



BAKU
CLIMATE
ACTION
Week

#BCAW2024



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

BAKU CLIMATE ACTION Week 2024

A Chronicle of
Leadership, Innovation and
Whole of Society Mobilization

30 September - 4 October 2024

Final Report





A report documenting the inaugural Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW) held from 30 September to 4 October 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

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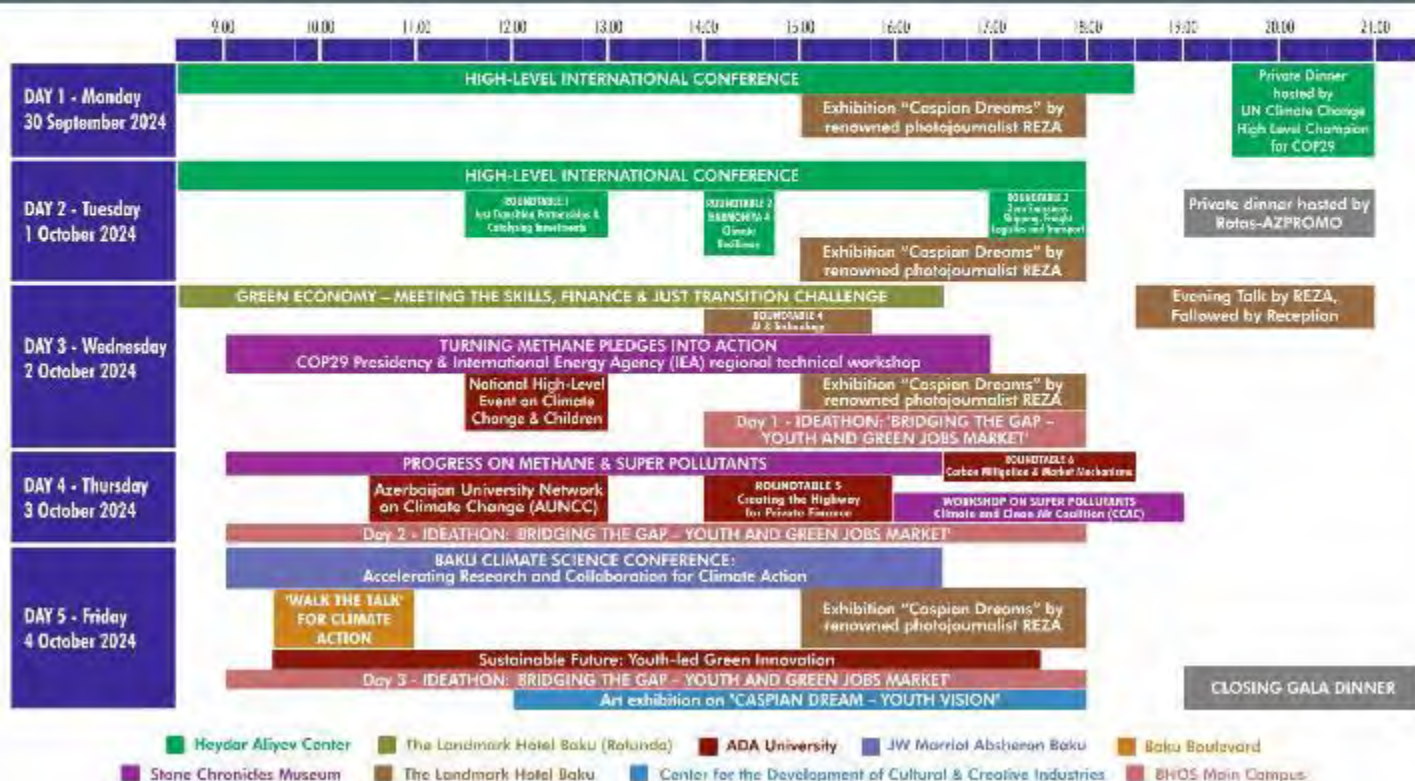
Programme Calendar



COP29
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30 September – 4 October 2024



Executive Summary

The first-ever Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW), held from September 30 to October 4, 2024, in Azerbaijan's capital, marked a pivotal moment in the global climate dialogue, bringing together key stakeholders from across government, private sector, academia, civil society, finance, and international organisations. Held under the auspices of the COP29 Presidency and the UN Climate Change High Level Champion for COP29, Ms Nigar Arpadarai, the event served as a precursor to COP29, to be hosted by Azerbaijan in November, showcasing the country's growing role as a leader in climate action and sustainable development.

BCAW was organised in partnership with London Climate Action Week, building on its unique model of multi stakeholder engagement, to create an inclusive platform that highlighted the necessity of whole-of-state and whole-of-society engagement in addressing the climate crisis. The week featured a series of high-level conferences, technical workshops, youth-led initiatives, thematic discussions, cultural and public events, providing an open forum for exchanging ideas, forging partnerships, and exploring innovative solutions to global challenges such as energy transition, food security, water management, climate education and green skills development.

BCAW received strong support and recognition from many prominent international personalities, including Professor Jim Skea, Chair, IPCC; Ban Ki-moon, former UN Secretary General; Katja Doerner, Mayor of Bonn; Terry Tamminen, Climate Advisor to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Dr Peter Knez, former co-CIO, Blackrock. The week concluded with a resounding endorsement by Eduardo Paes, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, to continue the momentum launched at Baku Climate Action Week in Brazil with a new Rio Climate Action Week, to be similarly organised ahead of COP30.

Several significant outcomes emerged from Baku Climate Action Week:

1. **Private Sector & Finance Commitments:** BCAW secured vital commitments from the private sector and financial institutions, reinforcing the need for increased investment in sustainable practices and climate resilience, especially in climate vulnerable countries and regions.
2. **SMEs in the Green Economy:** The role of SMEs, a central focus of the COP29 High-Level Champion (HLC), was prominently highlighted. BCAW underscored the fundamental role SMEs play in national economies and global supply chains, emphasising the importance of empowering and supporting SMEs in the green economic transition. This focus represents Azerbaijan's unique contribution to the

climate debate, spotlighting how SMEs can drive innovation and sustainable practices.

3. **Energy & Methane Commitments:** BCAW successfully advanced discussions on decarbonizing the energy sector and addressing methane emissions. Commitments were made by both public and private entities to accelerate energy transition goals, setting a clear path for COP29 action.
4. **Agriculture Report & Harmoniya Pledge:** The launch of the **Agriculture Report of the Breakthrough Agenda** by CGIAR and FCDO, and the signing of the **Harmoniya Pledge**, operationalising a vital component of the COP29 Presidency's Action Agenda, represent crucial steps towards decarbonising the sector, advancing sustainable agricultural practices, empowering farmers, and scaling adaptation efforts. These commitments will play a key role in addressing the agriculture, food, and water nexus.
5. **Education:** BCAW emphasised the need for transformative changes in education systems, particularly to equip current and future workforces with the necessary skills for the green economy. New commitments were made to both align educational practices with sustainability goals, as well as support academic leadership, provide coordination and impact through the endorsement of a new **Azerbaijan Universities Network on Climate Change (AUNCC)**, in partnership with the **British Council**, key national and international partners.
6. **Youth Engagement:** BCAW put a strong focus on youth, positioning young people as central to driving climate action. Initiatives like the **Youth Ideathon** demonstrated how innovation and ambition from younger generations can help bridge the gap between today's challenges and tomorrow's solutions.
7. **Advancing Climate Science:** The Baku Climate Science Conference brought to the fore cutting-edge research and innovation in climate science, focusing on the role of empirical data, AI, and advanced analytics in greenhouse gas emissions monitoring and climate adaptation. Global and regional collaborations were strengthened, with a clear emphasis on leveraging scientific expertise to accelerate climate action.
8. **Youth Innovation and Green Jobs:** The **IDEATHON** was a standout moment, highlighting the role of youth in driving the green economy. Participants presented innovative solutions to address the growing need for green jobs, with the top projects focusing on AI-driven renewable energy optimization, reducing food waste through local market connectivity, and sustainable building materials. These

initiatives underscored the importance of empowering young people as central actors in the climate transition.

9. **Built Environment/Smart Cities/ Infrastructure/Shipping:** Discussions at BCAW emphasised the importance of sustainable cities, sustainable design in infrastructure and shipping, highlighting Azerbaijan's commitment to green urban and rural development, logistics and climate-resilient urban planning. Key stakeholders shared best practices to drive decarbonization in ports, infrastructure, transport and construction. The signing at BCAW of an MOU between the State Urban Planning and Architecture Committee and IFC on a Green Buildings Framework in Azerbaijan, and a Pledge to advance efforts toward achieving zero-emission transportation systems from the Roundtable on Infrastructure, Shipping and Logistics were two key outcomes.

BCAW underscored Azerbaijan's commitment to energy transition and sustainability, providing a unique platform for international and regional stakeholders to engage in action-oriented discussions. The event also reaffirmed Azerbaijan's role as a neutral platform and honest broker in the global climate dialogue, with a focus on transparency and collaboration as it prepares to host COP29 in November.

A dedicated website for [Baku Climate Action Week](#) was created, complete with programme and speaker details, and a comprehensive resources section. Dedicated social media channels on X/ Linked In/ Instagram were also created which, together with the official COP29 handles, generated considerable online interest and traction.¹

This report presents the proceedings, outcomes, and key insights gathered throughout the week. It offers a comprehensive overview of how Baku Climate Action Week fostered dialogue, innovation, and partnership, setting the stage for continued progress in the global fight against climate change.

¹ Please see Appendix for social media analysis. News coverage analysis was not available at the time of this report.

Introduction: A Vision Realised



The inaugural **Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW)**, held from 30 September to 4 October 2024, was more than just a conference—it was a bold declaration of Azerbaijan's ambition to lead in the global climate space. With the country preparing to host **COP29**, BCAW was designed as a key mobilisation moment for Azerbaijan, offering a platform to unite local, regional, and global actors in the effort to tackle the world's most pressing climate challenges.

Hosted across multiple prestigious venues in Baku, including the **Heydar Aliyev Centre**, **Stone Chronicle Museum**, and **ADA University**, BCAW featured over 30 events, drawing more than **2000 participants** from a variety of sectors including policy, business, academia, civil society, and youth. With the overarching theme of "**Engage | Innovate | Accelerate**," the week showcased the full spectrum of Azerbaijan's climate commitments, from energy transition to youth leadership and green innovation.

Throughout the week, **Ms. Nigar Arpadarai**, the **UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29**, played a central role in guiding the discussions and outcomes, ensuring that Azerbaijan's leadership and commitment to the green transition were evident at every step.



Key Outcomes and Milestones

- **Launch of the Azerbaijan Universities Network on Climate Change (AUNCC):** A platform designed to engage higher education institutions in climate action.
- **Youth Climate Change Network:** Established to empower the next generation of climate leaders.
- **Breakthrough Agriculture Report:** A transformative document outlining key steps for decarbonizing the agricultural sector.
- **Signing of the Food Systems Call to Action** at the Harmoniya Roundtable signalling a strong commitment from both local and international stakeholders to advance sustainable agriculture and water management practices.
- **Commitments on Methane Abatement:** A series of high-level engagements focusing on reducing methane emissions ahead of COP29.
- **MOU between the State Urban Planning and Architecture Committee and IFC** on a **Green Buildings Framework** in Azerbaijan was a key outcome.
- **Pledge to advance efforts toward achieving zero-emission transportation systems** from the Roundtable on Infrastructure, Shipping and Logistics.
- **Green Innovations by Youth:** Youth entrepreneurs presented and won awards for their climate solutions, setting the stage for future green businesses in Azerbaijan.

Day 1: The Energy Transition & Built Environment ²

The week commenced with a **high-level opening ceremony** at the **Heydar Aliyev Centre**, a symbol of Azerbaijan's modern identity and its ambitions for a sustainable future. The opening was moderated by **Ms. Malini Mehra**, Curator of BCAW, who set the stage by emphasising the significance of Baku hosting COP29 later in the year. **Ms. Nigar Arpadarai** delivered the keynote address, offering a vision for the week ahead, underscoring Azerbaijan's firm commitment to climate action as a **COP-host nation**.

Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, followed by highlighting Azerbaijan's strides in environmental policy and sustainable development. He was joined by **Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Economy**, and **Mr. Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy**, who discussed the nation's roadmap toward achieving a sustainable and diversified economy by 2050.

The presence at the Opening Ceremony of Baku Climate Action Week of the three top ministers for ecology and natural resources, economy, and energy, signalled the joined-up and prominent support provided by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to BCAW and COP29.

The Opening also saw international messages of support from figures such as **Prof. Sir Jim Skea, Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, and **Mayor Katja Doerner, Mayor of Bonn**, home city of the UNFCCC, who delivered video messages that underscored the global significance of BCAW and its alignment with broader international climate goals.



² This overview is a summary of events to illustrate each day. It is not comprehensive and does not include all speakers in every session. For the full programme with details of each session, kindly refer to the programme included in this report as an Annex.

The morning concluded with a **coffee break** and **networking session** where **ministers, ambassadors, and heads of international organizations** engaged in informal discussions, strengthening ties ahead of more in-depth talks later in the week.

Session 1: The Climate Imperative – From Local to Global Action

The first plenary session, moderated by **Ms. Vladanka Andreeva, UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan**, addressed the pressing issue of climate action at both national and global levels. **Mr. Stuart Brocklehurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Business Engagement at the University of Exeter**, provided insights into the science behind climate change, while **Ms. Umayra Tagiyeva, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources**, presented Azerbaijan's current climate challenges. **Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and COP29 Chief Negotiator**, and **Mr. Elnur Aliyev, Deputy Minister of Economy**, elaborated on Azerbaijan's strategic international partnerships and its role in shaping global climate policy. **Mr. Mikael Melin**, representing **Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)**, linked the local context to international efforts aimed at achieving sustainable energy access for all.



The session underscored Azerbaijan's leadership and its efforts to contribute to the global mission of keeping temperature rises within 1.5°C.

Session 2: Azerbaijan's Energy Transition

The following session was a comprehensive overview of **Azerbaijan's energy transition**, showcasing the country's ambitions to diversify away from fossil fuels. Moderated by **Ms. Alessandra Roccasalvo, UNDP Resident Representative in Azerbaijan**, the panel featured

Mr. Elnur Soltanov, CEO of COP29 and Deputy Minister of Energy, who outlined the **2050 Vision** for energy transition. **Mr. Elmir Musayev, General Director of SOCAR-Green**, discussed the corporation's renewable energy strategies, while **Dr. Patrick Herhold, Managing Director at Boston Consulting Group**, underlining the pivotal role the private sector must play. Contributions from **Mr. Maxim Zubov, Vice President at Siemens Energy**, and **Mr. Alessandro Bresciani, SVP of Climate Technology Solutions at Baker Hughes**, brought a global perspective on how technological innovation could accelerate this transition.



Key outcomes included strengthened **public-private partnerships** aimed at speeding up renewable energy projects in Azerbaijan, bolstering Azerbaijan's standing as a regional energy leader.

Session 3: The Urban Context – Built Environment, Risk & Resilience

The focus then shifted to cities and urban development. Moderated by **Ms. Candice McDeigan, Country Director at the Asian Development Bank**, this session highlighted **Azerbaijan's green urban transformation**, with **Mr. Anar Guliyev, Chair of the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture**, discussing the challenges and opportunities of creating sustainable cities. **Mr. Emin Huseynov, Special Representative of the President of Azerbaijan**, discussed the need for resilience in regions like Aghdam

and Fuzuli, while **Ms. Lin O’Grady, Deputy Director at EBRD**, provided insight into international efforts to support urban resilience.

The day then saw the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Azerbaijan’s State Urban Planning and Architecture Committee and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). The MOU, officiated between **Mr. Anar Guliyev, Chair of SCUPA**, and **Ms. Aliya Azimova, IFC Country Head for Azerbaijan**, formalised work on a Green Buildings Framework in Azerbaijan.



After a morning and afternoon of thought-provoking discussions on the energy transition and urban sustainability, the focus shifted towards the **financial mechanisms** necessary to power such transitions.

Session 4: Smart Cities & Resilient Infrastructure – Role of Sustainable Design & Construction

Session 4: Smart Cities & Resilient Infrastructure – Role of Sustainable Design & Construction brought together leading experts to discuss the critical role of sustainable design, materials, and construction processes in accelerating decarbonization and building resilience within urban and large infrastructure projects, including ports and airports. Moderated by **Ms. Anna Soave**, Head of Country Programme, UN-Habitat Azerbaijan, the session showcased the latest innovations and best practices in the field.

Dr. Paul Toyne, Group Sustainability Leader at Grimshaw, highlighted cutting-edge advancements in sustainable architectural design and how these can drastically reduce the carbon footprint of new infrastructure projects. **Dr. Taleh Ziyadov**, Director General of the Port of Baku, shared insights on sustainable initiatives at the Port of Baku, focusing on integrating resilience and sustainability into port infrastructure. **Dr. Darshana Godaliyadde**, Director of the Resilience 4 Ports Initiative, highlighting the need for building resilience into port infrastructure to safeguard against climate risks. **Mr. Prashant Kapoor**,



Chief Industry Specialist for Green Buildings and Green Cities at the IFC, rounded out the discussion by exploring financial models and strategies that can support the green transformation of cities and infrastructure. Together, the panel offered a comprehensive look at how sustainable design and resilient infrastructure can contribute to climate action and urban development.

Session 5: Financing the Urban Transition – Green Finance & Investment Models that Work



The fifth session of the day explored **green finance** and **investment models** that have been proven to drive urban transitions towards net-zero economies. Moderated by **Ms. Aliya Azimova, IFC Country Head for Azerbaijan**, the session highlighted successful finance models from across the world, emphasising their applicability to Azerbaijan's urban landscape.

Dr. Marcelo de Andrade, Founder & Chair of Pro Natura International and Co-Founder of Earth Capital, was the first speaker to share his insights. He stressed the importance of aligning green finance with long-term sustainability goals, drawing from his vast experience in sustainable development projects across Latin America and beyond. **Ms. Vanessa Erogbogbo, Chief of Section at the International Trade Centre (ITC)** in Geneva, followed, providing valuable perspectives on how international trade can support sustainable urban regeneration efforts.

Mr. Yasin Kasirga, Decarbonization Leader for the Middle East and Africa at GE Vernova, then discussed specific strategies his company was employing to decarbonize urban environments, highlighting both the challenges and the successes in the region. His technical expertise was complemented by **Mr. George Richards, Director of Community Jameel**, who spoke about the role of philanthropy and innovation in supporting green projects that are otherwise considered too risky by traditional investors. **Mr. Rami Qasem, EVP and Chief Commercial Officer at Beyond Limits**, closed the session with a visionary look at how artificial intelligence and advanced technology can help unlock new opportunities for investment in climate resilience and regeneration efforts in cities.

The discussion was rich with examples of how finance can be mobilised effectively to meet the pressing needs of urban environments. The session concluded with a clear message: **financial innovation** and **international collaboration** are critical to accelerating the shift to sustainable, resilient cities.

Session 6: Accelerating Energy Transition in the Oil & Gas Sector

The final session of Day 1 shifted the focus back to the **oil and gas sector**, exploring ways to accelerate the **energy transition** in line with the **Oil & Gas Decarbonization Charter (OGDC)** launched at COP28. **Mr. Julien Perez, Managing Director at OGCI and OGDC**, moderated the session, which provided a critical update on the progress made since COP28 to align the oil and gas industry with a net-zero future.

Mr. Afgan Isayev, Vice President of SOCAR, began by discussing Azerbaijan's efforts to reduce emissions within its oil and gas sector, highlighting SOCAR's commitment to reducing methane emissions and scaling up renewable energy investments. **Ms. Siti**

Rafidah, Senior General Manager at Petronas, brought in a regional perspective from Southeast Asia, sharing Petronas' journey towards decarbonization and the lessons learned in managing both industry and regulatory challenges.



Mr. Ibrahim Nouri Al-Zu'bi, Chief Sustainability Officer at ADNOC, followed by offering insights into ADNOC's strategy to transition to cleaner energy sources while maintaining its leadership role in the global energy market. His remarks were reinforced by **Mr. Alan Haywood, Senior Vice President at bp**, who discussed bp's decarbonization strategy, specifically its ambitions to achieve net-zero by 2050 and the milestones bp has set to reduce its carbon footprint.

The session concluded with remarks from **Mr. Abdulla Malek, Director of Energy Transition at COP28**, who provided an overarching view of the industry's progress and the challenges that remain in aligning oil and gas production with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

This session underscored the continued importance of the oil and gas industry in the global energy mix while stressing the urgent need for accelerating its transition to a net-zero pathway. The discussions highlighted the **Oil & Gas Decarbonization Charter** as a cornerstone in guiding the industry's transformation and pointed to the need for greater investment in carbon capture technologies and methane abatement strategies.

Closing Keynote Address

To cap off an eventful and transformative first day, **Mr. Terry Tamminen, President & CEO of AltaSea and Climate Adviser to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger**, delivered the **Closing Keynote Address** via video message. In his speech, **Mr. Tamminen** reflected on the progress made in the fight against climate change and the role that global cities like Baku must play in this battle. He commended Azerbaijan's leadership in hosting COP29 and underlined the importance of local action in supporting global climate goals.

Drawing on his extensive experience in sustainable development, he called for greater collaboration between governments, businesses, and civil society to accelerate the green transition. **Mr. Tamminen** shared his vision for a future where ports, such as Baku's Caspian Sea port, lead the way in adopting **zero-emission technologies**, driving not just regional but global progress in decarbonizing trade and transportation.

His words left the audience with a sense of urgency but also optimism, closing the first day of BCAW on a powerful note.

Day 1 Outcomes

Day 1 of Baku Climate Action Week set the tone for the entire week, with a clear focus on **energy transition, urban resilience, and finance**. Key outcomes from the first day included:

1. **Public-private partnerships** were reinforced, particularly around green finance models, decarbonizing cities, and transitioning the oil and gas sector.
2. **MOU between the State Urban Planning and Architecture Committee and IFC** on a **Green Buildings Framework** in Azerbaijan.
3. A pledge to support **zero-emission technologies** in urban planning and oil and gas industries was discussed, with commitments made to continue working towards these goals in the lead-up to COP29.
4. The **Oil & Gas Decarbonization Charter** remained a focal point, with Azerbaijani officials reaffirming their commitment to aligning the country's oil and gas production with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The discussions provided an optimistic outlook for the country's climate leadership, creating momentum for the remaining days of **Baku Climate Action Week**.

Day 2: Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW) 2024 - Water Challenges, Food, and Agriculture

Following the vibrant first day of discussions on energy transition and the urban environment, **Day 2** of the **Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW) 2024** was devoted to critical issues surrounding **water security** and **food systems**—themes central to the global climate agenda and especially relevant to Azerbaijan’s regional role. This day, held at the **Heydar Aliyev Centre**, explored how climate change exacerbates challenges in managing these essential resources, providing a platform for experts from Azerbaijan and around the world to present solutions and strategies for future-proofing societies in a climate-changed world.

Opening Ceremony



The day began with a warm welcome from **Mr. Mukhtar Babayev**, the **COP29 President Designate and Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan**, who set the stage by highlighting the importance of food and water security in Azerbaijan’s climate transition. **Ms. Nigar Arpadarai**, the **UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29**, reinforced Azerbaijan’s commitment to tackling these pressing issues in her opening remarks. She expressed optimism about the collaborative nature of BCAW and its potential to drive concrete outcomes that would resonate beyond the borders of Azerbaijan.

The **Opening Address** was delivered by **Mr. Majnun Mammadov, Minister of Agriculture of Azerbaijan**, who outlined Azerbaijan's vision for a sustainable agricultural future, highlighting the integration of climate resilience into the country's food systems. Following him, **Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Executive Managing Director of CGIAR**, gave a comprehensive overview of global food security challenges, underscoring the role CGIAR has played in developing innovative agricultural practices to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Dr. Elouafi's address laid the groundwork for a day full of forward-looking discussions on food and water security.

Session 1: How to Future-proof Societies in a Climate-changed World



The first session of the day, moderated by **Mr. Movlan Pashayev, Regional Director at S3**, focused on the latest insights from the **UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)** on **disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, and risk governance**. The session opened with a video message from **Ms. Natalia Alonso Cano, Chief of the Regional Office for Europe & Central Asia at UNDRR**, who outlined the importance of integrating climate resilience into national policies to protect vulnerable communities.

Mr. Azad Jafarli, Head of Apparatus at the Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan, followed with a discussion of Azerbaijan's efforts to build resilience into its food systems, particularly in rural areas that are highly susceptible to climate change. The session closed with remarks

from **Mr. Syed Husain Quadri, Director of the Resilience & Climate Action Department at the Islamic Development Bank**, who stressed the need for enhanced international cooperation and financing to support climate adaptation initiatives in developing regions.

Session 2: Understanding Adaptation, Risk & Resilience in the National Context

In this session, the conversation shifted to a national context, focusing on the specific challenges Azerbaijan faces due to climate change. Moderated by **Mr. Nathan Cooper, Director, Policy & Engagement Dept, COP29 High Level Champion**, the panel discussed how Azerbaijan is adapting its policies to address the increasing risks posed by climate change.



Mr. Elvin Ashrafzade, Lead Adaptation and Loss & Damage Negotiator for the COP29 Presidency, provided an overview of Azerbaijan's **National Adaptation Plan**, highlighting the government's focus on building resilience in key sectors, including agriculture and water management. **Dr. Vinay Nangia, Research Team Leader at ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas)**, spoke about **resilient agri-food systems** in arid regions, underscoring the importance of adopting **climate-smart agricultural practices**. **Mr. Jens Nielsen, Founder & CEO of the World Climate Foundation**, introduced innovative financing mechanisms to support resilience projects.

The session ended with **Ms. Sonia Paiva, Founder and Managing Director of the Woman Farmer Foundation**, who shared how empowering women in rural communities can significantly contribute to climate resilience efforts.

Session 3: Watershed – Making Progress on Water Challenges

Water security was the focus of the third session, where experts delved into the pressing issue of **sustainable water management**. Moderated by **Ambassador Rodrigo Labardini, Diplomat-in-Residence at ADA University**, the panel featured a diverse set of voices addressing regional and international collaboration on water security.

Ms. Kamala Huseynli-Abishova, COP29 Presidency's Water Action Agenda focal point, opened the session by outlining Azerbaijan's national water management strategies. **Mr. Firidun Tağıyev, Head of the Land Use Control Department at the Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan**, followed with a discussion on how improved land use practices can support water conservation efforts. From the private sector, **Mr. Anton Kosach, Managing Director & Partner at BCG**, shared examples of how companies are innovating to ensure sustainable water use in industries. The global perspective was enriched by **Dr. Alok Sikka, Country Representative for India and Bangladesh at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI)**, and **Mr. Udyan Seth, Head of Global Water Desalination and Executive VP Business Development at ACWA Power**, who presented examples of successful water desalination projects from around the world.



Session 3: Watershed: Making Progress on Water Challenges focused on addressing critical water challenges, with a particular emphasis on sustainable water resource management. The session, moderated by **Ambassador Rodrigo Labardini, Diplomat-in-**

Residence at the Institute for Development & Diplomacy and Professor of Practice

at ADA University, showcased successful examples of water management techniques and technologies essential for ensuring water security in a changing climate. Speakers discussed the importance of regional and international collaboration, engaging public-private partnerships, international agencies, and key stakeholders.

Ms. Kamala Huseynli-Abishova, the **COP29 Presidency Action Agenda Water focal point**, highlighted the significance of water in the COP29 agenda, emphasising its role in climate resilience. **Mr. Firidun Tağıyev**, **Head of the Land Use Control Department at the Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan**, shared national strategies for sustainable land and water use in agriculture, focusing on efforts to mitigate water scarcity.

Mr. Anton Kosach, **Managing Director & Partner at BCG**, provided insights into innovative water management strategies that align with corporate sustainability goals. **Dr. Alok Sikka**, **Country Representative for India and Bangladesh at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), CGIAR**, addressed integrated approaches to water management in South Asia, showcasing examples of effective practices in large river basins.

Finally, **Mr. Udyan Seth**, **Head of Global Water Desalination and Executive Vice President of Business Development at ACWA Power**, spoke about the potential of desalination technologies and shared examples of global projects that combine innovation with sustainability, offering solutions to water-scarce regions. The session concluded with a strong emphasis on the need for continued collaboration across sectors to ensure sustainable water resource management for future generations.

Roundtable 1: Just Transition Partnerships and Catalyzing Investments

Roundtable 1: Just Transition Partnerships and Catalyzing Investments provided a vital platform for stakeholders to discuss strategies for an equitable energy transition and to unlock the financing needed to achieve global climate goals. Moderated by **Nigar Arpadarai**, COP29 UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, the roundtable centred on the importance of public-private partnerships and the regulatory frameworks necessary to drive clean energy investments.

Gagan Porwal, Chief Commercial & Strategy Leader at GE Vernova, opened the session by outlining the core principles of a Just Transition. **Elnur Soltanov**, Deputy Minister of Energy for Azerbaijan, highlighted the country's regional collaboration efforts. **Alessandro Bresciani**, Senior Vice President at Baker Hughes, explored decarbonization strategies,

while **Ibrahim Al Zoubi** from ADNOC and **Afghan Isayev** from SOCAR discussed renewable energy's growing role in the UAE and Azerbaijan.

A key focus of the roundtable was the financial challenges faced by developing economies.



Dr. Mohammed Alyami, General Manager at the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector, and **Florian Kitt**, Senior Energy Specialist at the World Bank, discussed the financial roadblocks to clean energy projects and highlighted the need for regulatory frameworks to unlock investment, particularly in regions with inadequate infrastructure.

The role of the private sector was also underscored, with **Siti Rafidah** from Petronas and **Teymur Huseynov** from Pasha Holding highlighting the need for incentives to engage businesses in low-carbon energy projects and ensure the inclusion of carbon-intensive workforces in the energy transition.

Key Outcomes:

- Global cooperation emerged as essential to tackling challenges related to financing, resources, and infrastructure in the energy transition.
- Partnerships between governments, energy companies, and financial institutions are critical to securing the capital required to meet decarbonization goals. However, significant gaps remain between current capital flows and the estimated funds needed by 2030.
- The session also addressed challenges related to the "bankability" of large-scale clean energy projects and the macroeconomic obstacles faced by developing countries.

Next Steps:

The outcomes from this session align with COP29's priorities, particularly the need to address financing gaps and infrastructure development. Further discussions will take place during COP29, with a capacity-building workshop planned for Finance Day to engage Azerbaijani banks and financial institutions in advancing green finance initiatives.

This roundtable served as a foundational moment for Azerbaijan to assert its leadership in the global energy transition, highlighting the country's potential to drive sustainable energy investments and attract foreign investment ahead of COP29.

High-Level Session on Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Transportation



High-Level Session on Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Transportation, a key gathering brought together decision-makers, developers, and investors from across the infrastructure and transportation sectors. The session, moderated by **Ms. Shirin Aliyeva, Chief Legal, Ethics and Compliance Officer at Azercell**, provided a platform to share best practices for building climate-resilient infrastructure and transport systems. The discussion highlighted the critical importance of adapting infrastructure to withstand the increasing impacts of climate change while actively reducing emissions.

Mr. Eugene Seah, Chief Operating Officer of the Port of Baku, highlighted the Port's initiatives to integrate sustainability into its operations and its role in promoting green logistics in the region. **Ms. Aida Badalova, Adviser to the Minister of Azerbaijan High**

Technologies & Transport, shared insights on the government's strategy to incorporate climate resilience into Azerbaijan's national transportation policies.

Mr. Adam Elman, Head of Sustainability for EMEA at Google, focused on the transformative potential of technology and digital innovation in accelerating sustainability efforts across the transport sector. **Mr. Heinrich Kerstgens, Corporate Representative Director for Board Projects at Rhenus SE & Co.**, spoke on the importance of corporate investments and global partnerships to drive sustainable transport solutions, while **Mr. Andriy Maksymovych, Senior Investment Officer for Infrastructure & Energy at the IFC**, provided key insights on the role of international finance in facilitating the shift to low-emission, climate-resilient infrastructure.

The session concluded with a review of the expert roundtable on **Zero Emissions Shipping, Freight Logistics, and Transport**, and the announcement of a **Pledge to advance efforts toward achieving zero-emission transportation systems**. This session highlighted the necessity of global cooperation and the pivotal role of infrastructure in contributing to climate goals, underscoring the need for both financial and technological innovation to drive meaningful change.

Roundtable 2: HARMONIYA 4 Climate Resilience brought together key stakeholders to discuss strategies for empowering farmers, villages, and rural communities, focusing on the intersection of agriculture, food systems, and water management. This session aimed to amplify business-led solutions and scale adaptation finance related to the agriculture, food, and water nexus, underscoring Azerbaijan's leadership in facilitating knowledge-sharing and collaboration on these critical areas. The roundtable sought to inform the 'Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers,' fostering synergies and overcoming barriers in financing and innovation.



Opening remarks were made by **Ms. Nigar Arpadarai**, UN High-Level Climate Champion for COP29, **Mr. Azad Jafarli** from the Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan, and **Mr. Anar Azimov**, Deputy Chair of the Agrarian Services Agency of Azerbaijan, underscored the importance of rural empowerment in the climate resilience agenda. **Mr. Bariz Mehdiyev**, FAO Deputy Representative in Azerbaijan, provided an overview of the Harmoniya Initiative, highlighting its goal of bridging the significant funding gaps in water-related projects, estimated between US\$182bn to US\$664bn annually.

Moderated by **Mr. Nathan Cooper** of the HLCC team, the panel discussion "From Local Ambition to Global Action" featured insights from **Mr. Ramil Mammadov**, Managing Director of AgroDairy, **Mr. Ilham Abdullayev**, Business Development Director of Azersun, and **Mr. Rovshen Mahmudov**, Executive Director of MKT Cotton, focusing on how the agricultural sector can drive climate resilience. The session also explored scaling up adaptation efforts, with **Mr. Syed Husain Quadri**, Director of the Resilience and Climate Action Department at the Islamic Development Bank, **Mr. George Richards**, Director of Community Jameel, and **Mr. Mohammed Alyami**, General Manager of Development Effectiveness at the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector, discussing finance, policy, and innovation in agricultural resilience. **Mr. Emil Mammadli** from IFC contributed insights on investment opportunities in the agribusiness sector.

The roundtable culminated with the **signing of the Food Systems Call to Action**, signalling a strong commitment from both local and international stakeholders to advance sustainable agriculture and water management practices. A significant number of Azerbaijani businesses also joined this call to scale action, raise ambition, and unlock the potential of food systems for people, nature, and climate, marking the session as a pivotal moment on the road to COP29.

Session 5: Food Systems – Tackling Agriculture & Food Security Challenges in the Region

The late afternoon session addressed one of the most pressing global and regional issues: the decarbonization of the **agriculture industry**. Moderated by **Mr. Nasar Hayat, Head of the FAO Partnership and Liaison Office in Azerbaijan**, the session focused on innovative practices to reduce emissions, improve resilience to climate change, and ensure equitable access to nutritious food.

Mr. Anar Azimov, Deputy Chair of the Agrarian Services Agency at the Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan, led the discussion with an update on Azerbaijan's efforts to **decarbonize** its agriculture sector. **Mr. Niyazi Amirbayov, CEO of AgroDairy**, provided a practical perspective on sustainable farming practices. **Mr. Richard Ali, Director of**

Corporate Affairs at Tetra Pak, emphasised the need for **public-private partnerships** to scale food system innovations globally. Contributions from **Dr. Stefan Hagemann**, **President of Elof Hansson Clean Tech**, and **Dr. Vinay Nangia** from **ICARDA** highlighted emerging global trends in sustainable agriculture.

Launch of the Breakthrough Agenda Agriculture Report



Baku Climate Action Week 2024
LAUNCH of Agriculture Report of the Breakthrough Agenda
 Tuesday 1 October, 2024
 Heydar Aliyev Centre | Baku, Azerbaijan

 Nigar Arpadarai UN Climate Change High Level Champion for COP29	 Fergus Auld OBE British Ambassador to Azerbaijan	 Ban Ki-Moon Former Secretary General, United Nations	 Dr Ismahane Elouafi Executive Managing Director, CGIAR
 Dr Aditi Mukherji Director, CGIAR Climate Impact Platform, CGIAR	 Dr Vinay Nangia Research Team Leader, Resilient Agri-Food Systems, (ICARDA), CGIAR	 Richard Ali Director, Corporate Affairs, Strategy & Stakeholder Relations, Tetra Pak	 Leyla Jabbarli Deputy Chair, Agro Credit and Development Agency, Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan


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COP29
 Baku
 Azerbaijan

One of the most significant outcomes of Day 2 was the **Launch of the Agriculture Report of the Breakthrough Agenda**, a key document outlining the steps needed to **decarbonize the global agricultural sector**. **Ms. Nigar Arpadarai**, **COP29 High-Level Champion**, opened the launch event with remarks about Azerbaijan's commitment to climate-resilient agriculture. She was followed by **Mr. Fergus Auld OBE**, **British Ambassador to Azerbaijan**,

and a special video message from **Mr. Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations**, who lauded Azerbaijan's leadership on climate action.

The **report presentation**, led by **Dr. Aditi Mukherji, Director of the CGIAR Climate Impact Platform**, outlined key strategies for transforming the agricultural sector to meet **global climate goals**. The panel discussion that followed featured input from **Mr. Richard Ali** (Tetra Pak), **Mr. Anar Azimov** (Agrarian Services Agency), and **Dr. Ismahane Elouafi**, who emphasised the role of **science and innovation** in driving **sustainable agricultural practices**.

People Fixing the Planet: Stories from Azerbaijan

Inspired by the popular BBC World Service programme, **People Fixing the World**, and a nod to **youth participation** and **local climate innovations**, the evening session, moderated by **Ms. Malini Mehra, Curator of BCAW**, featured a panel of young climate solution providers from Azerbaijan. Keynote speakers **Ms. Nigar Arpadarai, HLC COP29**, and **Ms Firuza Sultan-zade, chief executive, ECOsfera**, addressed the audience, served as role models and emphasised the critical role of youth in shaping the country's climate future.

Panellists included **Mr. Shahin Badirkhanli, Deputy Director of Bioropean**, **Dr. Aygun Israyilova, Senior Researcher at Baku State University**, and **Mr. Fariz Jafarov, Executive Director of the Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR)**, all of whom shared their innovative solutions for addressing climate challenges in Azerbaijan.



The session closed with remarks from **Mr. Michael Tun, CEO of Eqquo Ltd.**, who provided a global perspective on how young entrepreneurs are driving climate action through technology and innovation.

ROUNDTABLE 3: The Roundtable on Zero Emissions Shipping, Freight Logistics, and Transport focused on exploring how the **Port of Baku**, as a key hub on the Caspian Sea, can support green shipping, promote sustainable logistics, and enhance marine protection as part of Azerbaijan's commitment to creating a new green silk route.

The session opened with **Mohamed Hegazy**, Transport Cluster Lead for the Climate Champions Team, as moderator. In his introductory remarks, he outlined the session's objectives, highlighting the need to decarbonize maritime transport while maintaining efficiency in logistics operations. **Ms. Nigar Arpadarai**, United Nations High-Level Climate Champion for COP29, followed with a keynote address, reinforcing the critical role of the Port of Baku in advancing sustainability in the region. Other key speakers included **Mr. Rahman Hummetov**, Deputy to the Minister of High Technology and Transportation, **Mr. Vusal Aghayev**, Head of the Agency from the Ministry of Emergency Situations, **Dr. Taleh Ziyadov**, General Director of Baku International Sea Trade Port, and **Mr. Rovhen Rustamov**, Chairman of Azerbaijan Railways, each highlighting Azerbaijan's integrated approach to transforming transport infrastructure for a low-carbon future.

The first roundtable dialogue centred on infrastructure, with **Ms. Stefanie Stallmeister**, Country Manager for the World Bank in Azerbaijan, and **Dr. Darshana Godaliyadde**, Director of Resilience4Ports, discussing the importance of developing resilient port infrastructure that can withstand climate impacts while transitioning to greener technologies. Participants exchanged ideas on how to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability in port management.



The second roundtable focused on the perspective of operators and port users. **Alakber Azizili**, Director of Sustainability at Azerbaijan Caspian Shipping Company, shared strategies on incorporating clean energy solutions into maritime operations, while **Maher**

Ayed, Head of Global Business Development at Clean Power Solutions, discussed innovative technologies for reducing emissions. **Natig Heydarov**, Chairman of the Azerbaijan Freight Forwarders Association, emphasised the importance of cooperation between private operators and the government to accelerate green logistics.

The session concluded with a pledge-signing ceremony, where participants committed to advancing green shipping initiatives in Azerbaijan, followed by closing remarks that summarised the key outcomes and next steps in promoting sustainable maritime transport.

Day 2 Outcomes

The second day of **Baku Climate Action Week** brought attention to some of the most pressing global challenges—**water security**, **food systems**, and **agricultural resilience**. Key outcomes included:

1. The launch of the **Breakthrough Agenda Agriculture Report**, providing a roadmap for **decarbonizing agriculture**.
2. **Signing of the Food Systems Call to Action** at the Harmoniya Roundtable signalling a strong commitment from both local and international stakeholders to advance sustainable agriculture and water management practices.
3. The establishment of **Just Transition partnerships** to ensure sustainable energy and food systems.
4. A **Pledge to advance efforts toward achieving zero-emission transportation systems** from the Roundtable on Infrastructure, Shipping and Logistics.
5. Commitments from youth innovators to scale up **local climate solutions**, contributing to a more **resilient Azerbaijan**.

As discussions concluded, the foundation was set for continued action in the days leading up to **COP29**, positioning Azerbaijan as a leader in regional and global climate action.

Day 3: Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW) 2024 – Comprehensive Coverage of the Green

Economy, Just Transition, and Methane Emission Abatement

On **Wednesday, 2 October 2024**, the third day of **Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW)** delved deeper into crucial themes related to **green economy transformation, skills development, and just transition**, while also addressing significant topics such as **methane emission abatement**. With events unfolding at multiple venues, the day covered a range of key sessions, workshops, and roundtables attended by high-level experts and stakeholders.

‘GREEN ECONOMY - Meeting the Skills, Finance and Just Transition Challenge’ conference at The Landmark Hotel Baku

The **green economy** focus of the day unfolded at **The Landmark Hotel Baku**.

Welcome and Opening Address: Meeting the Skills, Finance & Just Transition Challenge

The high-level discussions began with opening remarks from **Ms. Nigar Arpadarai**, the **COP29 High-Level Champion**, followed by an address from **Mr. Sahil Babayev, Minister of Labour, Republic of Azerbaijan**. Minister Babayev underscored the importance of preparing Azerbaijan’s workforce for the **green transition**, with a focus on **job creation** and ensuring that no one is left behind as the country embraces sustainability.



Session 1: Meeting the Human Capital Challenge for a Green Economy

The Conference moderator, **Ms. Malini Mehra, Curator of Baku Climate Action Week**, opened the session with a presentation by **Ms. Steffi Stallmeister, World Bank Country Manager for Azerbaijan**, building on the Minister's keynote address to provide further context on the human capital and human development context for Azerbaijan, highlighting some of the World Bank's efforts in-country to support human capital development and green skills. This was followed by a presentation by **Ms. Julia Bogdanovskaya** from **BCG** on results of a global survey by BCG to understand the human capital and green skills gap, with a focus on the mismatch between the skills needed by the green economy (e.g. solar and wind sectors) and current labour market deficiencies.

Session 2: Meeting the Just Transition Challenge for the Oil & Gas Sector



In the second session, moderated by **Dr. Faye Gerard, Energy Transition Director at IGOP**, the panel addressed the challenge of transitioning the **oil and gas sector** to a sustainable future. **Ms. Rana Humbatova, Head of Hydrogen & Green Technology at the Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency**, spoke about the importance of retraining the **fossil fuel workforce** to move into **renewable energy industries**, particularly in **hydrogen**. The session also featured insights from **Ms. Claudine Sigam, UNCTAD**, and **Mr Nikolai Kutsenko**, Director of Oil and Gas Equipment Sales for Turkey, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, **Siemens Energy** who shared examples of **just transition efforts** from the region.

Key areas of concern included the lack of access to cutting-edge technology, limited financing options for large-scale abatement projects, and the regulatory gaps that allow methane emissions to persist. The session emphasised the need for stronger regional coordination and the inclusion of methane reduction measures in Nationally Determined

Contributions (NDCs). Participants also explored next steps for scaling up efforts, including policy reforms, public-private partnerships, and better access to global financing mechanisms to support the deployment of methane abatement technologies.

Session 3: Creating a Green Skills Ecosystem for SMEs



Meanwhile, back at **The Landmark Hotel**, the third session of the day focused on building a **green skills ecosystem for SMEs**. Moderated by **Mr. Orkhan Mustafayev**, the panel featured **Mr. Orkhan Mammadov, Chairman of KOBIA**, **Ms. Sonia Paiva**, Founder/Managing Director, Woman Farmer Foundation, **Mr Emil Majidov**, Managing Partner, Rotas Consulting, and **Mr. Roman Dojcak** of the **EIB (video message)**. Panellists discussed the **challenges faced by SMEs** in Azerbaijan and across the region, identifying ways to address the **skills gaps** hindering their ability to transition to **green businesses**.

Session 4: Supporting SMEs in the Green Transition

Moderated by **Mr. John Patterson, Founder of the British Chamber of Commerce Azerbaijan**, this session featured international and Azerbaijani experts sharing **best practices** for supporting SMEs in their green transition. Discussions included addressing the **gender gap** in the workforce and exploring ways to empower SMEs to thrive in the new **green economy**. **Mr. Ma Jun**, **Mr. Richard Ali**, and **Dr. Anna Schulenburg** provided case studies from China and Europe, while **Mr. Elnur Aliyev** offered insights from Azerbaijan's SME sector.



Session 5: Addressing the Education Challenge – Innovation and Inclusion



The education sector is critical for ensuring a **just transition**, and this session, moderated by **Ambassador Rodrigo Labardini**, Diplomat-in-Residence, Institute for Development & Diplomacy, Professor of Practice, ADA University, explored how education systems can be transformed to support **green innovation**. **Dr. Robin Fears** from the **InterAcademy Partnership**, **Ms. Nargiz Hajiyeva**, Country Director-Azerbaijan, **British Council**, **Mr. Stephen Davison** from **Cambridge Zero**, and **Ms. Hajar Huseynova**, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Development and Diplomacy, **ADA University**, discussed innovative strategies to **integrate climate action** into **educational curricula** and ensure **lifelong learning opportunities** for all.

Session 6: Greening the Finance Sector: Addressing the Capacity Gap focused on closing the climate finance gap, a key priority for the COP29 Presidency. The session highlighted efforts by financial institutions to build capacity in sustainability and the skills needed to support the net-zero and climate resilience agendas. Moderated by **Mr. Simon Thompson**, President of the Global Capacity Building Coalition, the panellists explored how financial systems can adapt to the growing demand for green finance and build capacity within the financial sector.



In his opening address, **Mr. Thompson** introduced the Global Capacity Building Coalition and its role in equipping financial institutions with the necessary tools to meet sustainability goals. **Mr. Abbas Ibrahimov**, Chairman of Bank ABB, discussed the role of local banks in advancing green finance in Azerbaijan. **Ms. Cebile Nhlabatsi**, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Trade of Eswatini, underlined the importance of integrating sustainability into financial strategies in developing nations. **Mohamed Alyamic**, General Manager of the Development Effectiveness Office at the ICD, and **Mr. Claudio Pedretti**, Founder & President of The Club of Florence, both highlighted the role of international cooperation and knowledge sharing to build financial sector capacity for green investments.

The session underscored the need for a concerted effort to enhance the skills and resources of financial institutions to close the climate finance gap, drive investment into sustainable projects, and support global climate action efforts.

Session 7: New Tools for Building Decarbonisation



The final session at **The Landmark Hotel** showcased **Minoro**, a new platform for **decarbonising the construction industry**. **Dr. Paul Toyne**, **Mr. Ozgur Geter**, and **Mr. Nariman Topchubashov** demonstrated how asset owners and built environment professionals can use this tool to **cut emissions** and **increase sustainability** in large infrastructure projects.

DAY 3 - ROUNDTABLE ON AI & TECHNOLOGY



On **Day 3**, the **AI & Technology Roundtable 4**, also held at the Landmark Hotel Baku, brought together key stakeholders to explore the practical, business-focused applications of artificial intelligence (AI) technology aimed at increasing productivity and reducing emissions. The session focused on how AI could be effectively deployed in resource-constrained environments to drive sustainable development.

The event commenced with **Orkhan Mustfayev**, representing the **COP29** team, and **Rashad Nabi Oghlu Nabiye**v, the **Minister of Digital Development and Transportation of Azerbaijan**, delivering welcome and opening remarks. They pointed to the potential of AI to revolutionise critical areas such as energy, water efficiency, and climate finance, highlighting its role in Azerbaijan's pathway to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

The first section of the roundtable provided an overview of AI opportunities across four key sectors: energy and water efficiency, climate finance, waste reduction, and land use. A representative from **Microsoft AI for Good Lab** discussed AI-driven innovations in energy efficiency. A speaker from **NoorNation / Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab** highlighted AI's role in sustainable water management, and an academic expert explored the integration of AI in financial and operational efficiency. A 15-minute Q&A session followed, allowing participants to delve deeper into these topics.

The second section focused on the challenges and context for AI implementation in Azerbaijan. **Fariz Jafarov, Director of Baku C4IR**, outlined the local initiatives driving AI innovation, particularly in relation to data access, local AI models, and independence from global systems. A representative from the **SABAH.HUB/SME community (KOBIA)** discussed how SMEs could leverage AI to drive innovation, particularly in sectors such as agriculture and renewable energy. The lively Q&A session further explored the practical challenges and opportunities for AI deployment.

The third section shifted focus to key enablers for AI-driven climate action, including financial, educational, and policy frameworks. **Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev, Rector of ADA University** and **UNESCO representative**, delivered insights into how academic institutions can support AI advancements by fostering research and innovation. Policy experts underscored the need for regulatory support to unlock AI's full potential, including better access to GPUs and AI models for local stakeholders.

A significant outcome of the roundtable was the signing of a pledge to advance the use of AI technologies in Azerbaijan's journey to net-zero emissions by 2050. This aligned with the broader **COP29 Green Digital Action** initiative. Participants agreed on next steps, including

continued discussions on policy proposals, partnerships, and the scaling of AI-enabled solutions for climate resilience and sustainability.

National High-Level Event on Climate Change & Children, COP29 Azerbaijan, UNICEF Azerbaijan & IDEA

The *National High-Level Event on Climate Change & Children*, held as part of Baku Climate Action Week, was a critical session dedicated to drawing attention to the unique vulnerabilities of children in Azerbaijan amidst the climate crisis. The session opened with welcoming remarks by **Nigar Arpadarai**, **Leyla Hasanova**, and **Dr. Saja Farooq Abdullah**, underlining the need for inclusive climate action focused on children and youth. They set the tone for the day by underscoring Azerbaijan's commitment to protecting the youngest and most vulnerable in the climate resilience agenda.



Following the opening, **Oruj Bayramov**, UNICEF Youth Climate Envoy for Azerbaijan, shared an impactful storytelling session about the direct impacts of climate change on children in the country, drawing attention to the importance of integrating children's voices into climate discussions. His personal insights set the stage for deeper reflections on the disproportionate effects of climate change on youth.

Maria Osbeck, UNICEF's Regional Advisor on Sustainability and Climate, gave an expert overview of global climate policy solutions, underscoring why children need to be placed at the heart of climate action. She highlighted examples of climate adaptation and mitigation

initiatives that specifically address the needs of young populations, inspiring attendees to consider how similar efforts could be implemented in Azerbaijan.

A pivotal part of the event was the in-depth discussion about policy solutions and ongoing initiatives taking place in Azerbaijan. Participants focused on what actions could be taken to mitigate the impact of climate change on children, particularly within the realms of social protection, health, education, and environmental conservation. They debated strategies to ensure that current and prospective policies adequately reflect the needs of children, reshaping Azerbaijan's climate response to safeguard future generations.

The session successfully achieved its objectives by fostering meaningful dialogue among experts, government representatives, and civil society. Participants reached a consensus on actionable recommendations tailored to the context of Azerbaijan, aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change on children. Key outcomes included a renewed commitment to reshaping existing policies and integrating child-centred approaches into Azerbaijan's broader climate action strategies.

Looking ahead to COP29, the event highlighted the urgency of running an inclusive process that prioritises children and youth in the global climate agenda. The COP29 Presidency highlighted its dedication to ensuring that outcomes are inclusive and reflect the needs of young people, with specific plans to continue these discussions and deepen engagement at COP29. This event marked an important step in bringing the issue of climate change's impact on children to the forefront of Azerbaijan's climate policy.

IDEATHON: 'Bridging the Gap – Youth and Green Jobs Market - DAY 1



Day 1 of the 3-day IDEATHON: 'Bridging the Gap – Youth and Green Jobs Market'

commenced on Wednesday 2nd October at the BHOS Main Campus as part of COP29 Azerbaijan and UNDP Azerbaijan's collaboration. This event aimed to connect young adults with the evolving green jobs market, focusing on sustainable practices and the skills needed for green careers. As the world transitions to sustainability, the Ideathon sought to bridge the gap between current educational frameworks and the demands of the future job market. It also complemented the Green Economy – Meeting the Skills, Finance & Just Transition Challenge conference, highlighting the opportunities for Azerbaijan and the region's youth.

The event opened with speeches by **Elmar Gasimov**, Rector of Baku Higher School of Oil, **Nigar Arpadarai**, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29 Azerbaijan, and **Leyla Hasanova**, COP29 Youth Climate Champion. Additional speakers included **Dr. Peter Knez**, former Chief Investment Officer at BlackRock, **Dr. Marcelo de Andrade**, Founder of Pro Natura International, and **Alessandra Roccasalvo**, UNDP Resident Representative in Azerbaijan, each emphasising the importance of youth engagement in green jobs.

A panel discussion titled *"Future of Work: How Green Jobs are Shaping Tomorrow's Economy"* moderated by **Leyla Seyidzade** from UNDP Azerbaijan, featured speakers like **Safiya Nizametdinova**, **Jeyhun Khalilov**, and **Shabnam Mammadova**, who explored the role of green jobs in shaping the future economy. Following the discussion, a workshop led by **Gunel Isakova** of the World Health Organization Azerbaijan and **Mammadova Ayygun** of ADA University introduced participants to the concept of sustainable careers. The event concluded with an overview of the Ideathon's goals, mentors, and rules, setting the stage for the development of innovative ideas over the course of the following days.

Turning Methane Pledges into Action – IEA/ COP29 Presidency Regional Technical Workshop

At the **Stone Chronicle Museum**, the day commenced with a **technical workshop** co-organized by the **COP29 Presidency** and the **International Energy Agency (IEA)**, focusing on transforming **methane reduction pledges** into actionable steps.

Tim Gould, the **Chief Energy Economist at IEA**, opened the event with introductory remarks, highlighting the critical role of reducing methane emissions to achieve **global climate goals**. **Ms. Nigar Arpadarai**, the **United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29**, and **Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov**, **Deputy Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan**, also addressed the audience, reinforcing Azerbaijan's commitment to methane mitigation as part of its broader environmental agenda.

Technical Session #1: Methane Emissions and Abatement



The first technical session, moderated by **Tim Gould**, explored the current state of methane emissions, abatement measures, and opportunities for emission mitigation. **K.C. Michaels** from the **IEA** shared the latest data from the **Global Methane Tracker 2024**, highlighting global and regional trends in methane emissions. **Giulia Ferrini** from **UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO)** discussed the **Methane Alert and Response System (MARS)** and **OGMP 2.0**, tools designed to enhance methane transparency. **Anastasia Isaenko** from **Carbon Limits** provided insight into industry-led initiatives, while **Hikmat Abdullayev**, **Deputy Vice President of SOCAR**, presented a case study on **SOCAR's methane reduction strategies**.

Technical Session #2: Turning Pledges into Plans, Policies, and Regulations



The second session focused on the development of policies and regulations to curb methane emissions, moderated by **James Turitto** from the **Clean Air Task Force (CATF)**. **Justin Pryor** from the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** and **Mindaugas Laurinavicius** from the **European Commission** shared insights into **policy frameworks** that successfully address methane in the fossil fuel sector. **Mashoor Burahee** and **Vusal Huseynov** from the **United Kingdom**, along with **Alexander Cherednichenko** from **Kazakhstan**, provided regional perspectives on methane policy development and regulatory challenges. The panel examined how governments and the international community can collaborate to develop **new regulations** on methane emissions.

The **Technical Session #3: Tools to Support Policymakers** focused on providing resources and strategies to help governments implement effective policies for reducing methane emissions. The panel featured contributions from **K.C. Michaels** of the International Energy Agency (IEA), **James Turitto** from the Clean Air Task Force (CATF), **Branko Milicevic** of UNECE, and **Hunter Shirley** from the US Bureau of Energy Resources. The session addressed key questions about regulatory frameworks that are already in place, such as



UNECE standards, and explored how these frameworks can be further enhanced to meet the specific needs of the region. Panellists highlighted the importance of integrating robust data systems and international collaboration to create policies that drive real methane emission reductions. A Q&A session followed, where attendees explored these frameworks' practical applications in their respective national contexts.

The **Technical Session #4: Building Bankable Projects and Financing Abatement in Oil and Gas Methane** delved into the financial challenges and opportunities for methane abatement in the oil and gas sector. Presentations were given by **K.C. Michaels** from IEA, **Zubin Bamji** from the World Bank, and **Andrew Baxter** from Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). The session featured a fireside chat where panellists discussed the significant financing gaps that hinder the development of methane abatement projects in the region. They explored ways operators can streamline the financing process, such as adopting global standards and accessing international funding mechanisms. **Andrew Baxter** highlighted the specific needs and challenges operators face in securing finance for methane emissions reduction projects, underscoring the importance of creating investment-ready projects that can attract both public and private capital. The discussion underscored the role of public-private partnerships and innovation in addressing these challenges.

The **Technical Session #5: Barriers to Abatement in the Region** was a roundtable discussion that brought together experts to identify and address the key barriers preventing effective methane abatement in the region. Moderated by the **International Energy Agency (IEA)**, the session focused on the structural, financial, and regulatory obstacles that hinder the region's ability to meet its methane reduction targets. Panellists discussed the challenges faced by operators and governments in aligning national policies with global best practices, as well as the technical limitations in monitoring and mitigating methane emissions.

DAY 3 - REZA's 'Caspian Dreams' Exhibition and Evening Reception



The day ended with an **evening talk** by **renowned photojournalist REZA** at **The Landmark Hotel Baku**, showcasing the relationship between art, culture and climate, BCAW in partnership with legendary photojournalist REZA and The Landmark Hotel, hosted a viewing and talk by the artist on his ‘Caspian Dreams’ exhibition documenting the dramatic transformation of the city of Baku. In his talk, REZA shared his experience documenting Azerbaijan’s transformation, drawing powerful connections between his **Caspian Sea photographs** and the country’s present-day environmental challenges. He also introduced his most recent initiatives, including the **Children Eyes on the Earth**, an international photo contest for the children of the world, due to be showcased at the prestigious Heydar Aliyev Cultural Centre during COP29. The evening concluded with a reception, where attendees discussed the broader cultural implications of climate action.

Day 3 Outcomes

The third day of **Baku Climate Action Week** was marked by a profound focus on the **green economy, skills development, SMEs**, and **methane emission reductions**. Key outcomes of the day include:

1. Commitments from Azerbaijani **SMEs** to foster **green jobs** and invest in sustainability.
2. Progress on methane abatement, with participants identifying key **barriers** and exploring strategies for **regulatory improvements**.
3. Launch of new financial tools and resources to support the **green transition** in construction and other industries.
4. Stronger alignment between **Azerbaijan’s workforce development efforts** and its **sustainability goals**, showcased through education and training initiatives.

The discussions set the stage for **Azerbaijan** to present its leadership in both **green finance** and **methane mitigation** at **COP29** in November.



Day 4: Baku Climate Action Week 2024 – Focus on Super Pollutants, Higher Education, and Private Finance

Thursday, 3 October 2024 marked another significant day at the **Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW)**, featuring high-level discussions on **super pollutants**, the role of **higher education in climate transition**, and the advancement of **green finance**. The events, held at multiple venues, brought together experts from diverse sectors to address the key challenges in building a sustainable future.



Morning Event: Higher Education's Role in Climate Transition

At **ADA University**, the day began with a focus on the pivotal role that **universities and higher education institutions** play in addressing **climate change**. The high-level event seeded the establishment of the **Azerbaijan University Network on Climate Change (AUNCC)**, inspired by global examples such as the **UK Universities Climate Network (UKUCN)**.

Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President Designate and **Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan**, opened the session, alongside **Ms. Nigar Arpadarai**, the **United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29**, and **Mr. Firudin Gurbanov, Deputy Minister of Science and Education of Azerbaijan**. They emphasised the

importance of building **research capacity**, promoting **climate innovation**, and enhancing **international cooperation** among Azerbaijani universities.

Mr. Fariz Ismailzade, Vice Rector of ADA University, moderated the session, which featured a strong lineup of speakers: **Ms. Nargiz Hajiyevea, British Council Country Director for Azerbaijan**, **Mr. Stephen Davidson** from **Cambridge Zero**, **Dr. Robin Fears** from the **InterAcademy Partnership**, and **Ms Malini Mehra**, Curator, Baku Climate Action Week; **Ambassador, London Climate Action Week**. Each speaker highlighted the role of **higher education** in equipping the next generation with the skills and knowledge necessary to tackle climate challenges.

Moderated Discussion: Azerbaijan Universities Network on Climate Change



Following the introductory remarks, the session transitioned into a **moderated discussion** with rectors and senior education leaders from Azerbaijan. The panel examined the current state of **climate change education** in Azerbaijan, regional partnerships, and the potential for future collaboration with **international universities**. As a key outcome, participants agreed to work toward launching the **Azerbaijan University Network on Climate Change (AUNCC)** during **COP29** in November 2024.

The session concluded with a **campus tour** and a networking **lunch** at ADA University.

Afternoon Events: Super Pollutants and Private Finance Roundtables

While the discussions at ADA University were concluding, other events began across the city. These included a workshop on **super pollutants** and two critical roundtables on **green finance** and **carbon mitigation**.

The **Advancing Global Methane Reduction (AGMR) Impact Conference** was held at the Stone Chronicle Museum, focusing on global efforts to reduce methane emissions. The event began with a welcome address from **Ms. Nigar Arpadarai**, United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29, followed by an opening address by the Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan (tbc).



The opening remarks were delivered by **Mr. Afgan Isayev** from SOCAR and **Mr. Bakhtiyar Aslanbeyli** from bp, emphasising the importance of collaboration and technological advancements in tackling methane emissions globally and in Azerbaijan.

The first session, titled *The Science of Methane*, was moderated by **Mr. Sonna Sathiamoorthy**, Methane Program Manager & SME at bp. This session provided a



comprehensive understanding of methane's impact on global warming and the challenges in measuring emissions. Speakers included **Prof. Steve Hamburg** from the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and **Prof. Anna Korre** from Imperial College London, who explained the science behind methane emissions and their environmental implications.

In the subsequent panel, *Progress, Challenges, and Next Steps from the AGMR Engagement in Azerbaijan*, moderated by **Mr. Chris Rathbun**, MGP Program Manager, experts reviewed progress in methane reduction by SOCAR and bp, drawing lessons from similar efforts in other countries. The panel featured **Mr. Sonna Sathiamoorthy** from bp, **Mr. Mustafa Gurbanli**, Head of Environmental Disclosures & Green Affairs Department, SOCAR, **Ms. Siti Moslim**, Senior General Manager from Petronas, **Mr. Andrew Baxter**, Director from EDF, and **Mr. James Turitto**, Senior Advisor from the Clean Air Task Force.



The next session, *Role of Technology to Support Measurement, Reconciliation, and Abatement*, moderated by **Mr. Daniel Palmer** from OGCI Climate Investments, focused on the use of technology in methane monitoring and abatement. Speakers included **Mr. Stephane Germain**, CEO of GHGSat, **Mr. Brendan Smith**, CTO & Co-Founder of SeekOps, **Ms. Ilaria Parrella**, Executive Leader Emissions Abatement at Baker Hughes, **Mr. Ryan Stewart**, VP of Bridger Photonics, and **Mr. Drew Pomerantz**, VP at SLB. This session highlighted the critical role of emerging technologies in improving methane measurement and mitigation strategies.

The final session, *The Role of Industry Groups and International Bodies in Supporting AGMR Delivery in Azerbaijan and Elsewhere*, moderated by **Ms. Guilia Ferrini**, OGMP Program Manager at UNEP, brought together key industry players and international bodies to discuss how they can support methane reduction initiatives. Speakers included **Ms. Eliz Ozdemir**, Programme Manager at OGDC, **Dr. Faye Gerard**, Energy Transition Director at IGOP, **Mr. Robert Van der Geest**, Senior Specialist at the World Bank, **Mr. Matt Watson**, Senior Advisor at EDF, and **Mr. Mark McCrory**, Director of Strategy & Advocacy at IGU, with contributions from **Ms. Amaia O'Reilly** from the Energy Institute. The session examined the role of these entities in advancing methane reduction, offering insights into the support available and potential areas for collaboration.

Through these sessions, the conference addressed key challenges in methane emissions abatement, technological solutions, and the role of global partnerships in driving meaningful progress.

Workshop on Super Pollutants – Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

At the **Stone Chronicle Museum**, the **Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)** held a workshop on **super pollutants**—key contributors to **climate change** that include **methane**, **black carbon**, and **hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)**.

Part 1: Making the Case for Super Pollutants



The workshop began with an introduction by **Arindam Roy** from the **Climate Action Foundation (CAF)**, who highlighted the fast-acting solutions available for **super pollutant**

reduction. Ana Maria Kleymeyer from the **CCAC** then led a discussion on how **super pollutants** can be integrated into **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, with video contributions from **Colombia** and **Costa Rica** showcasing their efforts to address these pollutants.

Part 2: Sector-based Approaches and National Experiences

The second part of the workshop featured a **panel discussion** on practical approaches to super pollutant regulation. Moderated by **James Turrito** from the **Clean Air Task Force (CATF)**, the session brought together experts such as **Hunter Shirley** from the **US State Department** and **Giulia Ferrini** from **IMEO**, who discussed the importance of regulatory frameworks in the **fossil fuel sector**. Country experiences were shared by **Kazakhstan, Iraq, and Portugal**, focusing on how regulations can drive **super pollutant reduction**.

Waste Methane and COP29 Presidency's Declaration on Organic Waste

The final session of the workshop, moderated by **Anja Schwetje** from the **CCAC's Waste Hub**, focused on the promotion of the **COP29 Presidency's Declaration on Reducing Organic Waste**. Participants, including **Aynur Mutallimova** from the **COP29 Presidency**, shared insights on reducing **waste methane emissions**. Country experiences from **Chile** and **Costa Rica** further demonstrated how nations are tackling this critical issue. The workshop concluded with an **interactive dialogue** and **closing remarks**, followed by a **networking reception**.

Roundtable 5: Creating the Highway for Private Finance



Roundtable 5: Creating the Highway for Private Finance, held at the prestigious ADA University, brought together Azerbaijani financial institutions, regulators, and international experts to discuss the role of private finance in advancing climate action and achieving the

SDGs. Moderated by **Nathan Cooper**, Director of the Policy and Engagement Department at COP29, the session began with opening remarks from **Nigar Arpadarai**, COP29 High-Level Champion, and **Taleh Kazimov**, Governor of the Central Bank of Azerbaijan, who emphasised the importance of collaboration to mobilise green finance.

The **Roundtable Agenda: Creating the Highway for Private Finance** aimed to share insights on the global climate finance agenda and green finance opportunities, enabling an exchange on Azerbaijan's green finance within a regional context. The session also discussed how COP29 offers a unique platform to showcase Azerbaijan's leadership in renewable energy, attracting foreign investment to diversify its economy.

Keynote presentations by **Elif Secgin** from Boston Consulting Group and **Zakir Nuriyev**, President of the Azerbaijan Banks Association (ABA), highlighted regional green finance strategies and Azerbaijan-specific opportunities and challenges. This was followed by a panel discussion featuring **Javid Guliyev** (CEO, PASHA Bank), **Dr. Marcelo de Andrade** (Pro Natura International), **Adam Cotter** (DZ Bank), and **Andrei Zaripov** (IFC). The panel explored actionable steps for financial institutions to advance green finance, focusing on regulatory challenges and private capital's role in sustainable projects.

The roundtable successfully met its objectives, fostering strong dialogue between **Mukhtar Babayev** (COP29 Presidency Designate), **Taleh Kazimov**, **Nigar Arpadarai**, and financial institutions, showcasing Azerbaijan's potential to lead in renewable energy and climate action. The session also raised awareness of the support available from organisations like the **IFC** and the **Global Capacity Building Alliance**.

Main outcomes included plans for a capacity-building workshop during **COP29 Finance Day**, focused on advancing green finance in Azerbaijan through collaboration with CASI and international financial institutions.

Roundtable 6: Carbon Mitigation and Market Mechanisms

Later in the afternoon at ADA University, **Roundtable 6** focused on **carbon mitigation** and the development of **market mechanisms** to support **decarbonization**. Held at **ADA University**, this session brought together **policymakers**, environmental experts, and business leaders to discuss the foundations needed for establishing a **carbon market infrastructure** in Azerbaijan.

Welcoming Remarks and Presentations

Nigar Arpadarai, **Fergus Auld OBE** (British Ambassador to Azerbaijan), and **Elnur Soltanov** (CEO of **COP29**) provided the opening remarks, highlighting the importance of building a robust **carbon trading system**. The presentations that followed explored the role of **carbon**

markets as an effective climate policy instrument, with **George von Waldburg** from **ICE Futures Europe** providing an overview of how these markets function.



Policy Reflections and Emerging Markets

Lily Ginsberg-Keig from **BeZero Carbon** shared the **UK's experience** with **carbon market policies**, while **Ahmed Rushdy** from the **British Standards Institution** reflected on **carbon market considerations** for **emerging markets** like Azerbaijan. The discussion emphasised the need for **national policy frameworks** that can foster the responsible growth of **carbon markets** and attract investment. The session concluded with audience reflections and a moderated discussion facilitated by **Volodymyr Yakubov** from the **British Standards Institution**.

IDEATHON: Bridging the Gap – Youth and Green Jobs Market (Day 2)

On **Day 2** of the Ideathon: *Bridging the Gap – Youth and Green Jobs Market*, held on **1 October 2024**, the second day of activities began with a **Registration** session from **10:30 - 11:00**, during which the event organiser provided an introduction to the day's events and reminded participants of the rules and objectives of the Ideathon.

From **11:00 - 13:00**, participants engaged in the first mentoring session, **Mentoring Hours 1**, where they received guidance from key industry professionals. **Ashraf Huseynov**, Senior

Venture Associate at SABA.HUB, **Arzu Rahimli**, Business Development Manager at MegaSec, and **Emin Ilyas**, Board Member at The German-Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce (AHK Azerbaijan), shared insights on venture development, business management, and investment strategies.

The second mentoring session, **Mentoring Hours 2**, took place from **14:00 - 16:00**. Participants continued their learning with support from **Samir Hacibeyli**, Investment Associate at Caucasus Ventures, **Elmar Asgarzade**, Co-Founder at Extra Mile Technologies LLC, and **Gunel Isakova**, Project Coordinator (Consultant) at the World Health Organization Azerbaijan. This session provided further expertise in investment, technology entrepreneurship, and project management.



The final mentoring session, **Mentoring Hours 3**, occurred from **16:00 - 18:00**, featuring **Jamal Rzayev**, Head of Incubation & Venture Associate at SABA.HUB, **Ulvin Omarov**, Indie Designer at Innoland Incubation & Acceleration Centre, and **Khidirova Nigar**, from the Ministry of Agriculture's Agro Innovation Center. These mentors focused on incubation, design innovation, and agricultural technology.

The day concluded with a **Daily Wrap-Up** session from **18:00 - 19:00**, summarising the progress made throughout the day and preparing participants for the next steps in the Ideathon.

Day 4 Outcomes

Day 4 of **Baku Climate Action Week** focused on practical approaches to addressing **super pollutants**, building **green finance capacity**, and preparing **higher education institutions** to contribute to the **climate transition**. Key outcomes included:

1. **Commitments to reduce super pollutants**, particularly methane, through enhanced **national policies** and better integration into **NDCs**.
2. Progress on **green finance** initiatives in Azerbaijan, with financial institutions pledging to take **meaningful action** to support **sustainable development**.
3. Steps toward the establishment of the **Azerbaijan University Network on Climate Change**, a collaborative initiative to strengthen **research** and **education** on climate issues.
4. A continued focus on empowering **youth** through the **IDEATHON**, which is building a bridge between young people and the **green jobs market**.

The events of the day reinforced Azerbaijan's **climate leadership** as it prepares for **COP29**.



Day 5: Baku Climate Action Week 2024 – A Focus on Climate Science, Youth Engagement, and Closing Reflections

The final day of **Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW) 2024**, held on **Friday, 4 October 2024**, was a culmination of a week filled with insightful discussions, collaborative initiatives, and forward-looking commitments. Day 5 placed a significant emphasis on **climate science**, **youth-led innovation**, and public engagement, highlighting Azerbaijan's commitment to fostering a sustainable future through **research**, **education**, and **community involvement**.

Morning Event: 'Walk the Talk' for Climate Action



The day began with the **"Walk the Talk for Climate Action"**, an inclusive event organised in partnership with the **United Nations in Azerbaijan**, along Baku Boulevard. This symbolic 1.5-kilometer walk, representing the critical 1.5°C climate goal, brought together a diverse group of participants from government, private sector, civil society, youth, and persons with disabilities. Key figures such as **Nigar Arpadarai**, the **UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29**, and **Vladanka Andreeva**, the **UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan**, delivered opening remarks, emphasising the importance of collective efforts to tackle the climate crisis. The walk successfully raised awareness of the 1.5°C target and

strengthened networks among stakeholders. Participants committed to continued climate action, building momentum and fostering multi-stakeholder engagement leading up to COP29.



From **9:00 AM to 9:30 AM**, attendees, including **COP29 Presidency members, BCAW delegates, UN officials, youth groups, private sector partners, and diplomats**, assembled in front of the **COP29 Information Center**. **Welcome coffee, tea, and healthy snacks** were served, fostering a convivial atmosphere.

The walk commenced at **9:50 AM**, covering a **1.5 km stretch** from the COP29 Information Center to the **Carpet Museum**, near the **Deniz Mall**. Participants of all ages and abilities walked together, engaging in conversations about sustainability and sharing their hopes for a greener future. The walk concluded at **10:30 AM**, symbolising unity and shared purpose.

The event was not only a visual representation of unity but also a strategic step to foster collaboration across sectors, inspiring individuals and organisations to commit to sustainable practices. Its success was reflected in enhanced media coverage, which further amplified the message to a broader audience. As COP29 approaches, the collaborative spirit nurtured during this event is expected to carry forward, contributing to long-term climate resilience and action in Azerbaijan and beyond.

BAKU CLIMATE SCIENCE CONFERENCE - Accelerating Research and Collaboration for Climate Action

Day 5 saw a major climate science conference hosted by Azerbaijan's largest university and leading science institution, Baku State University (BSU), held at the lavish JW Marriot Absheron Baku hotel. The Conference brought together leaders in science and technology from across Azerbaijan with numerous international academics and scientists also in attendance.



Opened by **Mr Elchin Babayev, Rector of Baku State University**, the driving force behind the conference initiative, the event saw significant addresses by numerous prominent politicians and scientists. **Mr Ziyafat Asgarov**, Deputy Chair of the Milli Majlis, Republic of Azerbaijan, and **Mr Idris Isayev**, Deputy Minister of Science & Education, Republic of Azerbaijan, delivered opening keynotes followed by **Dr Isa Habibbayli**, President, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, **Ms Nigar Arpadarai**, United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29, **Ms Ermira Fida**, Deputy Secretary, The IPCC Secretariat, and **Ms Leyla Hasanova**, Youth Climate Champion for COP29 Azerbaijan.

During **Session 1: Revolution in our Understanding of GHG Emissions**, experts gathered to explore the transformative role of empirical data, AI, and advanced analytics in addressing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Moderated by **Mr. Ali Naghiyev**, Director of the Center for Excellence in Research, Development & Innovation at Baku State University, the session focused on innovative technologies such as satellite monitoring and climate tipping point modelling. **Mr. Aslan Bashir-zadeh**, CEO of Advanced Technology Group, and **Mr. Azad Huseynov**, Chief Data Officer of CIC, presented on the integration of AI in emissions tracking, while **Ms. Rana Humbatova**, Head of Hydrogen and Green Technology at Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency, and **Mr. Saleh Nabiyeu**, GIS and Remote Sensing Expert Director of Azercosmos, shared insights on the use of satellite technologies.

Contributions from **Mr. Dmitry Fadeev**, Principal at BCG, and **Mr. Steve Hamburg** from the Environmental Defence Fund (EDF) highlighted how data analytics and AI are critical in advancing climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Session 2: Role of Global and Regional Collaboration in Overcoming Scientific Challenges continued with a panel moderated by **Mr. Fuad Bagirov**, Country Director for the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region. The discussion centred on how collaboration between governments, academic institutions, and private organisations can accelerate climate science innovations. **Dr. Robin Fears** of the InterAcademy Partnership, **Mr. Stephen Davidson**, Director of Strategy at Cambridge Zero, and **Prof. Anna Korre** from Imperial College London provided examples of successful global partnerships in climate research. Additional insights from **Mr. Simon Thompson**, President of the Global Capacity Building Coalition, **Prof. Ulviyya Hasanova**, Head of the Department of Biomedical Materials at ICESCO, Baku State University, and **Ms. Malini Mehra**, Chief Executive of GLOBE International, emphasised the need for more robust international cooperation.

Finally, **Session 3: Impact of Climate Change & Paradigm Shifts on Transboundary Water Management**, moderated by **Ms. Shabnam Safarova**, Advisor to the rector on digitalization and information technologies at Baku State University, tackled the issue of water management in the Caspian and Central Asia. Speakers such as **Mr. Aliaga Azizov**, Head of the Science & Innovation Sector at the Water Resources Agency of Azerbaijan, **Mr. Anton Aristov**, Managing Director & Partner at BCG, **Dr. Aygun Israyilova** from the Center of Excellence at Baku State University, and **Mr. Rovshan Abbasov**, from the Environment Research Center at Khazar University, highlighted the critical role of data and analytics in reducing pollution in key water bodies like the Caspian Sea and Kura-Aras rivers, promoting regional resilience.



IDEATHON: Bridging the Gap – Youth and Green Jobs Market

The **IDEATHON** continued at the **Baku Higher Oil School (BHOS)** with its focus on empowering youth to connect with the evolving green job market. On this final day of the event, participants were mentored by industry leaders such as **Vugar Aliyev**, Innovation Manager at SUP.VC, and **Ashraf Huseynov**, Senior Venture Associate at SABA.HUB, who guided them in finalising their projects. The youth teams presented their ideas, which addressed critical gaps in the green job market, to a jury of experts.

The **Jury Deliberation** included notable figures such as **Leyla Hajiyeva**, Innovation Advisor at the Administration of State Historical-Architectural Reserve Icherisheher. The **award ceremony** recognized the top three projects, each of which demonstrated innovative approaches to bridging the skills gap in green jobs:

1. **First Place:** *SolarSage* - A project focused on using **AI-powered tools to track and optimise renewable energy use** in rural areas of Azerbaijan. The project aimed to increase energy efficiency while creating job opportunities for young people in renewable energy sectors.
2. **Second Place:** *GreenPath* - A team that developed a **mobile application** aimed at helping farmers reduce food waste by connecting them directly with local markets and consumers. This initiative tackled food insecurity while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.
3. **Third Place:** *Eco-Su* - An initiative centred on **upcycling waste materials** into sustainable building materials, with the goal of reducing construction waste and creating green jobs in the manufacturing sector.

These projects, celebrated for their innovation and sustainability potential, reflected the IDEATHON's mission to foster the next generation of climate-conscious entrepreneurs.

Sustainable Future: Youth-led Green Innovations

Simultaneously, the **Sustainable Future: Youth-led Green Innovations** event took place at **ADA University**. The event, organised by **COP29**, the **Ministry of Science and Education**, and **KOBIA**, provided a platform for young entrepreneurs to showcase their innovative solutions to pressing environmental challenges. **Nigar Arpadarai**, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, and **Leyla Hasanova**, Youth Climate Champion, opened the event with inspiring speeches, emphasising the importance of youth leadership in achieving sustainability.

Participants presented their projects to a panel of investors, including **Dr. Peter Knez**, former Chief Investment Officer of BlackRock, and **Dr. Marcelo de Andrade**, Co-Founder of

Earth Capital. The event concluded with an award ceremony recognizing the most promising startups, providing these young innovators with the opportunity to receive initial investments to scale their ideas.

Caspian Dream: Youth Visions Art Exhibition

At the **Center for the Development of Cultural & Creative Industries**, the **Caspian Dream: Youth Visions** exhibition provided a platform for young Azerbaijani artists to reinterpret the famous photographs of the Caspian Sea by renowned photojournalist **REZA**. This exhibition, inspired by REZA's work for National Geographic, invited young artists to reflect on Azerbaijan's environmental past and future through their artistic lenses. The event facilitated a dialogue between generations, encouraging visitors to think critically about the future of the Caspian region in the context of climate change.

Closing Gala Dinner for Baku Climate Action Week

The week concluded with a **Closing Gala Dinner**, marking the end of Baku Climate Action Week 2024. **Dr. Peter Knez**, former Chief Investment Officer of BlackRock, delivered the keynote address, focusing on the critical role of **finance** in driving global climate action. His speech emphasised the need for innovative financial solutions to support sustainable development and the transition to a green economy.

The evening provided a celebratory and reflective end to a week of intense collaboration, knowledge sharing, and commitment to tackling the climate crisis. As participants prepared to leave, there was a palpable sense of achievement and a collective determination to carry forward the momentum generated during the week.

Conclusion Day 5

Day 5 of **Baku Climate Action Week 2024** brought together diverse sectors of society—academia, government, business, youth, and the arts—to celebrate progress and reaffirm the commitment to **climate action**. The week's activities underscored the importance of **scientific collaboration**, **youth empowerment**, and **green innovation** in addressing the world's most pressing environmental challenges. As Azerbaijan prepares to host **COP29**, the outcomes of this week serve as a strong foundation for advancing climate action on a global scale.

General Conclusion

The Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW2024) was a resounding success, setting the stage for COP29 and solidifying Azerbaijan's position as a regional leader in climate action. Held from September 30 to October 4, 2024, BCAW brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including government officials, private sector leaders, academics, civil society representatives, and youth. The event's comprehensive agenda covered critical sectors such as energy, water, agriculture, finance, and education, reinforcing the country's commitment to a green transition despite being a major hydrocarbons producer. As **Ms Nigar Arpadarai**, United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29, stated, "We want to see non-state actors from all over the world joining this process because global climate action requires a whole-of-society approach. It's not only up to the government. It's up to the cities, academia, private sector, and civil society, so everyone needs to be involved in this action."

Throughout the week, the focus on collaborative and innovative solutions was evident in every session, from discussions on AI's role in climate resilience to the scaling of sustainable agricultural practices and water management technologies. These dialogues underscored the importance of partnerships and knowledge-sharing, especially within the Central Asian region, where climate challenges are shared across borders. Azerbaijan has already demonstrated leadership in forging partnerships with countries like Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on renewable energy and green projects, positioning itself as a hub for regional climate cooperation.

One of the key outcomes of BCAW2024 was the emphasis on youth involvement and skill development, as showcased in the **"Bridging the Gap – Youth and Green Jobs Market" Ideathon**. This initiative highlighted the critical role of the younger generation in shaping a sustainable future, providing them with the tools and networks to succeed in green careers. Moreover, the roundtables and sessions on financing green projects, building resilient infrastructure, and fostering innovation set clear pathways for how financial institutions, governments, and private enterprises can collaborate to unlock investments needed for a just energy transition.

As a precursor to COP29, BCAW was not just a moment of reflection but a forward-looking event that paved the way for meaningful climate action in November and beyond. By successfully bringing together diverse voices, the event demonstrated the power of collective action and established a blueprint for how societies can unite to tackle the climate crisis. Azerbaijan's leadership, showcased through its transparency, neutrality, and commitment to fostering dialogue among all parties, provides an inspiring model for other nations, reinforcing the global urgency to meet climate goals.

BCAW strategically aligned with global events like the UN General Assembly and New York Climate Week and worked in collaboration with key partners like **London Climate Action Week** and international organizations to ensure the sessions contributed to Azerbaijan's leadership at **COP29**.

The **success** of Baku Climate Action Week has **inspired a similar effort in Rio de Janeiro** next year, as discussions get underway to make **Rio Climate Action Week (#RCAW)** a reality ahead of **COP30** in Belem, Brazil, November 2025.

Eduardo Paes, **Mayor of Rio de Janeiro** said:

"Rio de Janeiro, like Baku, knows the importance of taking urgent action against climate change while embracing the opportunities of a greener future. I applaud Baku for taking the initiative to host Baku Climate Action Week, which brings together cities, businesses, and communities to shape a safe, sustainable and resilient future. Rio looks forward to joining our sister city Baku in building a bridge from COP29 to COP30 in Brazil and accelerating the green transition."

The ambitious outcomes and collaborations achieved at Baku Climate Action Week **solidify Azerbaijan's role as a global leader on climate action**. BCAW has **built momentum** and sets the stage for Azerbaijan to enhance ambition and **enable action at COP29** in November.

Appendix

1. Concluding Press Release (7 October 2024): [Baku Climate Action Week Concludes with Bold Commitments and Strategic Initiatives](#)
2. Initial Press Release (12 August 2024): [Gearing up to host the inaugural Baku Climate Action Week](#)
3. [Baku Climate Action Week Website](#)
4. [Full Programme of Baku Climate Action Week 2024](#)
5. [PDF of full Social Media and News Coverage Analysis](#)
6. [Photos](#) and [Media](#) Links

Bakucclimateactionweek

Social Media and News Coverage Analysis

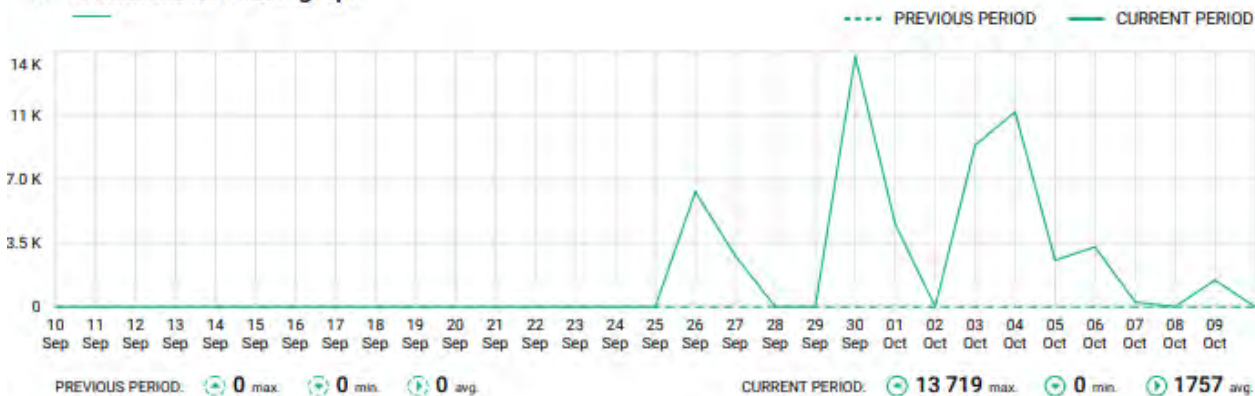
Summary of mentions



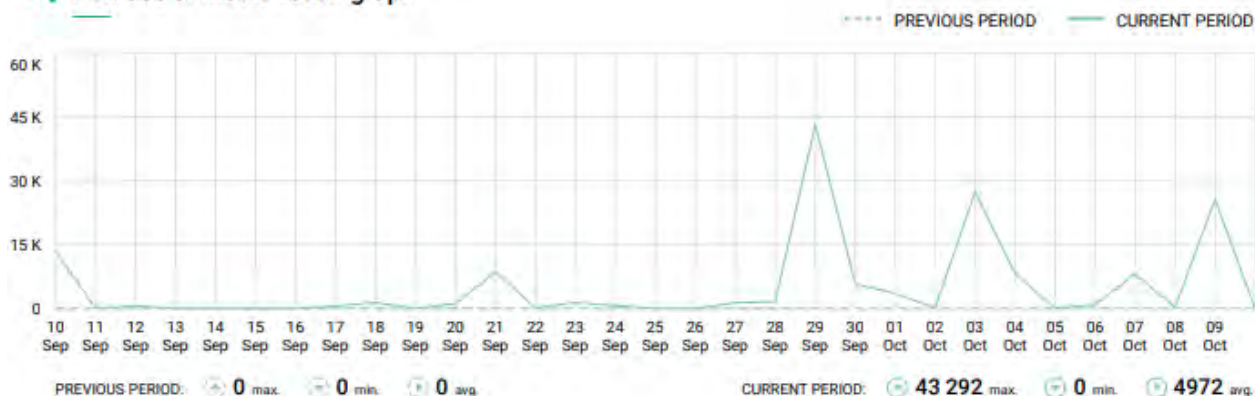
Volume of mentions graph



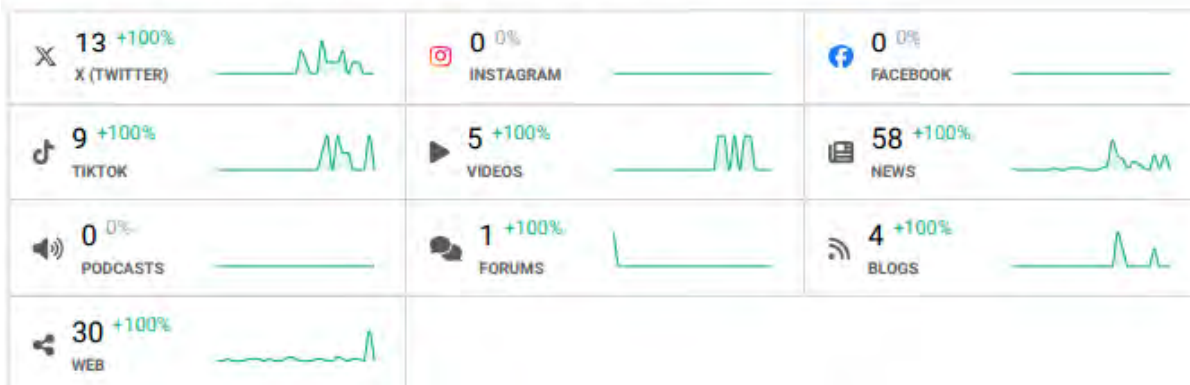
Social media reach graph















Non social media reach graph



Mentions per category (comparing to previous period)























Numerical summary

 120 MENTIONS	 33 SOCIAL MEDIA MENTIONS	 87 NON-SOCIAL MENTIONS	 54 469 SOCIAL MEDIA REACH
 154 K NON SOCIAL MEDIA REACH	 9194 INTERACTIONS	 32 USER GENERATED CONTENT	 9038 LIKES
 18 100% POSITIVE MENTIONS	 0 0% NEGATIVE MENTIONS	 \$ 16 441 AVE	 13 MENTIONS FROM X (TWITTER)





































Context of discussion

set significant november bring action empower trade conference lifeline attendee kick science hold effort build global sustainable ahead convention discussion host future accelerate solution #greentransition role monday policy baku bcaw commitment center resilient transition #cop29 business engagement event baku climate action week begin #climateaction initiative inaugural report city extreme stage session focus time speaker expert state emphasise food day offer week leader bowling let take wisconsin key final youth climate azerbaijan new management #cop29azerbaijan society importance note organization supply capital oil register say port energy moment annual water the baku climate action week green cop29 world lead september mark form accord october finance explore tackle başlayib place





































★ Most popular mentions

1	 BCAW 2024: Day 3 Theme: Green youtube.com	 2024-10-03 11:35
	and a just transition for all sectors. At #BCAW2024, we tackled education transformation, retraining	
2	 BCAW 2024: Day 2 Theme ENERGY youtube.com	 2024-10-01 21:14
	food, and agriculture challenges took center stage at #BCAW2024, with dynamic discussions on disa...	
3	 BCAW 2024: Day 4 Theme: Sus... youtube.com	 2024-10-06 07:09
	On the final day of Baku Climate Action Week, we explored the transformative role of AI, advanced	
4	 BCAW 2024: Day 4 Theme: Role youtube.com	 2024-10-05 05:14
	stage for key outcomes at COP29. #COP29 #COP29Azerbaijan #BakuClimateActionWeek #BCAW2024 #GreenT...	
5	 BCAW 2024: Day 1 Theme: ENERGY youtube.com	 2024-09-30 20:17
	The first day of #BCAW2024 set the stage for impactful discussions on climate solutions, from tra...	
6	 addie_t16 tiktok.com	 2024-10-09 13:09
	PINK OUT #bcaw@kayden mounts @emme laice	
7	 .bai1ss tiktok.com	 2024-10-09 13:06
	gamday! #bcaw	
8	 _y261106a tiktok.com	 2024-10-04 07:45
	Konfrans dump @ @ #bcaw2024 #cop29baku #bdukönüllüləri #keşfetteyizzzz #keşfett #keşfetteyizzzz #fo...	
9	 sabi_krmv tiktok.com	 2024-10-01 12:23
	#COP29 #Bakuclimateactionweek	
10	 ArazInFlight twitter.com	 2024-09-30 20:04
	green transition is unrealistic. Focus on pragmatic solutions. #BakuClimateActionWeek	

Most active public profiles

	PROFILE	SOURCE	FOLLOWERS	MENTIONS
1	 COP29 AZE		10 200	5
2	 cop29_azerbaijan		154	4
3	 BakuClimateWeek		43	3
4	 sabi_krmv		240	1
5	 blorberoni		178	1
6	 addie_t16		339	1
7	 _v261106a		20	1
8	 .bai1ss		104	1
9	 m_mahirdaiyan		98	1
10	 climatenewsrom		3028	1
11	 cleanaircatf		49 693	1
12	 Sphere__X		108	1
13	 LmarieAsad		3092	1
14	 FMursalov1410		1	1
15	 EBRDgreen		3341	1
16	 DaRadioGeneral		2604	1
17	 Arindam_climate		103	1
18	 ArazInFlight		25	1

Top public profiles

	PROFILE	SOURCE	VOICE SHARE	INFLUENCE
1	 COP29 AZE		23.59%	12 849
2	 BakuClimateWeek		16.707%	9100
3	 ArazInFlight		12.117%	6600
4	 climatenewsrom		10.281%	5600
5	 Arindam_climate		8.262%	4500
6	 cleanaircatf		8.21%	4472
7	 EBRDgreen		6.609%	3600
8	 cop29_azerbaijan		3.325%	1811
9	 Sphere__X		2.57%	1400
10	 addie_t16		2.385%	1299
11	 m_mahirdaiyan		1.285%	700
12	 LmarieAsad		1.285%	700
13	 _v261106a		1.067%	581
14	 sabi_krmv		0.89%	485
15	 blorberoni		0.644%	351
16	 DaRadioGeneral		0.477%	260
17	 .bai1ss		0.296%	161
18	 FMursalov1410		0%	0

Most active sites

	SITE	MENTIONS
1	twitter.com	13
2	tiktok.com	9
3	bowlwi.com	8
4	linkedin.com	6
5	bakucclimateactionweek.org	6
6	youtube.com	5
7	thebci.org	4
8	azerbaycan24.com	4
9	en.trend.az	3
10	en.apa.az	3
11	dareakogun.com	3
12	azerfocus.com	3
13	turkic.world	2
14	radioworcester.com	2
15	neglobal.eu	2
16	mahabahu.com	2
17	lagazetteaz.fr	2
18	en.azvision.az	2
19	cop29.az	2
20	xalqqazeti.az	1

Most influential sites

	SITE	VISITS	INFLUENCE SCORE
1	youtube.com	30 B	10 /10
2	tiktok.com	2.3 B	10 /10
3	linkedin.com	1.7 B	10 /10
4	twitter.com	1.2 B	10 /10
5	t.me	726 M	10 /10
6	eventbrite.com	53 M	10 /10
7	euronews.com	29 M	9 /10
8	allevents.in	8.8 M	8 /10
9	publika.az	1.9 M	7 /10
10	unep.org	1.2 M	7 /10
11	abbreviations.com	1.1 M	7 /10
12	report.az	840 838	6 /10
13	aztv.az	663 138	6 /10
14	causeiq.com	591 402	6 /10
15	cgia.org	472 977	5 /10
16	en.trend.az	316 068	5 /10
17	media.az	304 938	5 /10
18	turan.az	148 001	4 /10
19	xalqqazeti.az	115 024	4 /10
20	azerbaycan24.com	103 815	4 /10

Trending hashtags

	HASHTAG	MENTIONS
1	#cop29	17
2	#bcaw2024	15
3	#bakuclimateactionweek	14
4	#cop29azerbaijan	11
5	#climateaction	6
6	#bcaw	6
7	#greentransition	5
8	#netzero	2
9	#sustainablefuture	2
10	#foodsecurity	2
11	#climateresilience	2
12	#baku	2
13	#waterchallenges	2
14	#keşfettyizzz	1
15	#breastcancerawareness	1
16	#keşfettyizz	1
17	#chicken	1
18	#keşfett	1
19	#kesfetbeniöneçikart	1
20	#cop29baku	1



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