equity based approach](#) and a commitment to gender equality must be operationalised through the NCQG in both quantity and quality of climate finance provisions and related mobilisation and implementation efforts. The goal must be aligned with the needs in developing countries to enable the full spectrum of climate action.

Our future is in your hands. You are faced with the choice between taking one of two paths this week at COP 29. One leads to a brighter future for all of humanity, all species and all ecosystems living on a healthy planet, enabled by an NCQG that is ambitious, equitable,

child- and gender-responsive and addresses the needs of developing countries and their most impacted communities and people.

This future is entirely achievable. The quantity and quality of the public finance needed to get there can be provided without affecting the wellbeing of your own economies and societies by implementing tax justice and stopping harmful subsidies and financial flows. In fact, doing so is essential for the wellbeing of your economies in light of the risk that the climate crisis poses to global supply chains, and because we all share this world together. To achieve this future we call on you to agree to:

- An NCQG that ensures that we can keep below the 1.5°C survival limit of the Paris Agreement.
- An NCQG based on the needs and priorities of developing countries and with public funds provided by developed countries exclusively for all developing countries, one that does not deviate from Article 9 of the Paris Agreement.
- An NCQG that delivers at least USD 1.3 trillion a year for mitigation, adaptation and Loss and Damage provided as grants and highly concessional finance.
- An NCQG that includes subgoals for mitigation, adaptation and Loss and Damage.
- An NCQG in line with the equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities principles of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.
- An NCQG with a clear definition of what is and is not climate finance. All climate finance under the NCQG must be new and additional, grant-based or highly concessional.
- An NCQG that is a provision and mobilisation goal with public funds flowing from developed to all developing countries, not a multi-layered goal.
- An NCQG that operationalises Parties' existing human rights obligations, including those related to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including by ensuring that climate finance is child-, gender- and disability-responsive, respects the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples, and increases direct access to grant-based finance for the most impacted people and communities for locally-led climate actions.

The second path is one we don't want to contemplate. It's a world none of us wants to live in. But if you fail to agree to an ambitious NCQG, if you don't act now to address the urgency of climate change, that is exactly where you risk setting us on a path to.

We therefore call upon you to not only meet the needs and priorities of developing countries, your own citizens, and indeed the planet, but also those of future generations. This requires respecting, protecting and promoting human rights, phasing out fossil fuels in a way that is fast, fair, feminist and forever, and ensuring that climate finance is equitably distributed to those who need it most. It is time to take bold action and steer the world back onto the path toward a just, sustainable, and livable future for all.

The time is now. We urge you not to pass by this opportunity to chart a course to a brighter tomorrow.

Signed,

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*Salimata BA, Secrétaire Générale du Réseau de communication et de Développement des Femmes du Sénégal*

*Mark Barrell, CBM UK (Global Disability Inclusion)*

*Sunitha Bisan, Sustainable Development Network Malaysia*

*Patrick Brown, Equal Right*

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*Dr Ajith Chandran, Innovation Challenge Director (Asia), Katerva (US) and Managing Director, Development Interlinks International Pvt Ltd (India)*

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This letter is endorsed by the following organisations:

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Friends World Committee for Consultation



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**Climate Leadership Initiative**



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