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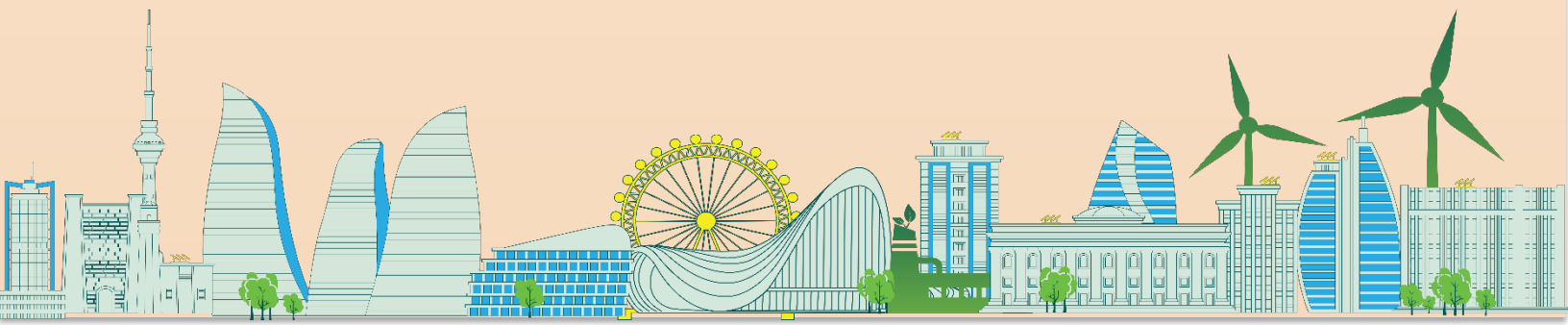
COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

BAKU CLIMATE ACTION WEEK 2025

Driving a Green Transition for the region and beyond

29 September – 3 October 2025

Final Report





COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

A report documenting the inaugural Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW) held from 29 September – 3 October 2025 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

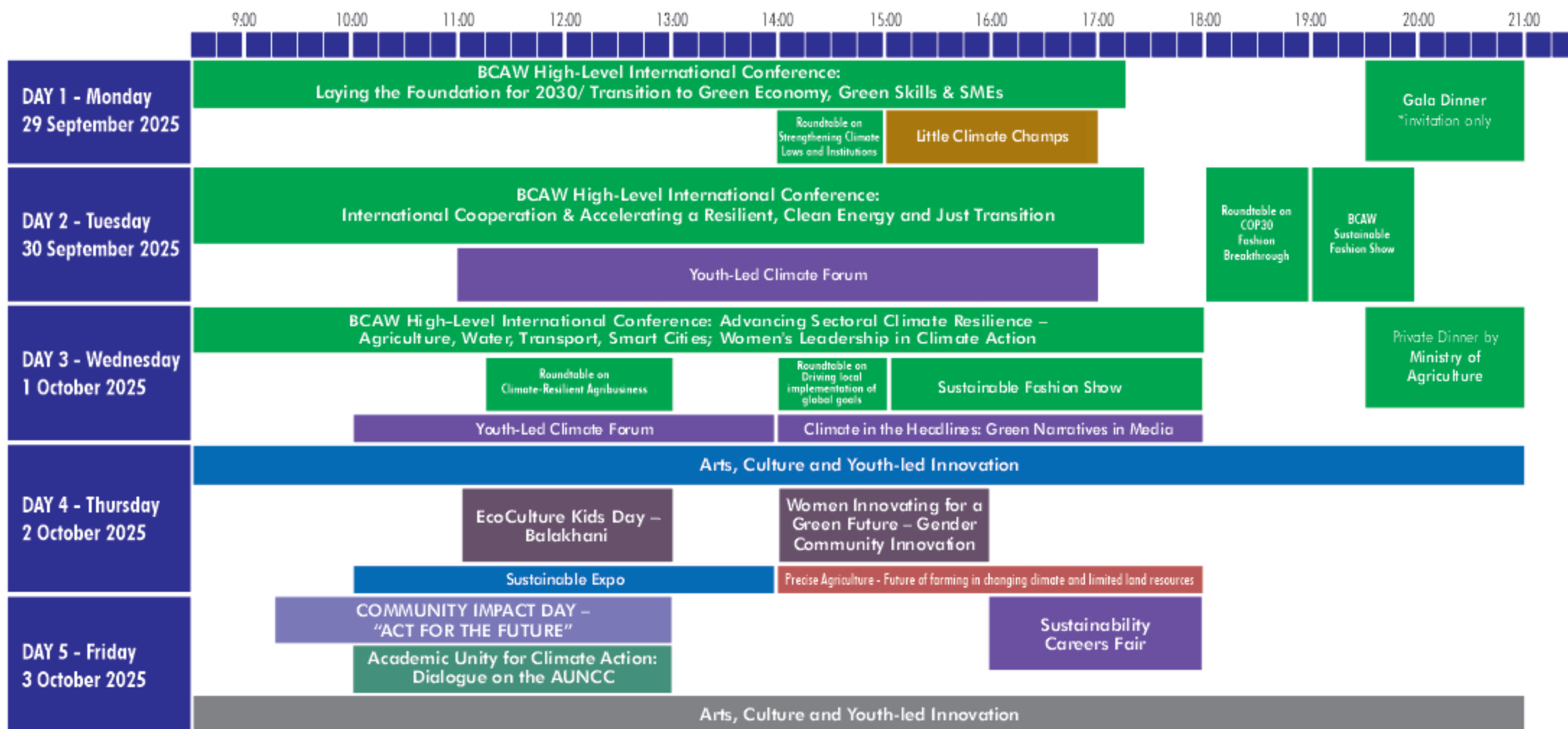
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Programme Calendar

29 September - 3 October 2025



1. Executive Summary

The **second edition of Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW)** was held from **29 September to 3 October 2025**. The week brought together participants from more than **25 countries** for **46 events or sessions** in **eight prime venues**, with **3000 participants** engaging across the Azerbaijani capital.

Organised in partnership with *London Climate Action Week*, it reaffirmed Azerbaijan's role as a bridge between regions and a continuing leader in global climate dialogue on the road from **Baku to Belém**.

Taking place one year after COP29, BCAW 2025 served as both reflection and renewal — a stock-take of implementation and a forward step in delivery. The week demonstrated how commitments made under the COP29 Presidency have evolved into policy, partnership, and practice. Each day explored a new dimension of this progress: from governance and legislation to sustainable construction, women's leadership, youth innovation, health, agriculture, and education.

Significant outcomes included **progress updates on key COP29 Action Agenda commitments, including methane abatement**, the **handover of the Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint to the UN Global Compact**, the **launch of the Azerbaijani edition of the Parliamentary Guide on Article 6 and Carbon Markets**, the **establishment of the Azerbaijan Universities Network on Climate Change (AUNCC)** and the initiation of a new stream of work on **Sustainable Fashion**. Youth and women remained at the centre of the narrative, with the **Youth-Led Climate Forum** and **Sustainable Expo: Art and Innovation for the Planet** showcasing creativity, entrepreneurship, and global solidarity.

BCAW 2025 affirmed that COP29 was not a one-off event but had generated waves of enthusiastic action across the country, with BCAW itself part of the legacy of new institutions and initiatives created in the wake of COP29 in Baku in December 2024. Azerbaijan's leadership continues to resonate through continuity, inclusion, and collaboration — advancing a movement for climate action visibly shaping new relationships for a green future in the region and globally through international collaborations.

This report provides an overview of highlights during BCAW 2025 and complements information available on the BCAW website and social media platforms.



2. Introduction

One year after COP29 placed Azerbaijan at the centre of global climate diplomacy, **Baku Climate Action Week 2025 (BCAW)** opened as both reflection and renewal — a chance to take stock of what had followed and to set the course for what lies ahead. Just weeks before the Presidency passes to Brazil, the Week stood as evidence that COP29 was never intended as a single summit, but the beginning of a process now embedded in policy, partnership, and practice.

Now in its second edition, Baku Climate Action Week has become part of a growing constellation of international initiatives — alongside *London Climate Action Week* and *Rio Climate Action Week* — forming a continuous rhythm of dialogue and delivery throughout the year. Together they signal a new era of climate multilateralism: one thriving not only in negotiation halls but in the spaces between them, where collaboration takes root.

From its first note, those convened in Baku moved in *ahəng* — a word in Azerbaijani carrying a deeper resonance than “harmony.” It evokes not only balance and rhythm, but a natural order arising when diverse forces — human, environmental, and spiritual — act in concert. More than

a theme, *ahang* became the loom weaving the tapestry the week set out to create: it unfolded across ministries, universities, and communities to the drum beat of science — a living score of collaboration in motion.

Across five days and more than forty events and sessions, over eight venues hosted discussions, workshops, and exhibitions under a single purpose: to demonstrate how the momentum forged at COP29 continues to shape real outcomes in Azerbaijan and beyond. The week brought together former presidents, ministers, parliamentarians, business leaders, scientists, and artists — joined by youth delegates and women leaders and innovators from over twenty-five countries — in what became both a stock-take and a statement of intent on the road from *Baku to Belém*.

Day One set the tone. Against the backdrop of the Caspian Sea, the opening plenary revisited the promises made at COP29, asking not what had been achieved but how it was being implemented. As **Mukhtar Babayev**, COP29 President and Representative of the President for Climate Issues, framed it, this was a week “to demonstrate delivery rather than ambition.” **Nigar Arpadarai**, COP29 High-Level Champion, echoed that spirit — calling on participants to work “in harmony, so that our efforts combine into one purposeful movement.” This idea — harmony between institutions, generations, and nations — would decidedly anchor the conversations which followed.



Later in the afternoon, parliamentarians convened for a roundtable on climate laws and institutions, co-organised with **GLOBE Legislators**. The launch of the Azerbaijani edition of the *Parliamentary Guide on Article 6 and Carbon Markets* linked legislative progress to international cooperation — a reminder that continuity requires structure as much as will.

Day Two and Three shifted focus from policy to participation. The **Youth-Led Climate Forum**, spanning both days, gathered young people from Azerbaijan, Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America to explore how negotiation becomes action. Their debates on climate diplomacy, mobility, health, and agriculture reflected both curiosity and command of complexity. “We do not inherit the climate,” said one young engineer from Sumgait, “we co-design it.” The Forum captured that sense of agency — of youth not waiting for permission but shaping the transition themselves.

While students and early-career professionals explored innovation and resilience, experts in other venues examined the built environment and sustainable cities. The **Azerbaijan Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint Roundtable** brought together architects, developers, and industry leaders to translate commitments made during the COP29 Presidency into tangible blueprints for low-carbon growth — a literal and figurative foundation for the future.

Day Four expanded the conversation into culture, innovation, and health. At the iconic **Heydar Aliyev Centre**, the *Sustainable Expo: Art and Innovation for the Planet* transformed its curved halls into a showcase of youthful creativity. Paintings, prototypes, and start-ups reflected optimism grounded in action — from biodegradable products and renewable-energy applications to climate-aware art. Projects such as *EcoBite*, *YaşılScan*, and *GreenStone* demonstrated climate solutions are not abstract concepts but viable ventures.

Meanwhile at **ADA University**, health and climate experts discussed how rising temperatures, pollution, and environmental stressors are reshaping human wellbeing. Their message was stark yet solution-oriented: climate action is public health policy. Meanwhile, a workshop at **UFAZ** explored precision agriculture in the Caspian region, identifying new methods to protect food systems and livelihoods from degradation and water scarcity — proving resilience begins with knowledge.

Day Five closed the circle. The morning began with the *Walk the Talk for Climate Action* along the Baku Boulevard, a public initiative led by the United Nations in Azerbaijan. Citizens, students, and diplomats joined side by side — a visible expression of shared responsibility. The

focus then shifted to the role of higher education in the transition. At **ADA University**, rectors from across the country launched the **Azerbaijan Universities Network on Climate Change (AUNCC)**, committing to embed climate content across curricula and research. **Raziye Isayeva**, Rector of *Khazar University*, captured the sentiment succinctly: universities, she said, “must turn academic capacity into public value.” The afternoon *Sustainability Careers Fair* then linked learning to opportunity, showing young professionals how sustainability is not only a cause but a career.

By the end of the week, one conclusion had become clear: Azerbaijan's climate leadership did not end with COP29 — it has matured since. Through its growing institutions, its vibrant youth movement, and its partnerships with the global community, the country is ensuring the legacy of Baku continues to resonate even beyond the ensuing COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

What emerged over these five days was not merely a series of meetings but a demonstration of coherence — a nation aligning its policies, people, and partnerships in deliberate rhythm. In that balance lies the quiet strength of the week and the enduring lesson of its host: progress depends on harmony — *ahəng* — between what is promised and what is done.



3. Day 1 – Laying the Foundation for 2030: Transition to Green Economy, Green Skills & SMEs

Marriott Boulevard Hotel and partner venues, Baku — 29 September 2025

Baku Climate Action Week opened on 29 September 2025, one year after COP29 placed Azerbaijan at the centre of global climate diplomacy. The first day set the tone for the week ahead — action, partnership, and youth leadership — reaffirming how the momentum sparked in Baku has not only endured but evolved into tangible delivery. More than a reprise of COP29, it stood as proof of continuity: of promises becoming practice and of Azerbaijan's determination to translate presidency legacy into long-term action.

Opening Ceremony: From Dialogue to Deeds



The opening video revisited the transformative year since COP29, showing how Baku had mobilised society to shape a national climate response and helped position the region as a hub for the green transition. “This partnership,” said COP29 President and Presidential Representative for Climate Issues **Mukhtar Babayev**, “is part of the legacy of COP29. Hosting

the conference was both a moral and strategic opportunity — proof that even small nations can deliver global results.” He recalled the \$300 billion *Baku Finance Goal* — the largest financial target ever set under a COP — and the launch of the *Baku to Belém Process*, designed to ensure continuity of implementation on the road to COP30.

He spoke of COP29 as the second largest and one of the most inclusive conferences in history, a “national effort demonstrating what can be achieved when a whole society mobilises around a goal.” In this spirit, he urged participants to “carry forward the solidarity that carried COP29 forward.”



Strengthening institutions and diplomacy emerged as twin pillars of Azerbaijan’s post-COP architecture. Within the justice system, new frameworks were announced to bolster environmental oversight and transnational cooperation, ensuring climate responsibility is anchored in law. **Prosecutor General Kamran Aliyev** emphasised climate change as “the defining emergency of our time,” while from the diplomatic front, **Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Yalchin Rafiyev** described COP29 as “one of the most successful and

inclusive COPs ever,” highlighting the creation of a Climate Diplomacy Department and deepening partnerships with Brazil, Australia, and Türkiye. Together their interventions reflected a state shifting from aspiration to governance — building the legal and diplomatic scaffolding of long-term climate action.

The conversation then turned to the engines of transition — the economy, entrepreneurship, and the skills shaping a low-carbon future. The link between national growth and sustainable innovation was drawn clearly by **Deputy**



Minister of Economy Samad Bashirli, who noted Azerbaijan’s 2030 Strategy “places green growth at the heart of development.” Echoing this pragmatic vision, **Nigar Arpadarai**, COP29 High-Level Champion, reminded participants how “we are not here to celebrate what was achieved, but to build upon it,” urging for the legacy of COP29 to be measured not in speeches but in the opportunities created for small businesses, workers, and students driving the next wave of green enterprise.



From Bonn, **UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell** emphasised how the real success of any COP lies in what follows. “Promises made in Baku must translate into action people and communities can see and feel. Climate action is not a cost — it is an investment in resilience”.

Damilola Ogunbiyi, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All, called on participants to seize the “shared urgency of this moment,” reminding that global emissions must fall by 43% by 2030. “The Paris Agreement was historic,” she said, “but it is slipping through our fingers. Every delay carries a human cost.”



Capturing the day's spirit **María Fernanda Espinosa**, former President of the UN General Assembly reminded participants: “We stand at the intersection of history and urgency.” She praised Azerbaijan’s leadership, noting how the *Baku to Belém Roadmap* now provides a “strategic investment in global stability.” For Espinosa, multilateralism is not a luxury but “the only thing capable of delivering solutions at the speed science demands.”

Session 1 – From COP29 to COP30: Sustaining Climate Leadership

The morning’s first panel, *Azerbaijan’s Climate Leadership: From COP29 to BCAW2025*, examined the breakthroughs of the presidency year. Speakers including **Vladanka Andreeva** (UN Resident Coordinator), **Fergus Auld OBE** (UK Ambassador), **Dr Marcelo de Andrade** (Pro Natura International), and **Csaba Kőrösi** (President of the 77th UNGA) commended Baku’s example of pragmatic diplomacy amid global tension.



Kőrösi observed how “Baku showed how even in times of geopolitical difficulty, it is possible to make reasonable progress when guided by cooperation and pragmatism.” Dr de Andrade expanded: “Conservation without capital is conversation — Baku showed how finance can fuel transformation.”

Session 2 – Meeting the Green Transition Challenge

The next session explored *National Climate Plans (NDCs & NAPs)*, *Investment Platforms & Transition Strategies*, with a focus on integrating adaptation, resilience, and equity. **Elnur Soltanov**, Deputy Minister of Energy, argued governments must “unlock the private sector” to

accelerate progress, while **Umayra Taghiyeva**, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, emphasised “adaptation must be rooted in realistic, science-based national priorities.”



Espinosa returned to stress how the *just* element of the transition is fundamental: “When we negotiate climate, we are negotiating our right to development — our lifestyles, our dignity.” Her intervention drew wide applause.



Session 3 – Green Skills and the SME Transition

Afternoon discussions turned to green skills and small businesses. **Orkhan Mammadov**, Chair of the Small and Medium Business Development Agency, explained how SMEs make up 90% of global businesses and “can shape consumer behaviour as much as production.” International speakers, including **Vinicius Lages** (SEBRAE, Brazil) and **Jens Nielsen** (World Climate Foundation), shared models for training and financing climate-resilient entrepreneurship. “Sustainability,” said Nielsen, “is not achieved in a day — it is built over decades through partnership between business, academia, and government.”

Session 4 – Green Finance and Sustainable Investments

Finance dominated the late afternoon. **Shahin Mahmudzade**, Executive Director of the Central Bank of Azerbaijan, opened with a vivid metaphor: “The Stone Age did not end because the stones ran out.” He outlined new measures to create a “favourable climate for climate finance,” including a national taxonomy and disclosure framework.

Panelists from international institutions — IFC, EBRD, iCS Brazil, and BII — debated how to mobilise the private sector. “It’s not only about finance,” said **Real Hajiye** of EBRD, “it’s about how we live and structure our economies.” Others, including **Amal-Lee Amin** (BII) and **Luca Rizzo** (iCS), discussed blended finance models and regional initiatives linking public funds to private investment.



To tie the threads together, as **Dr Mahmoud Mohieldin**, UN Climate Finance Envoy, previously framed it: “Finance is the bloodstream of the transition — without it, ambition remains rhetoric.”

Global Thought Leader Keynote – Sustainable Trade and Cooperation

Closing the main sessions, Yale Professor **Daniel C. Esty** urged nations to “align the global trading system with the climate regime,” calling for a reconfiguration of existing trade structures to reward sustainable action. “Leadership,” he said, “is action, not position.”

Parallel Events

Roundtable on Strengthening Climate Laws and Institutions for a Net Zero Transition

(Nagiyev Room, Marriott Boulevard Hotel — 14:00–15:30)

In parallel, a high-level roundtable co-organised with GLOBE Legislators gathered MPs, experts, and legal scholars to explore how parliaments can strengthen climate governance and embed accountability. The Azerbaijani edition of GLOBE's *Parliamentary Guide on Article 6 and Carbon Markets* was



formally launched, marking Azerbaijan's growing role in shaping international carbon market frameworks.

Speakers, including **MP Sadiq Gurbanov**, **Mukhtar Babayev**, **Nigar Arpadarai**, and **Malini Mehra**, CEO of Globe Legislators, discussed best practices in climate law and the emerging role of independent advisory councils. The dialogue reinforced that effective legislation “turns ambition into implementation” and parliaments are critical to bridging the global *Ambition Gap* (GLOBE Legislators, 2025).



Little Climate Champs

(Together and Healthy Autism Centre & Ümid Yeri Children's Shelter — 15:00–17:00)

Elsewhere in the city, a different kind of climate action unfolded. The *Little Climate Champs* initiative brought together children from local autism and orphanage centres for a creative introduction to environmental care. Led by educators from the COP29 Climate Summer Camp and volunteers from the Regional Development Public Union (RIIB), the workshop turned complex ideas into play — with stories, eco-bag painting, and simple lessons on reuse and respect for nature. It was a vivid reminder of how the legacy of Baku's climate leadership is not only institutional but generational.



Closing Reflection

Day 1 closed on a note of grounded optimism. Conversations had moved from finance and governance to skills, law, and education — yet a single message persisted: progress depends on *ahəng*, the harmony of institutions, sectors, and generations moving together toward a shared purpose. The legacy of COP29 endures not as memory, but as motion.

4. Day 2 – International Cooperation & Accelerating a Resilient, Clean Energy and Just Transition

Venue: Baku Marriott Boulevard Hotel, Tagiyev Ballroom

The second morning evolved the drumbeat to bring in different voices — familiar yet louder, as if the melody of Day 1 had found its chorus. Where the previous day tuned the instruments of policy and finance, this one brought them into concert. Cooperation was no longer the refrain of speeches; it had become the structure of the dialogue.

Welcome & Ministerial Opening Address



The day opened with a clear sense of direction. In his remarks, **Mukhtar Babayev**, COP29 President and Special Representative of the President for Climate, described Azerbaijan's newly updated climate commitments as “a roadmap for producing the energy of the future — clean, smarter, more resilient.” The tone was not one of reflection but of momentum: the pledges agreed in Baku had begun to take physical form.



Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy, spoke of a nation in motion — tripling renewable-energy capacity by 2030, harnessing the Caspian’s wind potential, and building the foundations for a hydrogen economy. These were not isolated projects, he said, but part of President **Ilham Aliyev’s** broader vision of turning energy transformation into a new pillar of prosperity.



Later, **Nigar Arpadarai**, COP29 High-Level Champion, reframed cooperation as the daily work of transition — “what happens when urgency meets conversation.” Examples like the Green Energy Corridor, she said, showed how regional collaboration could create shared benefit and trust across borders.

Session 1: Exploring Azerbaijan’s Potential in Solar, Offshore Wind, Blue & Green Hydrogen, and Geothermal Energy

Dialogue soon turned technical. Industry leaders mapped Azerbaijan’s renewable horizon — from solar plains to the offshore winds of the Caspian, from geothermal exploration to hydrogen export plans.



Rana Humbatova, Deputy Director of the Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency, described rapid expansion since COP29, including new solar auctions and biogas projects. “Our oil and gas heritage,” she observed, “gives us the infrastructure to accelerate the transition.” **Murad Sadikhov** of Masdar pointed to investor confidence built on stability and political will, while **Aysel Yagubova** from ECO Clean Energy Centre emphasised regional integration through the Azerbaijan–Turkey Green Energy Corridor.

For **Jodi Wood** of Schlumberger, the question was social rather than technological: “We have the tools — the question is whether we have the will.” **Alexander Tishkov** of BCG Baku added a note of balance, urging policymakers to align industrial growth and demographics with the pace of decarbonisation.

By the end, the conversation had traced the contours of a national transition rooted in realism — a belief that old and new energy systems could coexist, overlapping before eventually converging.

Session 2: Advancing Climate Resilience through International Collaboration

The focus widened from domestic ambition to the global web of partnerships shaping climate resilience. In a video address, **Dan Ioschpe**, COP30 High-Level Champion, called on participants to carry the cooperative momentum from Baku to Belém.

At the centre of discussion was **Afgan Isayev**, Vice President of SOCAR, who detailed how the company had mapped over a thousand methane leaks by satellite and eliminated most within months — a reminder of how transparency, once an environmental demand, had become a management standard.



From Brazil, **Ambassador Manuel Montenegro** offered a more human perspective. He spoke of *mutirão* — collective action rooted in solidarity, Brazil's version of *ahang* — as the organising principle of COP30. “Empathy,” he said, “must move from sentiment to structure.”

María Fernanda Espinosa, former President of the UN General Assembly, urged governments to recognise the atmosphere as “a common good whose suffering knows no borders.” Climate change, she warned, was “the great disruptor of our century — chemical, political, and moral all at once.”

Industry and governance voices joined in. **Stuart Shaw** of bp described how data sharing between energy companies was cutting emissions faster than regulation alone, while **Pietro Mezzano**, Director of the Oil & Gas Decarbonisation Charter (OGDC), and **Dario Buccellato**, Manager of the Energy Transition work-stream at the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP), outlined new governance frameworks emerging from Baku’s COP29 legacy. Through their accounts, cooperation appeared not as aspiration but as architecture — the building blocks of resilience itself.

Ministerial Address & Global Thought Leader Keynote



The tone softened after lunch. COP29 President Babayev spoke again, linking climate action to social protection — “the real infrastructure of resilience.” **Anar Aliyev**, Minister of Labour and

Social Protection, expanded on that vision, describing how the just transition must safeguard workers and equip new generations with green skills.

Then **Csaba Kőrösi**, President of the 77th UN General Assembly, urged greater honesty in sustainability reporting. “Too often,” he said, “we measure what is convenient, not what counts.” His appeal for integrated metrics and natural-capital accounting re-centred the conversation on transparency as a moral foundation rather than a bureaucratic exercise.

Session 3: From Pledges to Action – Advancing COP29 Legacy Through Corporate Sustainability

Afternoon discussions shifted from diplomacy to delivery. **Narmin Jarchalova**, COO of the COP29 Operating Company, presented the *COP29 Sustainability Legacy Report* — the first to document a COP powered entirely by renewable energy and certified zero-landfill. “Legacy,” she said, “lies not in what we agreed, but in how we worked.”



Nigar Arpadarai described corporate sustainability as the measure by which the COP29 spirit would endure: “Success is when sustainability becomes second nature.” Leaders from **SOCAR Green**, **PASHA Bank**, and **Azersun Holding** followed with examples of solar investments, green-finance models, and resource-efficiency programmes. They also acknowledged

persistent barriers — fragmented standards, limited capacity, and the need for taxonomies that make sense to both financiers and engineers.

Their candour gave the discussion its strength: sustainability as an evolving practice, not a finished product.

Session 4: From Collaboration to Implementation – Driving Progress in Methane Management

As the afternoon deepened, conversation returned to the language of precision and proof. The focus: methane management — one of the most tangible legacies of COP29. **SOCAR, bp, OGDC**, and **GHGSat** shared results from a pioneering partnership which had transformed invisible emissions into data points and action plans.

Pietro Mezzano, Director of OGDC, explained how governance frameworks born in Baku were now setting benchmarks across the oil and gas sector, “replacing competition with cooperation and moving from pledges to measurable performance.” **Lauren Ward, Low-Carbon Programme Manager, OGCI**”, described how joint monitoring and rapid-response mechanisms were cutting leaks at scale. **Ryan Mattson** of **GHGSat** showcased satellite imagery revealing previously undetectable methane plumes — a clear demonstration of how technology was reshaping accountability.



Moderated by **Mustafa Gurbanli**, Head of Environmental Disclosures and Green Affairs at SOCAR, the dialogue highlighted a growing consensus: transparency had become both an ethical and commercial imperative. **Sonna Sathiamoorthy**, bp's Methane Programme Manager, called it "a moment when innovation becomes responsibility."

What had once been elusive — fugitive methane — was now traceable, trackable, and reducible. "Innovation," one participant observed, "isn't competition, it's clarity." The line lingered — precise, understated, and entirely fitting for a day devoted to cooperation made concrete.

Global Thought Leader Keynote — The Business and Economic Case for Climate Action

Jean Baderschneider, Chief Executive Officer of the **Global Fund to End Modern Slavery** and former **Vice President for Global Procurement at ExxonMobil**, drew on decades at the intersection of industry and ethics to argue that competitiveness and climate responsibility are not opposing forces but "mutually reinforcing imperatives." Stable policy frameworks, credible disclosure standards, and scaled investment in clean energy, she said, "lower the cost of capital and raise the bar for performance."

Reflecting on her transition from the private sector to impact leadership, she observed that transparency and sustainability have become "the new currencies of trust" — shaping investor confidence and market access alike. Her remarks wove economic logic with moral clarity, mirroring the day's overarching melody: implementation as strategy, not sacrifice.

Session 5: Achieving a Just Transition – Best Practice and Lessons for Policymakers

The final session of the day brought the conversation back to people — to fairness, livelihoods, and the human side of transition. **Rashad Mustafayev**, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection, opened with a simple proposition: the shift to a green economy must be "not only fast, but fair."

From the Ministry of Ecology, **Vugar Karimov** described how environmental ambition must be balanced with social protection, while **Dr. Hakima El Haite**, President of Liberal International and a veteran of COP21 and COP22, reminded participants that "justice is not an accessory to climate policy — it is its moral core."

Representing the private sector, **Afgan Isayev** of SOCAR reflected on the company's efforts to build a balanced energy portfolio to support workers and communities through retraining and upskilling. **Vugar Zeynalov**, from the Azerbaijan Confederation of Entrepreneurs, echoed the need for small businesses to be equipped to adapt.

Trade union voices, led by **Elkiyar Ziyadov**, added a call for inclusivity: "Protecting workers' rights during ecological transformation," he said, "is not resistance to progress — it's the way to sustain it."



Moderated by **Lamiya Vahidzade**, Head of the State Social Protection Fund's PMO, the discussion tied together the strands of the day — technology, policy, and human dignity. The consensus was clear: a just transition cannot rely on economics alone. It demands empathy, foresight, and cooperation between governments, businesses, and citizens, coming together in harmony.

As the session concluded, one participant captured the sentiment with precision: "Justice isn't a separate pillar of climate policy — it's the load-bearing wall." The room fell briefly silent before the applause — a pause long enough to register how this, too, was what progress sounds like.

Roundtable: Sustainable Fashion and the BCAW Fashion Breakthrough

Evening brought a change in tempo. The Sustainable Fashion Roundtable, supported by **Giltex**, gathered designers, business leaders, and policymakers to explore how creativity could power sustainability. Conversation flowed between material innovation, cultural heritage, and the economic promise of circular design.



Designers presented prototypes using locally sourced natural fibres and biodegradable dyes, while entrepreneurs proposed a BCAW-led supply-chain platform connecting ethical producers across the region. Agreements were reached to establish an Azerbaijan–UK exchange on sustainable textiles, to partner with the Future Fabrics Expo 2026 in London, and to launch a BCAW Sustainable Fashion Collection showcasing circular design.

The foyer of the Marriott Boulevard Hotel became a runway for the *Sustainable Fashion Show* — a vivid display of Azerbaijani ingenuity and conscience. Models catwalked among the guests in garments crafted from reused, upcycled, and

biodegradable materials, each piece telling a story of renewal. In one of the evening's most touching moments, a group of young girls made their fashion debut wearing dresses they had helped create from recycled materials. Their beaming smiles drew warm applause — a reminder of a future belonging to them, and BCAW's purpose to help build a world worth inheriting.

The day ended with resonance: art, economy, and ecology joined in a single rhythm while the melody of transformation strummed louder.



5. Youth-Led Climate Forum: Framing the Future

Tuesday 30 September – Wednesday 1 October 2025

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Baku – Shusha & Kalbajar Rooms



In parallel with the main programme of Baku Climate Action Week, the Youth-Led Climate Forum unfolded as a two-day exchange of ideas, ingenuity, and optimism. By giving young people not a symbolic slot but a full space of their own, Azerbaijan sent a clear message: the future must be shaped by those who will inhabit it.

Gathering youth leaders from across Azerbaijan and the world — from Zimbabwe and Kenya to India, Pakistan to Jamaica and Venezuela to Europe — the Forum provided a platform for cross-cultural dialogue and collective creativity. Convened by the COP29 Presidency and the NAM Youth Organisation under the guidance of **Ms. Leyla Hasanova**, COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion, it embodied the inclusivity and continuity that defined BCAW's spirit.



Day One – From Ideas to Action: How Digital Transformation Enables Sustainable Development

The first day opened in the **Shusha Room** of the Ritz-Carlton with welcoming remarks by **H.E. Mukhtar Babayev**, COP29 President and Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Climate Issues. His words set the tone for a day anchored in participation and partnership.

Through a morning of high-level dialogues, participants explored how digital transformation could accelerate sustainability across sectors — from education to entrepreneurship and clean energy. Moderated by **Ms. Kanako Mabuchi**, Head of the Resident Coordinator's Office, the session brought together **Ms. Arzu Nagiyeva**, Deputy Head of the Sustainable Development and Social Policy Department at the Ministry of Economy; **Mr. George Held**, Chief Technology and Information Officer at Azercell; **Ms. Nargiz Hajiyeve**, Country Director for the British Council in Azerbaijan; and **Ms. Natalia Mochi**, Regional Director for the International Telecommunication Union.

What emerged was a shared conviction: technology alone cannot save the planet — it is the intention and collaboration behind it that matters. As one young delegate remarked during the course of the day, “code and compassion must work hand in hand.”

From Vision to Reality: Clean Energy and Urban Development for a Greener World



The afternoon built on that momentum. Moderated by **Mr. Samir Mammadov**, Country

Manager of the UN Global Compact in Azerbaijan, the panel drew together **Mr. Abdinassir Sagar**, World Urban Forum Coordinator at UN-Habitat; **Ms. Asyel Yagubova**, Executive Director of the ECO Clean Energy Centre; **Dr. Fuad Bagirov**, Chairman of the Azerbaijan Green Building Council; and **Mr. Rahman Hajiyev**, Chairman of the Karabakh Revival Fund.

They explored how sustainable cities can become incubators of climate innovation — fusing clean energy, circular design, and cultural heritage. The discussion bridged local realities with global challenges, giving young participants a practical sense of how vision becomes action through integrated planning and public–private collaboration.

From Negotiation to Action: Diplomacy for Climate Resilience

As evening approached, the Forum turned its focus to climate diplomacy — its mechanisms, its inequities, and its moral imperative. Moderated by **Ms. Hasanova**, the discussion featured **Ambassador Elshad Iskandarov**, Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; **Ms. Vladanka Andreeva**, UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan; and **Mr. Elchin Allahverdiyev**, Head of the Climate Diplomacy Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The panelists challenged youth to think beyond borders and to see negotiation not as abstraction but as human responsibility. Ambassador Iskandarov spoke of the “vicious circle” linking fragility, conflict, and climate vulnerability — and of Azerbaijan’s efforts to break it through the *Baku Call for Action* and the creation of the *Baku Hub for Climate and Peace Action*. **Ms. Andreeva** called for “mutual accountability and science-driven empathy,” while **Mr. Allahverdiyev** reflected on the lessons of COP29: “Adaptation is no longer a choice — it is survival.”

When asked what climate change would say if it were a person, Ms. Andreeva replied, “She would be Mother Earth — bleeding, patient, and asking us to listen.”

Day Two – Thematic Dialogues and Creative Solutions

Kalbajar Room

The second day began with a question setting the tone for what would follow: *What is harmony?* Participants took turns sharing what the word meant to them — as balance in

nature, rhythm in community, or peace within the self. The exercise created a collective rhythm of awareness, carried through the day's breakout sessions and framed each discussion with purpose and empathy.

If the first day belonged to learning, the second was about doing. The **Youth-Led Thematic Dialogues** placed participants at the centre of climate problem-solving, guiding them through breakout groups on *Climate Mobility* (with IOM), *Agriculture and Food Systems* (with FAO), and *Health and Well-Being* (with WHO).

Across these workshops, the diversity of perspectives became a wellspring of innovation. Participants from Zimbabwe and Azerbaijan co-designed low-cost rainwater harvesting systems to tackle drought; others proposed government-backed ranching schemes in West Africa to reduce cross-border resource conflicts. Several teams focused on soil regeneration through composting and organic fertilisers, while another group from Algeria and India championed drought-resilient crops such as millet and acacia to restore soil fertility.

One team reframed migration not as displacement but as adaptation — arguing for local integration models that help migrants contribute to host communities. Another tackled air pollution, calling it “the silent killer” and linking clean cooking access to women’s health and empowerment.

Throughout the day, the spirit of collaboration was tangible. Experts acted not as lecturers but as mentors, guiding participants to connect science, empathy, and community action.

Plenary Reflections and Closing Pledges

The final plenary gathered all participants to share outcomes and commitments. Their presentations revealed a new maturity: solutions grounded in local realities yet connected by a sense of global solidarity. “What is the point of feeding 8.5 billion people today,” one group asked, “if the crops won’t survive tomorrow?”

Closing reflections tied these insights back to the wider narrative of Baku Climate Action Week. In her remarks, **Ms. Leyla Hasanova** emphasised education, access, and opportunity form a triad of empowerment: “*Knowledge gives voice, voice drives action, and action builds the future.*”

As the Forum concluded, a collective pledge was made — to carry forward the **Action Agenda Initiative – Acciona**, a youth-driven concept born during the sessions to symbolise balance between humanity and nature, technology and tradition, local and global.

In two days of open dialogue and shared creation, young leaders from every continent showed what genuine collaboration can look like. Their questions were as ambitious as their ideas, their energy as grounded as their purpose. What began as a conversation about harmony ended as a song of agency — a generation ready not to wait for change, but to compose it.

6. Day 3 – Advancing Sectoral Climate Resilience: Agriculture, Water, Transport, Smart Cities & Women’s Leadership

Venue: Baku Marriott Boulevard Hotel, Tagiyev Ballroom

Day 3 turned its attention to the places we inhabit and the systems that sustain them — the fields which feed us, the water which quenches our thirst, the cities in which we find shelter, and the people who hold them together. It was a day about *lived environments* — their infrastructures, their interconnections, and the women whose hands fill the glass, switch on the light, plant the seed, and lead the change. Across each session ran a single thread: resilience begins not in policy but in daily life — in how communities grow food, move, build, and care. Women, so often at the centre of these unseen economies, were recognised both for their disproportionate vulnerability to the climate crisis and for their unmatched capacity to lead its solutions.

Welcome & Ministerial Opening Address



The morning opened as delegates gathered beneath the soft glow of the ballroom’s lights.

Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President and Representative of the President of the Republic of

Azerbaijan for Climate Issues, set the tone for the day with a reminder that “adaptation begins at home — in the soil, in the street, in the way we plan our future.” He was joined by **Majnun Mammadov**, Minister of Agriculture, who called for innovation to “protect yields while protecting ecosystems,” and **Zaur Mikayilov**, Chairman of the State Water Agency, who underscored that “every drop counts — water is not only a resource but a covenant with the generations to come.”



From the international community, **Viorel Gutu**, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia at the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, stressed the importance of integrated systems that connect agriculture, water, and social protection. In her remarks, **Nigar Arpadarai**, COP29 High-Level Climate Champion and Member of Parliament, invited participants to see adaptation as “a collective art — one which requires cooperation across ministries, sectors, and borders.”

Session 1: Smart Agriculture and Food Security in a Changing Climate

Moderated by **Nasar Hayat**, Head of the FAO Partnership and Liaison Office in Azerbaijan, this session explored how technology, policy, and grassroots innovation can fortify food systems under climate stress. **Surkhay Novruzov**, leading the AI Project at the Ministry of Agriculture, demonstrated real-time monitoring tools using sensors and drones, while **Marina Rose Best** of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** discussed financing mechanisms for sustainable farming.



From the private sector, **Gözde Kızılırmak** of **McKinsey & Company** shared insights on data-driven approaches to reduce waste, and **Kyrylo Mukhomedzyanov** from the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** highlighted inclusive models that empower smallholders through digital access. **Ismat Bakhishov** of **AZERCOSMOS** and **Anar Jafarov**, Director of the **Agro Innovation Centre**, underscored how satellite mapping and local entrepreneurship can reinforce national food security.

The discussion brought a clear consensus: resilience in agriculture is not just a technical challenge but a social one — requiring coordination between innovation and inclusion, technology and trust.

Session 2: Regional Sustainable Water Management

Water, the lifeblood of agriculture and the pulse of ecosystems, took centre stage in the next session. **Stefanie Stallmeister**, Country Manager for the **World Bank**, outlined the economic cost of water scarcity, while **Sunniya Durrani-Jamal**, Country Director for **ADB Azerbaijan**, emphasised that “efficient irrigation is not only about technology but governance.”



Panelists including **Kamala Huseynli-Abishova** from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and **Aliagha Azizov** of the State Water Resources Agency discussed basin-level reforms and the role of science and data in equitable water allocation. **Dr Rovshan Abbasov** of **Khazar University** and **Carlo Stella**, Global Sustainability and Climate Change Leader at **ADL USA**, contributed regional case studies on smart irrigation and reuse systems.

Moderated by **Liya Bayramova** of **GEM CSR and ESG Consulting**, the dialogue reinforced how water management is a moral as well as a material issue — about stewardship, not extraction.



Session 3: Transport and Digitalisation – Focus on the Caspian and Central Asia

If the morning belonged to land and water, the afternoon opened with movement. The conversation shifted to how nations in the Caspian and Central Asian regions can decarbonise transport and use digital tools to make it smarter, cleaner, and fairer.



Moderated by **Fidan Farzaliyeva**, Adviser to the President of AZAL, the session featured **Fariz Aliyev** from the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport, **Emil Majidov** of **Rotas Consulting**, and **Abdul Karim Sawan**, CEO of **Esyaso Mobility**, who explored electrification strategies and the economics of low-emission zones. **Turkhan Ahmadov** of **Azerbaijan Railways** highlighted digital logistics platforms reducing idle times and emissions, while **Aslan Ibrahimov** of **Deloitte** and **Florent Nanse** of **Arthur D. Little** discussed blockchain and AI as enablers of transparency in logistics chains.

Transport reform is not an afterthought, it was made clear, but an accelerant for the entire low-carbon transition.

Session 4: Shaping Azerbaijan's Future – Climate-Resilient and Healthy Cities and Communities

As the focus turned to urban resilience, **Elmar Mammadov** of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs framed the discussion around a new global frontier — cities as living systems. He noted that COP29 had expanded the agenda to include urban finance and healthy cities, aligning climate action with national planning. From large-scale developments like the **White City Project** to regional initiatives such as the **Ganja Green City Programme**, the examples showcased Azerbaijan's evolving approach to climate-smart urbanisation.



Architect **Dr Paul Toyne** of **GRIMSHAW** called for an urgent shift in the construction sector toward resilience: “We must both mitigate and adapt — reduce energy demands, improve building efficiency, and prepare for extremes.” **Lin O’Grady** of the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** outlined how the **Green Cities** initiative supports project preparation, blended finance, and municipal capacity building, while **Leyla Huseynli** from **IFC** highlighted the rapid payback and asset value benefits of green-certified buildings.

Adding a global lens, **Abdinassir Shale Sagar** from **UN-Habitat** reflected on rapid urbanisation and housing shortages affecting nearly 400 million people worldwide, urging cities to “move as quickly as technology does.” The discussion concluded urban resilience is not a luxury but a necessity — a question of foresight and inclusion.

Azerbaijan Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint Roundtable

Running parallel to the main sessions, the **Azerbaijan Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint Roundtable**, sponsored by the **Azerbaijan Cement Production Association**, gathered developers, architects, and industry leaders to chart a national pathway toward low-carbon construction. The event marked the formal handover of the **Azerbaijan Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint** to the **UN Global Compact in Azerbaijan**, solidifying private sector ownership of the transition.



Building on the 2024 **Blueprint Pledge**, which committed companies to align with the 1.5°C target, participants explored the use of low-carbon materials, renewable energy integration, and retrofitting strategies. They also discussed synergies with the **Net Zero Cement Accelerator**, supported by the **European Cement Association** and **UN Global Compact**. The Roundtable's outcomes — including capacity-building workshops and a proposed link to the **World Urban Forum 2026** — showcased the country's growing leadership in climate-smart infrastructure (Baku Climate Action Week, 2025).

Session 5: Women Leading Climate Action – Bridging the Gender Gap in Sustainability

The day reached its emotional crescendo with a session dedicated to women's leadership in climate governance and action — an overdue spotlight in a field still shaped by imbalance. **Mukhtar Babayev** opened by declaring that “inclusive climate action is stronger climate action,” paying tribute to the women who had shaped COP29's gender legacy. **Bahar Muradova**, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, and **Hijran Huseynova**, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on the same portfolio, spoke of equity as both a right and a resource.



Discussions revealed the dual reality faced by women: the greatest burden of climate impacts and the greatest untapped potential for solutions. **Jean Baderschneider** of **Fortescue Ltd.** noted how companies with gender-diverse leadership were “60% more likely to reduce emissions and water use.” **Shamsiyya Mustafayeva** from **STC Consulting** called attention to cultural and digital access barriers limiting women’s participation in the green economy, while **Natavan Mammadova** of the **Maida Nazir Organisation** introduced the *LIFT* framework — *Learn, Invest, Foster, Train* — as a pathway for women’s empowerment.



From the next generation, **Leyla Hasanova**, COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion, described how education and mentorship had allowed young women to “join the conversation, not as observers but as equals.” **Tatyana Mikayilova**, founder of the **Azerbaijani Business Women Association**, reminded the room only 15% of global climate finance reaches women-led initiatives, asking pointedly: “If resilience is our theme, why fund only half of it?”

The session closed with **Samir Mammadov** of the **UN Global Compact Azerbaijan**, who cited data showing gender-balanced companies outperforming their peers by up to 50%. The call to action was unmistakable: bridging the gender gap is not a moral gesture but a strategic imperative.

Closing Reflections

In the closing moments, **Ilhama Gadimova**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, returned the conversation to its core — resilience as shared work. She reflected on the day's breadth: from food security to smart cities, from finance to gender equality, all pieces of a single architecture of sustainability. "Without women's voices," she said, "climate leadership will never be complete."

The message of the day lingered beyond the applause: the climate transition is not an abstract ambition but a choreography of interdependence — a living harmony, an *ahəng* — binding soil, structure, and soul into a single, resilient whole.

7. Day 4 – Arts, Culture and Youth-led Innovation

Heydar Aliyev Center, ADA University and French-Azerbaijani University (UFAZ), Baku

Sustainable Expo: Art & Innovation for the Planet

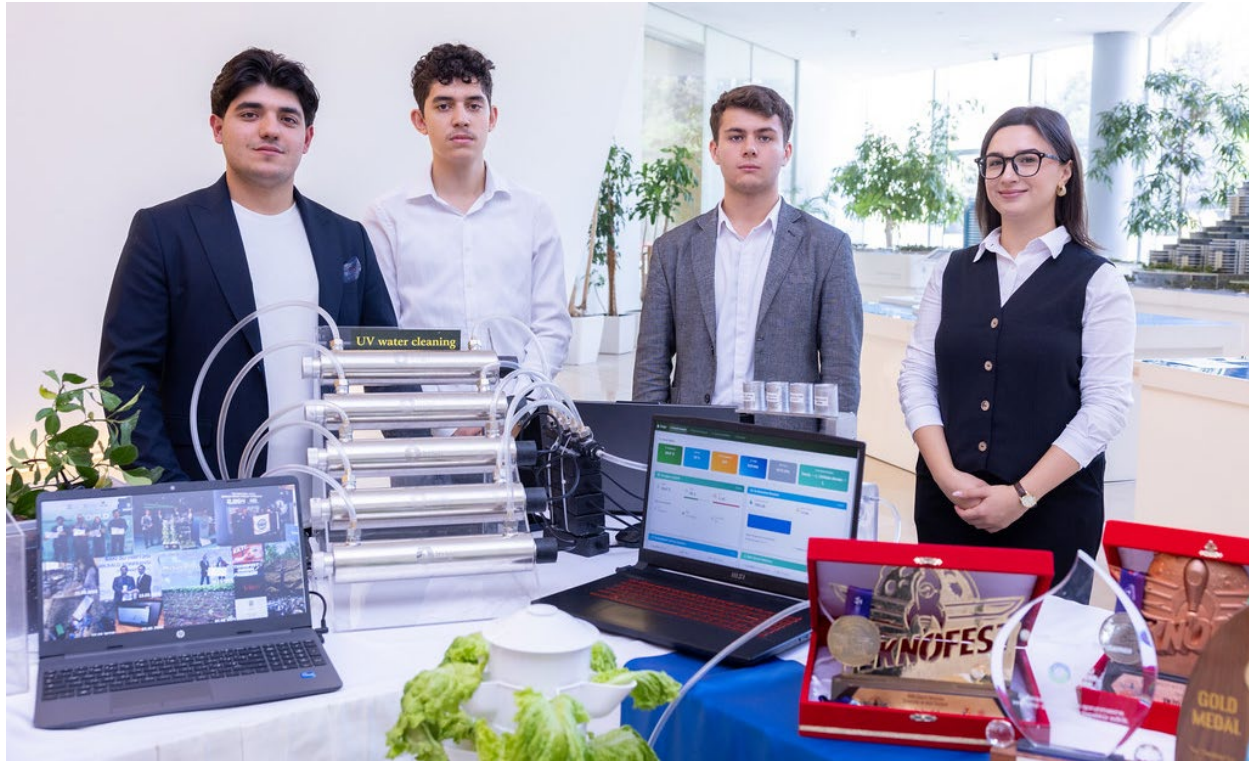
The fourth day of Baku Climate Action Week unfurled beneath the gleaming curves of the **Heydar Aliyev Center**, an icon of Azerbaijan’s creative ambition and global identity. Within its flowing white architecture, art and innovation converged to celebrate imagination as a form of climate action.

The morning’s **Sustainable Expo: Art & Innovation for the Planet** transformed the venue into a vibrant crossroads of creativity and conscience. Thirty visual artworks captured the pulse of a generation under themes such as *Climate Change and Hope*, *My Future Earth / My Future Baku / My Future Azerbaijan*, and *The Planet Has a Heartbeat*. Alongside them, young innovators presented start-ups which translated ideas into practice — from renewable-energy prototypes, oil-spill capturing technology and waste-to-resource solutions to digital tools for education and engagement.



H.E. Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President and Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, opened the Expo, joined by **Ms. Nigar Arpadarai**, High-Level Climate Champion, **Ms. Leyla**

Hasanova, COP29 Youth Climate Champion, and **Ms. Adila Aliyeva**, Head of Projects and Volunteer Engagement at the Regional Development Public Union. Together they honoured the artists and entrepreneurs who are, in their words, *“already building the future we dream of.”*



From among the many bright ideas, three innovations stood out:

First place went to **EcoBite**, created by **Aygün Hasanova**, for a food-ecosystem app that measures the ecological footprint of meals and identifies carbon-smart restaurants.

Second place was awarded to **YaşılScan**, by **Nazrin Nurullayeva**, **Mahammad Sharbatov**, and **Asgar Huseynov**, a digital tool for assessing sustainability performance.

Third place went to **GreenStone**, by **Zarifa Asadullayeva** and **Solmaz Mahmudova**, exploring circular-economy approaches to construction materials.

Honourable mentions included **İrrigo** by **Nijat Hasanov**, **Tahir Aliyev**, **Jamil Jafarli**, and **Günel Hajaliyeva**; **Harvest Together** by **Nizam Alizada**, **Umud Muradov**, and **Amin Nuruyev**; and **F3 Fish Fertilizer** by **Zahrabayim Huseynzada** and **Fidan Mubarizsoy**.

Throughout the morning, the halls hummed with collaboration and curiosity. Canvases, prototypes and apps reflected the same conviction — that creativity is the starting point of every transformation.

Vision Zero: Strategy for a Green and Safe Future

Running in parallel, a closed roundtable on **Vision Zero** brought together occupational-safety experts from the State Labour Inspectorate Service, SOCAR Upstream and other institutions to promote a prevention culture in both industry and public service. The dialogue reaffirmed a shared ethic: the safety of workers and the safety of the planet are indivisible goals, guided by responsibility rather than risk.

Climate and Health at ADA University

In the afternoon, attention turned to **ADA University**, where science and policy converged in the **Health and Climate Roundtable**. **Dr. Mammad Guliyev**, Head of Health Policy at the Ministry of Health, and **Dr. Jafarli**, Founder of the Association of Azerbaijani-British Professionals, reminded participants how “the climate crisis is also a health crisis — physical, emotional, mental and social.”

Discussions traced how heatwaves, droughts, floods and pollution now manifest in the human body — from respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses to hormonal imbalance and reproductive risk. **Dr. Khadijah Mikayilzade** urged a shift toward *eco-friendly healing*: biodegradable biomaterials, green hospitals, preventive medicine and nature-based therapies. “We have the power to heal the world,” she said. “Let’s make choices which restore the Earth’s natural balance.”

Zahra Hasanli presented data on intensifying heatwaves in the Caucasus, highlighting how Baku’s rising night-time temperatures amplify vulnerability for children, the elderly and pregnant women. **Dr. Guliyev** concluded true climate resilience will depend on the development of human capital, digital healthcare, and cross-sector coordination — “because climate action is, ultimately, public health action.”

Precise Agriculture: The Future of Farming

Later that day, the focus shifted to the **French-Azerbaijani University (UFAZ)**, where experts and innovators explored how climate resilience begins in the soil. The workshop, *Precise Agriculture – Future of Farming in a Changing Climate and Limited Land Resources*, gathered agricultural scientists, farmers, and policymakers from the Caspian region.

With ecosystems under stress from rising salinity and water scarcity, speakers examined how precision technologies — from remote-sensing and smart irrigation to data-driven soil analysis — can help farmers adapt to erratic conditions. Organised by the COP29 Presidency in collaboration with **CASPISNET**, **Caspian Locus LLC**, the **Agrarian Innovation Center**, and the **Regional Development Public Union**, the session positioned Azerbaijan as a testing ground for innovation in sustainable agriculture.

Discussions underscored how the Caspian's fragile environment demands new tools and thinking: drones measuring moisture in the fields, algorithms predicting rainfall, and farmers trained not only to cultivate crops, but to cultivate resilience. The meeting ended with a shared commitment to strengthen farmer-scientist partnerships and embed precision agriculture into national adaptation plans — a vital stride towards food security and sustainable growth.

Reflections

Day 4 traced a complete circle — from art to innovation, from health to the harvest. In the galleries of the Heydar Aliyev Center, young people reimagined the world through creativity; in the classrooms of ADA and UFAZ, experts grounded that imagination in policy and science. The result was a conversation between generations and disciplines, between vision and vocation.

If previous days tuned the instruments of policy and finance, this one played the melody of humanity — proving how harmony, when rooted in purpose, can travel from canvas to clinic to cultivated field.

8. Day 5 – Community Impact Day: “Act for the Future”

Theme: Community Impact Day

Walk the Talk for Climate Action



The final day of Baku Climate Action Week began not in a conference hall, but under an open sky. On the Baku Boulevard, beside the glimmering Caspian Sea, dignitaries, citizens, diplomats, and students walked together in the “Walk the Talk for Climate Action” — a public engagement initiative led by the **United Nations in Azerbaijan**.



The morning air carried banners and laughter, the pace steady, the purpose clear: to embody the very change the week had sought to inspire. Baku's iconic skyline set the scene. The walk blurred formal boundaries — government officials strolled beside artists, children held signs they had painted at the EcoCulture activities, as passersby and tourists alike paused to observe the climate procession. Organised by the **UN Resident Coordinator's Office**, the event served as both a symbolic gesture and a genuine act of community participation, reminding everyone that climate action begins not in policy, but in presence.



Role of Higher Education in the Climate Transition

ADA University

By midday the focus turned inward, from movement to meaning. At **ADA University**, rectors, vice-rectors, and education leaders from across Azerbaijan gathered for the **General Assembly on Higher Education and Climate Transition**, exploring how teaching, research, and campus operations can drive long-term climate transformation.

The session opened with **Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President** and **Representative of the President on Climate Issues**, who reaffirmed that education is the cornerstone of Azerbaijan's climate legacy. "The future of climate action," he said, "depends on the minds we educate today." **Nigar Arpadarai, COP29 High-Level Champion**, spoke of universities as "hubs of both knowledge and responsibility," while **Leyla Hasanova, COP29 Youth Climate Champion**, reminded the room that "we are not preparing the youth for the future — they are already shaping it."



As the discussion broadened, several rectors reported practical steps already underway on their campuses — from the installation of solar panels and energy-efficient systems to the inclusion of climate modules in economics, engineering, and pedagogy courses. Among those sharing updates were **Rufat Azizov** of the **Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University**, **Jafar Jafarov** of the **Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University**, **Gulchohra Mammadova** of the **Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction**, and **Vilayat Valiyev** of the **Azerbaijan Technical University** — each illustrating that the transition begins at home, in classrooms and laboratories where the next generation is trained.

Adding the perspective of a leading private university, **Raziye Isayeva, Rector of Khazar University**, underscored the responsibility to translate climate science into teaching, research, and campus operations. She signalled Khazar University's commitment to embed climate content across faculties, strengthen interdisciplinary research, and contribute actively to the AUNCC's shared workplan — a practical pledge to turn academic capacity into public value.

The session culminated in a defining moment for Azerbaijan's academic community. In a gesture of unity and purpose, universities collectively endorsed the establishment of the **Azerbaijan Universities Network on Climate Change (AUNCC)** — a commitment from the nation's seats of learning and research, the veritable crucible of its future. **Dr. Elchin Babayev, Rector of Baku State University**, was nominated by acclamation to serve as the network's inaugural chair, symbolising the readiness of higher education to move from awareness to

action, and to anchor the country's climate transition in knowledge, innovation, and shared responsibility.



Sustainability Careers Fair

Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Kalbajar Room



In the afternoon, the energy of ideas met the momentum of opportunity at the **Sustainability Careers Fair**. Hosted at the **Ritz-Carlton Hotel**, the event brought together students and young professionals with employers from sectors shaping the green economy — renewable energy, sustainable finance, consultancy, technology, and circular innovation.



Booths lined the room, filled with the hum of conversation and possibility. Recruiters shared stories of transition within their industries, while students spoke of aligning their studies with purpose-driven work. Representatives from major companies and NGOs explained the skills in demand — from data analytics for carbon tracking to communications and community engagement for climate projects. For many, it was their first glimpse into how sustainability could be more than a cause; it could be a career.

The fair closed with a simple message echoed by many speakers: the green transition will not happen without a generation ready to lead it.

Closing Reflections

As the week drew to a close, the prevailing sentiment was one of satisfaction, for the achievements of the past year, the week and the promise of a future brimming with opportunity and sustainability . From the opening pledges to the final commitments, **Baku Climate Action Week 2025** had revealed a nation and a region in motion — where dialogue matured into partnership and ambition into architecture. In short, *ahəng*: harmony — between knowledge and action, between present responsibility and future hope.

9. Conclusion – Legacy, Lessons and the Road to COP30 - From Baku to Belém

Across forty-six events or sessions in eight venues, under the banners of thirty themes, **Baku Climate Action Week 2025** unfolded like a symphony of collaboration — each session a movement, each voice a note. From the first pledges on Monday to the final commitments on Friday, the week traced a path of coherence and resolve: a nation and a region conducting their own score for the planet's future.

Delegates from over twenty-five countries filled the city — parliamentarians, scientists, business and youth leaders, representatives of multilateral organisations, and international missions. The **United Nations**, the **Nizami Ganjavi International Centre**, and partners from **London to Rio de Janeiro** lent global depth to Baku's conversation. The diversity of themes reflected the complexity of the transition: from climate finance and mobility to food systems, education, and the circular economy; from women's leadership to youth innovation and health. Each thread was woven into a broader tapestry of purpose — proving ambition, when harmonised, can become a powerhouse.

At its heart stood **Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President** and **Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Climate**, whose presence throughout the week was both symbolic and practical — a reminder that leadership is sustained not in moments, but in constancy. Alongside him, **Nigar Arpadarai, COP29 High-Level Champion**, ensured BCAW's rhythm carried through every hall and session, transforming it from a conference into a living dialogue.

The bridge to **COP30** took shape in the words of **Ambassador Manuel Montenegro** of Brazil, who underscored the shared continuity from *Rio to Baku to Belém*. His intervention affirmed Baku's contribution extends well beyond its year as host — its legacy carried forward by new partnerships, deepened by dialogue, and embodied in collaboration.

Women's and youth leadership stood as defining features of this edition. From the **Women Innovating for a Green Future** lab in Balakhani to the **Youth-Led Climate Forum** at the **Ritz-Carlton** and **ADA University**, the week celebrated those most affected by — and essential to — change. Voices like **Leyla Hasanova, COP29 Youth Climate Champion**, showed how innovation and empathy can coexist; how leadership, like climate action itself, must begin early and grow collectively.

The **Heydar Aliyev Centre**, an icon of Azerbaijan's creative ambition, hosted the **Sustainable Expo: Art and Innovation for the Planet** — a convergence of imagination and invention. Youth-led start-ups and artists transformed the hall into a gallery of solutions and dreams. Projects like **Ecobite**, **YaşılScan**, and **GreenStone** captured the essence of a new generation: pragmatic idealists determined to reconcile technology with care for the earth.

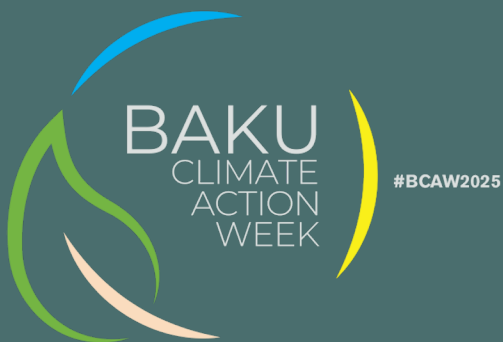
By week's end, academia and the private sector joined hands in shared purpose. At **ADA University**, the formal establishment of the **Azerbaijan Universities Network on Climate Change (AUNCC)** demonstrated that the climate legacy of **COP29** was not a passing event but a permanent framework. The **Sustainability Careers Fair** which followed turned this vision into vocation — connecting education with opportunity, and young minds with the markets and missions that will shape tomorrow's green economy.

Taken together, these moments made clear what **Baku Climate Action Week 2025** truly represented: not a reprise of **COP29**, but its continuation. The week proved that the Presidency's commitment did not end with the summit, but evolved into something larger — a movement anchored in institutions, people, and ideas set to endure. Azerbaijan's leadership, a year on, remains evident — not as a host which once was, but as a nation that continues to lead. And this will not be the last BCAW: it is the foundation of a tradition, one that will keep advancing the country's role as a catalyst for global cooperation on the road to **Belém** and beyond.

When the final discussions ended and participants stepped out into the evening air, what lingered was not fatigue but resolve — the awareness that the work had only just begun. From the opening pledges to the closing steps of *Walk the Talk*, **Baku Climate Action Week 2025** had revealed a nation and a region in motion — where dialogue matured into partnership and ambition into architecture.

And so, as the week concluded, the opening line returned — the nightingales' melody which threaded the beginning of this story. Many voices had indeed passed to and fro, entranced by their passion — so alike in purpose they sounded as one. In that shared song — between knowledge and action, between present responsibility and future hope — lies the enduring harmony of Baku: *ahəng*, carried onward from **Baku to Belém**, and beyond.

Annex - BCAW Programme



Innovation | Collaboration | Engagement

Baku, Azerbaijan

29 September – 3 October, 2025

Programme



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OVERVIEW

Following the success of the inaugural Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW) in 2024, Azerbaijan will host the second edition of #BCAW2025 from September 29 to October 3, 2025. Building on the strong foundations laid last year, BCAW2025 will continue to serve as a high-impact platform for international collaboration, innovation, knowledge exchange, and practical climate solutions.

The emergence of Climate Action Weeks around the world has galvanized the international climate diplomacy process and brought a needed local and regional focus on implementation. The Climate Action Weeks complement the UNFCCC's Regional Climate Weeks which have taken place in Asia, Latin America, Africa and MENA regions, as part of the UNFCCC's diplomatic engagement on the official agenda to raise ambition and accelerate climate action ahead of the annual UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP).

About Climate Action Weeks

The Climate Action Week model was initiated in London in 2019, ahead of COP26 hosted by the United Kingdom, to provide a whole of society mobilization platform at a key point in the international calendar, after the UNFCCC Bonn meetings. The London model has successfully positioned this annual event as the key moment bringing together the COP Presidency, private sector, finance institutions, cities and regions, professional bodies, think tanks, civil society and other stakeholders together in a unified display of commitment to delivery of the Paris Agreement. In 2024, the COP29 Presidency successfully delivered the first Baku Climate Action Week in partnership with London as a similar moment of whole of society mobilization ahead of COP29 in November 2024. The Climate Action Weeks are a complement to the regional climate weeks, organized under the guidance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in partnership with regional institutions and host governments. The growing movement of Climate Action Weeks now encompasses Auckland, Bangkok, Central & Eastern Europe, Dublin, Rio de Janeiro and Sydney.

The goal of Climate Action Weeks is to:

- Localize and accelerate the global climate agenda through practical place-based action;
- Showcase regional innovation and leadership on the green transition, including financial institutions;
- Foster collaboration between public and private sectors, local and sub-national actors, academia, professions, youth, civil society and others;

- Provide a multisectoral platform for the above to advance sectoral transitions that advance growth, prosperity and climate resilience.

Climate Action Weeks serve as bridge moments between annual COP negotiations, allowing countries to share experiences, align efforts, and strengthen climate diplomacy. By hosting BCAW for the second year, Azerbaijan continues to contribute to this evolving global movement by offering a regional platform with international relevance, ahead of COP30 and beyond.

Reflecting on BCAW2024

Held under the auspices of the COP29 Presidency and the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29, the inaugural BCAW (September 30 – October 4, 2024) brought together a broad coalition of stakeholders, including government officials, private sector leaders, academia, civil society, and international organizations. As a key milestone ahead of COP29 in Baku, it underscored the importance of whole-of-state and whole-of-society engagement in the climate agenda. It catalyzed action, showcased innovation, and fostered new networks of collaboration across sectors.

BCAW2024 successfully:

- Secured commitments from the private sector and financial institutions to scale up investments in sustainable practices.
- Highlighted the critical role of SMEs in the green economy, reinforcing their contribution to innovation and supply chain sustainability.
- Advanced policy and technical discussions on energy transition and methane reduction, resulting in clear commitments from both public and private sectors.
- Launched strategic initiatives, including the Harmoniya Pledge and the Azerbaijan Universities Network on Climate Change (AUNCC).
- Positioned youth and education at the heart of climate action, fostering solutions through the Youth Ideathon and new educational partnerships.
- Strengthened scientific collaborations, particularly in the use of AI and digital technologies for emissions monitoring and data analysis.
- Facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable infrastructure, smart cities, and shipping decarbonization, leading to impactful pledges and agreements.

PROGRAMME

BCAW2025 will build on the momentum from COP29, London and Rio Climate Action Weeks, and the global Mutirao advocated by the COP30 Presidency, to deepen international cooperation and advance practical action and implementation in the region and internationally through new partnerships. The programme will feature:

- High-level policy dialogues on energy, finance, climate adaptation, SMEs and just transition.
- Sectoral roundtables with industry, innovation leaders, and green entrepreneurs.
- Youth-led sessions that bring fresh perspectives into climate governance and action
- New partnerships to support delivery of global and regional climate commitments, including on SMEs and Sustainable Fashion

With Azerbaijan continuing its role as a convener of inclusive climate dialogue, BCAW2025 will focus on accelerating climate action, advancing solution-driven cooperation between governments, businesses, academia, professions and communities.

VENUES

Venues will be selected across the city, befitting the nature of the event.

Baku Marriott Boulevard Hotel	Heydar Aliyev Center
Ritz Carlton	ADA University
EkoSfera EcoCenter, Balakhani	French-Azerbaijan University (UFAZ)
Ümid yeri Children's Shelter	Baku DOST Center
Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, Republic of Azerbaijan	Baku Boulevard

AUDIENCE

BCAW2025 will bring together a diverse and inclusive audience from Azerbaijan, the region and the world, including:

- Policymakers and government officials;
- Industry leaders, green technology developers, and financial institutions;
- Researchers, climate scientists, and academic institutions;
- Civil society, NGOs, community groups, and youth organizations;

- Urban planners, architects, and representatives from infrastructure sectors;
- Arts, culture and sports communities working on climate engagement.

Day 1 – Monday, 29 September 2025
Venue: Baku Marriott Boulevard Hotel
Tagiyev Ball Room



Day 1 Theme: Laying the Foundation for 2030/ Transition to Green Economy, Green Skills & SMEs

8:30-9:30	Registration
9:30-10:00	<p>WELCOME & MINISTERIAL OPENING CEREMONY</p> <p>Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President, Representative of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan for Climate • Mr Kamran Aliyev, The Prosecutor General of Republic of Azerbaijan • Mr Yalchin Rafiyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, COP29 Lead Negotiator, Republic of Azerbaijan • Mr Samad Bashirli, Deputy Minister of Economy, Republic of Azerbaijan • Ms Nigar Arpadarai, COP29 Climate High-Level Champion, Member of Parliament of Azerbaijan <p>Video Message:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Simon Steill, Executive Director, UNFCCC <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of UN Secretary General, CEO, Sustainable Energy for All; Co-Chair, UN-Energy • Ms Maria Fernanda Espinosa, President, 73rd Session, UN General Assembly; Minister, Foreign Affairs of Ecuador 2017-2018 <p>Master of Ceremonies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Guy Shone, Editor-in-Chief, AnewZ & Ms Malini Mehra, Curator, BCAW
10:15-10:30	Family Photo
10:30-11:30	<p>Session 1: Results of COP29, and the Road to COP30 Azerbaijan's Climate Leadership: From COP29 to BCAW2025</p> <p>This session will reflect on the key outcomes and breakthroughs from COP29. It will examine Azerbaijan's climate leadership during the Presidency, assess implementation progress, and explore how momentum can be sustained and deepened ahead of COP30.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Vladanka Andreeva, UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan • Mr Fergus Auld OBE, UK Ambassador to Azerbaijan • Dr Marcelo de Andrade, Founder & Chair, Pro Natura Intl; Co-Founder, Earth Capital Partners; Chair, SMI Latin America (virtual) • Mr Csaba Körösi, President, 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly & Director (State Secretary) Office of the President of Hungary • Ms Leyla Hasanova, COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion

	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Guy Shone, Editor in Chief, AnewZ <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azerbaijan's post-COP29 commitments and their role in global climate goals. • Assessing the impact of COP29 outcomes • Translating pledges into national and regional policy frameworks • Opportunities for regional leadership and cooperation post-COP • Institutional coordination for effective implementation • Enhancing stakeholder participation for COP30 success • Panel Discussion: Bridging Policy and Action – Moving from Pledges to Implementation
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45-13:00	<p>Session 2: Meeting the Green Transition Challenge – National Climate Plans (NDCs & NAPs), Investment Platforms & Transition Plans</p> <p>This session will focus on building a resilient and inclusive green economy, as required under the NDCs 3.0 whole of economy approach, balancing economic transformation with social equity. It will highlight tools, incentives, and policy models to ensure that vulnerable communities/sectors are supported during the transition. Speakers will further discuss strategies to scale up existing climate policies and introduce innovative approaches in their NDCs 3.0, NAPs, Investment Platforms & Transition Plans to meet the Paris Agreement targets.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Elnur Soltanov, Deputy Minister of Energy, Republic of Azerbaijan; CEO of COP29 • Dr Umayra Taghiyeva, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Republic of Azerbaijan • Ms Maria Fernanda Espinosa, President, 73rd Session, UN General Assembly; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ecuador 2017-2018 • Mr Viktor Kovalenko, EY, Climate Change and Sustainability Services Leader in Central Asia • Ms Estefanía Ardila Robles, Deputy Director, Country Engagement, NDC Partnership (virtual) <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Malini Mehra, CEO, GLOBE Legislators <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National strategies to scale up green economic sectors • Public-private partnerships in climate-aligned growth • Ensuring social inclusion and protection during transition • Nature-based solutions and their economic potential • Role of sub-nationals and local authorities in advancing just transition
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-14:15	<p>Global Thought Leader Keynote</p> <p>Mr Raimonds Vējonis, President of Latvia (2015-2019)</p>

14:15-15:30	<p>Session 3: Supporting Green Skills Ecosystem – Focus on SMEs</p> <p>This session will explore how SMEs, education institutions, government agencies, and businesses can jointly develop the green skillsets required for a net-zero economy. It will focus on scalable models and financing mechanisms to build climate-ready workforces with experiences from Azerbaijan, Brazil, China, European Union, Turkey and UK.</p> <p>Opening Speech:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Orkhan Mammadov, The Chairman, Small & Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, KOBİA <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Vinicius Lages, Head of International Affairs, SEBRAE (Brazil) • Mr Ma Jun, Founder & Director, IPE (China) (Virtual) • Mr Jens Nielsen, CEO, World Climate Foundation • Mr Yashar Hamzayev, ILO Azerbaijan/ National Coordinator • Ms Elif Karakulak, Business Engagement Lead, High-Level Climate Champions team <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Orkhan Mustafayev, Rotas Consulting <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public-Private Partnerships for Green Growth • Accelerating the Climate-Proofing SMEs Campaign of the UNFCCC High Level Champion • Showcasing successful green finance models • Defining priority green competencies for each economy • Integrating sustainability into education and vocational systems • Industry-academia collaboration in green workforce training • Certification and standards for green professions • International experiences and partnerships on workforce transition
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break
15:45-17:00	<p>Session 4: Green Finance & Sustainable Investments: Unlocking Climate Solutions</p> <p>Focus: Mobilizing financial resources for climate action in Azerbaijan.</p> <p>This session will highlight mechanisms to mobilize investments for sustainable business models, particularly among SMEs, and present practical tools to expand green financing in Azerbaijan.</p> <p>Opening Address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Shahin Mahmudzade, Executive Director of the Central Bank of Azerbaijan <p>Keynote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Climate Change High Level Champion for Egypt, UN Special Envoy on Financing 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; Chair, GFANZ Africa Network

	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Aliya Azimova, Country Head, International Finance Cooperation (IFC) • Ms Amal-lee Amin, Director, British International Investment (virtual) • Mr Lucca Rizzo, Senior Climate Finance Lead, Institute for Climate & Society (iCS), Brazil (virtual) • Mr Real Hajiye, Senior Banker, Associate Director, European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD), Azerbaijan • Mr Jamal Ismayilov, Azerbaijan Market Leader, Oliver Wyman <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mirza Aliyev, Climate Change & Sustainability Services Practice Head in Azerbaijan, Senior Manager, EY Azerbaijan <p>Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable banking and ESG investment trends • Unlocking ESG-aligned capital for SMEs and startups • Incentives for commercial banks to finance low-carbon projects • Role of international financial institutions in climate projects • Encouraging private sector engagement in green investments • Startups pitching their climate-tech solutions to impact investors. • Public and multilateral funding for green entrepreneurship • Role of accelerators, incubators, and climate-tech hubs • Private sector engagement in green investments
17:00-17:15	<p>Global Thought Leader Keynote <i>Prospects for sustainable trade in a climate-challenged world</i> Professor Daniel C. Esty Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law & Policy; Director, Center for Environmental Law and Policy, Yale University (virtual)</p>
17:15	Thanks & Close
19:30-21:00	Gala Dinner
	*Invitation only

Day 1 – Monday 29th September 2025

Venue: Baku Marriott Boulevard Hotel



Roundtable on Strengthening Climate Laws and Institutions for Climate Resilience and a Net Zero Transition

14:00-15:30

Roundtable on Strengthening Climate Laws and Institutions for Climate Resilience and a Net Zero Transition

This session will focus on the role of climate laws and institutions, such as independent climate change advisory councils, to inform the next generation of NDCs (nationally determined contributions) and the creation of carbon markets in driving the real economy transition. Experts will discuss the best practices drawing on framework climate laws and policies from around the world to ensure a resilient and just transition to net zero by 2050.

Organised by Baku Climate Action Week in partnership with GLOBE Legislators, the Roundtable will also see the launch of the Azerbaijani version of GLOBE's *Parliamentary Guide to Article 6 and Carbon Markets*.

Opening remarks:

- **Mr Sadiq Gurbanov**, Member of Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, Energy and Ecology
- **Mr Mukhtar Babayev**, COP29 President, Special Representative of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan for Climate,
- **Ms Nigar Arpadarai**, COP29 Climate High-Level Champion, Member of Parliament of Azerbaijan

Expert Presentations on Climate Change, Legislation, and Carbon Markets

Speakers:

- **Ms Malini Mehra**, CEO, GLOBE Legislators
- **Ms Kalyani Inampudi**, ESG Expert and report author (Virtual)
- **Mr Boleslaw Matuszewski**, Lawyer, Attorney for ClientEarth (Virtual)
- **Members of the Milli Majlis and guests**

Moderator:

- **Dr. Fariz Ismailzade**, Member of Parliament, Milli Majlis, Vice Rector of ADA University

Discussion points:

- Best practices in climate legislation and policy innovation
- Guide to Article 6 and Carbon Markets for parliamentarians
- Creating enabling environments for private sector investment
- Balancing regulatory ambition with business viability and social fairness
- Role of independent climate change councils in informing best-in-class climate policies
- Implementing net-zero policies at the national and sub-national levels

* Invitation only

Day 1 – Monday 29th September 2025

Venue: “Together and Healthy” Public Union (Autism Center) and “Ümid yeri” Children’s Shelter



15:00 - 17:00	<p>Little Climate Champs</p> <p>Description</p> <p>This vibrant event will bring together children local autism center (12 children) and orphanage (40 children) for an inspiring journey into the world of climate awareness. Guided by experienced teachers from the first and second editions of COP29 Climate Change Summer Camp, the program transforms complex environmental issues into fun, easy-to-grasp stories and hands-on activities. Highlights include interactive discussions on how everyday choices - like saving energy, reusing materials, and caring for plants - help protect the planet. Creativity takes center stage in eco-bag masterclass organised by RIIB volunteers, where participants design and decorate their own reusable bags while learning about waste reduction and sustainable living. The event blends learning with play, nurturing a sense of responsibility and empowering young minds to become future guardians of the environment.</p> <p>Partner: COP29 Presidency, Regional Development Public Union (RIIB), Ishiq Public Union for Support of Children’s education, "Ümid Yeri" Charitable Society Public Union, “Together and Healthy” Public Union</p> <p>Registration: Invitation only</p>
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Day 2 – Tuesday, 30 September 2025 Venue: Baku Marriott Boulevard Hotel Tagiyev Ball Room	
Day 2 Theme: International Cooperation & Accelerating a Resilient, Clean Energy and Just Transition	
8:30-9:30	Registration
9:30-10:00	<p align="center">WELCOME & MINISTERIAL OPENING ADDRESS</p> <p>Introduction to the day by MCs, followed by Opening Video</p> <p>Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President, Representative of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan for Climate <p>Ministerial Remark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy, Republic of Azerbaijan <p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Nigar Arpadarai, COP29 Climate High-Level Champion, Member of Parliament of Azerbaijan <p>Master of Ceremonies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Guy Shone, Editor-in-Chief, AnewZ & Ms Malini Mehra, Curator, BCAW
10:00-11:15	<p>Session 1: Exploring Azerbaijan's Potential in Solar, Offshore Wind, Blue & Green Hydrogen, Geothermal energy</p> <p>This session will present Azerbaijan's strategic vision and investment roadmap for renewable energy. It will explore the country's potential in solar, onshore and offshore wind, green hydrogen and geo-thermal energy sources.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Rana Humbatova, Deputy Director, Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency • Mr Elchin Targuluyev, Senior Solar & Wind Energy Expert, SOCAR Green LLC • Ms Aysel Yagubova, Executive Director, ECO Clean Energy Centre • Ms Jodi Wood, Managing Director, Schlumberger (SLB) • Mr Alexander Tishkov, Partner, BCG Baku • Mr Murad Sadikhov, Country Manager, Masdar Azerbaijan <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Movlan Pashayev, ADL Azerbaijan <p>Discussion points:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azerbaijan's roadmap for renewables, offshore wind, and hydrogen. • Policy frameworks and incentives for clean energy investment • Opportunities for offshore wind deployment in the Caspian • Grid modernization and integration of renewable sources • Public-private partnerships for a sustainable energy future • Regional leadership in renewable energy partnerships and trade
11:15-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	<p>Session 2: Advancing Climate Resilience through International Collaboration</p> <p>This session will explore how international cooperation can accelerate decarbonization, adaptation and resilience across the sectors. It will also provide a platform for key national actors to present updates on their climate commitments, partnerships, and investment programmes since COP28.</p> <p>Opening Keynotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Dan Ioschpe, UNFCCC High-Level Champion for COP30 (video message) • Mr Afgan Isayev, Vice President, SOCAR <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Manuel Montenegro, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Azerbaijan • Ms Maria Fernanda Espinosa, President, 73rd Session, UN General Assembly; Minister, Foreign Affairs of Ecuador 2017-2018 • Mr Hikmat Abdullayev, Deputy Vice President, SOCAR • Mr Stuart Shaw, VP Operations, bp Azerbaijan • Mr Pietro Mezzano, Director, OGDC • Mr Dario Buccellato, Energy Transition Manager, International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP) <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Orkhan Amashov, Deputy Editor-in Chief, AnewZ <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessity of wholistic approach to real economy transition challenges: decarbonization, adaptation & resilience • Case study: SOCAR's decarbonization roadmap and international collaborations • Role of technology partnerships in accelerating emissions reductions • Impact of international partnerships and regional collaboration mechanisms • Regulatory instruments and fiscal incentives for energy performance upgrades
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-14:15	<p>Ministerial Address</p> <p>Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President, Representative of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan for Climate

	Ministerial Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Anar Aliyev, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population, Republic of Azerbaijan Master of Ceremonies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Guy Shone, Editor-in-Chief, AnewZ & Ms Malini Mehra, Curator, BCAW
14:15-14:30	<p align="center">Global Thought Leader Keynote</p> <p align="center"><i>Corporate climate actions for the sustainability agenda: are we missing something?</i></p> <p align="center">Mr Csaba Kőrösi</p> <p align="center">President, 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly; Director (State Secretary) Office of the President of Hungary</p>
14:30-15:15	<p>Session 3: From Pledges to Action: Advancing COP29 Legacy Through Corporate Sustainability</p> <p>The session will highlight how corporate actions are helping drive the sustainability agenda in line with the pledges made during COP29 and before.</p> <p>Opening Speech:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Narmin Jarchalova, COO and Chair of COP29 Azerbaijan Operating Company • Ms Nigar Arpadarai, COP29 Climate High-Level Champion, Member of Parliament of Azerbaijan <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Elmir Musayev, CEO, Socar Green • Mr Bahruz Naghiyev, Deputy CEO, PASHA Bank • Mr Mehmet Savash Uzan, CEO, Azersun Holding <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Marina Olshanskaya, Chief Sustainability Advisor COP29 <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legacy of COP29: How has COP29 influenced Azerbaijan's corporate agenda? • Post-COP29 Implementation: Practical steps taken by the private sector to operationalize sustainability commitments. • Embedding climate responsibility into governance, operations, and long-term strategies. • New technologies, renewable energy solutions, and sustainable finance emerging post-COP29. • Ensuring transparency, measuring progress, and aligning with international standards. • Case studies from energy, agriculture, and diversified industries demonstrating real impact. • How Azerbaijani companies can leverage COP29's legacy to remain global sustainability leaders.
15:15-15:30	<p align="center">Coffee Break</p>
15:30-16:30	<p>Session 4: From Collaboration to Implementation: Driving Progress in Methane Management</p> <p>The session will showcase the joint experience of SOCAR, bp, OGCI, and GHGSat in deploying satellite-based technologies across SOCAR's assets. Participants will explore how these advanced tools are enhancing the accuracy of methane emissions detection, enabling rapid response, and supporting more effective emissions management. The session will provide an overview of the current capabilities and practical applications of satellite monitoring, highlighting how space-based data is reshaping industry practices.</p>

	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Pietro Mezzano, Director, OGDC • Ms Lauren Ward, Low-Carbon Programme Manager, OGCI • Mr Ryan Mattson, Vice President of Oil & Gas, GHGSat • Mr Sonna Sathiamoorthy, Methane Programme Manager & SME, bp <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mustafa Gurbanli, Head of Environmental Disclosures and Green Affairs Department, SOCAR <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are new technologies helping to reshape practices in the oil sector? • What practical experiences on methane abatement can be considered best practices for upscaling? • Is there an intersection between new technologies and tools, and the global drive for emissions reduction?
16:30-16:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Global Thought Leader Keynote <i>The Business and Economic Case for Climate Action</i> Ms Jean Baderschneider, Board of Directors, Fortescue Ltd.; Chair of the Board, The Global Fund to End Modern Slavery; former Vice-President, ExxonMobil</p>
16:45-17:45	<p>Session 5: Achieving a Just Transition: Best practice and lessons learnt for policymakers A just transition ensures that the shift to a green economy is fair, inclusive, and socially responsible. This session will examine labor protections, stakeholder engagement, and policies to support workers and communities in transitioning industries.</p> <p>Opening Speech:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Rashad Mustafayev, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour & Social Protection of Population, Republic of Azerbaijan <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Vugar Karimov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Republic of Azerbaijan • Dr Hakima El Haite, President of Liberal International; VP of COP21; HLC COP22; Member, Nizami Ganjavi International Centre • Mr Afgan Isayev, Vice President, SOCAR • Mr Vugar Zeynalov, Vice President, Azerbaijan Confederation of Entrepreneurs • Mr Elkiyar Ziyadov, Advisor to the Chairman, Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation & Chairman, Culture Workers Trade Union <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Lamiya Vahidzada, Head of PMO, the State Social Protection Fund (SSPF) <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of a just transition in fossil-fuel dependent sectors. • Social protection programs for vulnerable and displaced workers • Protection of workers' rights during the ecological transformation of the economy. • The impact of digital technologies on climate change. • National strategies for retraining and job replacement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging trade unions and employers in climate-labor dialogue • Digitalization and the future of green jobs • International labor standards in the context of ecological transition
17:45	Thanks & Close

Day 2 – Tuesday, 30 September 2025

Venue: Baku Marriott Boulevard Hotel



Roundtable 2: Sustainable Fashion Show and Roundtable on BCAW Fashion Breakthrough

18:00-19:00	<p>A Roundtable exploring steps towards a Fashion Breakthrough at the UNFCCC COPs and the latest trends in sustainable fashion with leaders in the field from Azerbaijan and Europe.</p>
	<p>Description: This unique event blends creativity with climate action, aiming to showcase how innovation and sustainability can transform the fashion industry. The core of the event is a live fashion show featuring garments created entirely from re-used and upcycled materials. Each performed piece will be followed by a moderator narrating the story and the sustainability concept behind every material used. The fashion show is a public event by invitation. The fashion show will be preceded by a high-level roundtable exploring key themes on fashion as a breakthrough agenda at COP30 and beyond. The roundtable will convene top designers, brand representatives, sustainability experts, and policymakers to explore fashion as a climate breakthrough agenda item leading up to COP30 and beyond.</p> <p>Welcome & Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Nigar Arpadarai, Member of Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, COP29 Climate High-Level Champion <p>Moderator and Scene-setting Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Malini Mehra, Curator, BCAW <p>Expert contributors to this exclusive roundtable discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nina Marenzi, Founder, The Sustainable Angle and Future Fabrics Expo • Farida Akhundova, Executive Director, Azerbaijan Textile Association • Gulnara Hasanova, CEO, Giltex • Anar Dadashov, Chairman, AzerIpek • Narmina Abdinbekova, Founder & CEO, Shoppingaz • Julia Jarullazade, Head of Brand Activation & Partnership, Sintex • Azad Agakhanov, PR Manager, Atirshah • Mujgan Gafarzade, Executive Director, Nargiz Magazine • Leyla Aghamalova, Editor in Chief, Founder, Caspian Magazine

	Discussion Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing waste and emissions in fashion • Innovations in circular design • Ethical production and sourcing • Consumer education and behavioral change • Fashion as a breakthrough agenda at COP30 and beyond
19:00-20:00	Sustainable Fashion Show featuring garments made entirely from re-used and upcycled materials. Each piece presented will be accompanied by a narrator relating the story and sustainability concept behind each material used.

Day 2– Tuesday 30 September, 2025

Venue: Ritz-Carlton Hotel

Shusha Room



<p>10:00 - 20:00</p>	<p>Youth-Led Climate Forum</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>The Youth-Led Climate Forum provides a dedicated platform for young leaders to engage with policymakers, the private sector, academia, and international partners. The forum also highlights the continued role of the COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion in promoting youth perspectives.</p> <p>By convening diverse stakeholders, the Youth-Led Climate Forum seeks to amplify youth perspectives, build strong partnerships, and carry forward the legacy of COP29 into a new phase of action and implementation on the road to COP30, with the COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion playing a key role in guiding and representing youth leadership throughout.</p> <p>It will feature the following Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Ideas to Action: How Digital Transformation Enables Sustainable Development • From Vision to Reality: Clean Energy and Urban Development for a Greener World • From Negotiation to Action: Diplomacy for Climate Resilience <p>Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of youth in shaping inclusive, innovative, and solution-driven approaches to climate action • Dialogue on key themes including digital transformation, clean energy and urban development, and climate diplomacy • Discussion on strengthening collaboration across sectors and inspiring concrete initiatives in the lead-up to COP30 <p>Partners: COP29 Presidency, NAM Youth Organization</p> <p>*Registration: Open call</p>
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Day 3 – Wednesday, 1 October 2025
Venue: Baku Marriott Boulevard Hotel
Tagiyev Ball Room



Day 3 Theme: Advancing Sectoral Climate Resilience – Agriculture, Water, Transport, Smart Cities; Women's Leadership in Climate Action

8:30-9:30	Registration
9:30-10:00	<p>WELCOME & MINISTERIAL OPENING ADDRESS</p> <p>Introduction to the day by MCs, followed by Opening Video</p> <p>Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President, Representative of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan for Climate <p>Ministerial Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Majnun Mammadov, Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Azerbaijan <p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Zaur Mikayilov, Chairman, Azerbaijan State Water Agency • Mr Viorel Gutu, Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia at FAO • Ms Nigar Arpadarai, COP29 Climate High-Level Champion, Member of Parliament of Azerbaijan <p>Master of Ceremonies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Guy Shone, Editor-in-Chief, AnewZ & Ms Malini Mehra, Curator, BCAW
10:00-11:15	<p>Session 1: Smart Agriculture and Food Security in a Changing Climate / Climate Tech</p> <p>Focus: Ensuring food resilience while reducing the environmental footprint of agriculture</p> <p>This session will explore how technology, policy, and grassroots solutions can strengthen climate resilience in agriculture. With increasing climate variability, the focus will be on enhancing food security through innovation, sustainable solutions, and local food systems. Case studies will be presented from Azerbaijan, Brazil, USA and other parts of the world.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Surkhay Novruzov, Head of the AI Project, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Azerbaijan. • Ms Marina Rose Best, Country Operation Head, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, ADB • Mr Ismat Bakhishov, Director, GIS Centre, AZERCOSMOS • Mr Anar Jafarov, Director, Agro Innovation Centre • Mr Kyrylo Mukhomedzyanov, Operations Officer, Advisory Services, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Gozde Kizilirmak, Associate Partner, McKinsey & Company <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Nasar Hayat, Head, FAO Partnership & Liaison Office, Azerbaijan <p>Key Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate-smart agricultural practices • Smart irrigation, water-efficient farming and soil conservation • Reducing food waste and promoting local food systems • Digital tools (AI, sensors, drones) for real-time farm and yield monitoring • Strengthening local supply chains and community-based agriculture • Role of policy and finance in supporting sustainable rural transformation • Role of technology in sustainable farming
11:15-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	<p>Session 2: Regional Sustainable Water Management</p> <p>This session will explore innovative approaches to water conservation, irrigation efficiency, and climate-adaptive water management strategies in the agricultural sector.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Stefanie Stallmeister, Country Manager, World Bank, Azerbaijan • Ms Sunniya Durrani-Jamal, Country Director for Azerbaijan, Asian Development Bank (ADB) • Ms Kamala Huseyinli- Abishova, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Baku Water Dialogue • Mr Aliagha Azizov, Deputy Head of Strategy, International Cooperation & Science Dept; Head of Science & Innovation Sector, Azerbaijan State Water Resources Agency • Mr Carlo Stella, Global Sustainability and Climate Change Leader, ADL USA • Dr Rovshan Abbasov, Associate Professor, Head of the Environmental Research Centre, Khazar University <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Liya Bayramova, Executive Director, GEM CSR and ESG Consulting <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water scarcity and its impact on global agriculture • Efficient irrigation technologies (smart irrigation, solar pumps) • Managing water use in drought-prone and semi-arid zones • Enhancing soil moisture retention and rainwater harvesting • Role of data and satellite mapping in water allocation • Institutional reforms and governance for basin-level water management • Case studies from Azerbaijan: rehabilitation, reuse, and innovation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azerbaijan's solutions for water scarcity and sustainable irrigation
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-14:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Ministerial Address</p> <p>Opening Speech:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President, Representative of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan for Climate Mr Anar Guliyev, Chairman, State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture, Republic of Azerbaijan <p>Master of Ceremonies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Guy Shone, Editor-in-Chief, AnewZ & Ms Malini Mehra, Curator, BCAW
14:15-15:15	<p>Session 3: Transport and Digitalization – Focus on the Caspian and Central Asia</p> <p>Transport and digital innovation are critical to reducing emissions and improving efficiency in climate action. This session will address sustainable mobility solutions, electrification of transport, and digital technologies for emissions tracking. Experts from around the world will explore how AI, big data, and blockchain can support climate monitoring and policy implementation.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Fariz Aliyev, Head of Transport Policy Department, Ministry of Digital Development and Transport, Republic of Azerbaijan Mr Emil Majidov, Managing Partner, Rotas Consulting Mr Abdul Karim Sawan, CEO, Esyssoft Mobility Mr Turkhan Ahmadov, Head of Communications Department, Azerbaijan Railways Mr Aslan Ibrahimov, Strategy, Risk & Transactions Partner, Deloitte Mr Florent Nanse, Partner and Global ESG Leader, Arthur D. Little <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Fidan Farzaliyeva, Adviser to the President, AZAL <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrification of transport: infrastructure, incentives, and adoption Role of digitalization in route optimization and fuel efficiency Intelligent transport systems (ITS) for climate-smart mobility Low-emission zones and smart urban traffic management Blockchain and big data in emissions tracking and logistics monitoring Integration of transport and energy systems Future of autonomous vehicles in green mobility
15:15-15:30	Coffee Break
15:30-16:30	<p>Session 4: Shaping Azerbaijan's Future: Climate-Resilient and Healthy Cities and Communities</p> <p>Focus: Building environmentally friendly, efficient, and resilient cities. This session will examine how urban planning and smart city innovations can enhance resilience to climate risks, reduce emissions, and promote sustainable lifestyles. Case studies and tools for</p>

	<p>implementing scalable smart infrastructure in Azerbaijani cities will be shared</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Elmar Mammadov, Head of Economic Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan • Dr Paul Toyne, Head of Sustainability (Group), GRIMSHAW • Ms Lin O'Grady, Lead, Smart Cities Initiative, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) • Ms Leyla Huseynli, Sustainable Finance Officer, Advisory Services, International Finance Corporation (IFC) • Mr Abdinassir Shale Sagar, World Urban Forum Coordinator, UN-Habitat • Mr Israil Asaliyev, Head of Industry, NEQSOL Holding <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Anna Soave, Head of Country Programme, UN-Habitat Azerbaijan <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Climate Resilience • Health & Climate-Smart Urban Design • Community Inclusion and Social Equity • Policy, Planning & Local Governance • Financing and Implementation • International Cooperation & Knowledge Sharing • Climate adaptation planning at the municipal level • Governance, financing, and citizen engagement in Smart Cities <p>* Green construction, energy-efficient buildings and nature-based urban solutions</p>
16:30-17:45	<p>Session 5: Women Leading Climate Action: Bridging the Gender Gap in Sustainability</p> <p>Focus: Empowering women to take leadership roles in climate policy and action.</p> <p>Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President, Representative of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan for Climate <p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Bahar Muradova, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women, and Children Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan • Ms Hijran Huseynova, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Leyla Hasanova, COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion • Ms Jean Baderschneider, Board of Directors, Fortescue Ltd.; Chair of the Board, The Global Fund to End Modern Slavery; former Vice-President, ExxonMobil • Ms Natavan Mammadova, Secretary General, Maida Nazir Organisation for Women's Economic Empowerment • Mr Samir Mammadov, Head, UN Global Compact, Azerbaijan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Tatyana Mikayilova, Founder, Azerbaijani Business Women Association, SHE Congress • Ms Shamsiyya Mustafayeva, Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Lead, STC Consulting <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Sana Kapadia, Chief Catalyst, Heading for Change <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's leadership in climate governance and diplomacy • Promoting gender-responsive climate policy frameworks • Women-led green and sustainable entrepreneurship • Overcoming barriers to women's participation in climate finance • Gender equality in climate research and innovation ecosystems • Creating supportive platforms and networks for women in climate sectors
17:45-18:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Closing Remarks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ms Ilhama Gadimova, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture of Republic of Azerbaijan Ms Nigar Arpadarai, COP29 Climate High-Level Champion, Member of Parliament of Azerbaijan</p>
18:00	Thanks and Close

Day 3 – Wednesday, 1 October 2025
Venue: Baku Marriott Hotel Boulevard
Nagiyev Room



ROUNDTABLE ON CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRIBUSINESS: ALIGNING STRATEGY, INVESTMENT AND POLICY

11:30-13:00

Roundtable 3: Climate-Resilient Agribusiness: Aligning Strategy, Investment, and Policy

Special Guests:

- **Mr Mukhtar Babayev** – COP29 President, Representative of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan for Climate
- **Mr Majnun Mammadov** – Minister of Agriculture of Republic of Azerbaijan
- **Mr Viorel Gutu** – Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative, FAO REU
- **Ms Nigar Arpadarai** – COP29 Climate High-Level Champion, Member of Parliament of Azerbaijan

Description:

The roundtable will bring together leaders from government, international organizations, agribusiness companies, agricultural holdings, private sector institutions, farmer associations, cooperatives, and other parties to deliberate on the future of climate-resilient agribusiness in Azerbaijan and beyond. This session will highlight how the private sector is shaping the future of agriculture through leadership, agility, and forward-looking investment, while offering insights into real market dynamics, business risks, and the enabling conditions required for sustainable transformation. The discussion will culminate in the adoption of a “Climate-Resilient Agribusiness Pledge”, through which participating companies and cooperatives will publicly commit to enhancing resilience and sustainability across the agrifood sector, thereby demonstrating accountability and leadership in climate action.

NOTE: This is a closed event and by invitation only.

Day 3– Wednesday 1 October, 2025
Venue: Baku Marriott Hotel Boulevard
Nagiyev Room



AZERBAIJAN SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT BLUEPRINT ROUNDTABLE

14:00-15:00

Azerbaijan Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint Roundtable

Description:

The built environment impacts everyone, and everywhere. Buildings and construction are responsible for 21% of total greenhouse gas emissions, and buildings provide 40% of the solutions needed to double the rate of energy intensity improvements by 2030. In Azerbaijan, the building sector alone was responsible for 16% (16 Mt CO₂) of CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion in 2022. The built environment's potential to benefit citizens must not be underestimated. The built environment protects us – from soaring temperatures, intensifying storms and rising floodwaters. Azerbaijan has demonstrated its commitment through international agreements, including the Paris Agreement and the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge. As attention turns to implementation, the role of the private sector in supporting government efforts is vital. In the lead up to COP29, leading AZ developers came together to sign a pledge committing to play their part in limiting emissions to 1.5 °C, with the development of the Azerbaijan Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint, in collaboration with the UN Global Compact. On the road to COP30, we are convening these leading developers to reflect on progress and continue momentum.

Organiser: High-Level Climate Champions team

*Invitation only

Day 3– Wednesday 1 October, 2025

Venue: Ritz-Carlton Hotel

Kalbajar Room



9:30-14:00

Youth-Led Climate Forum

Description:

The Youth-Led Climate Forum provides a dedicated platform for young leaders to engage with policymakers, the private sector, academia, and international partners. The forum also highlights the continued role of the COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion in promoting youth perspectives.

By convening diverse stakeholders, the Youth-Led Climate Forum seeks to amplify youth perspectives, build strong partnerships, and carry forward the legacy of COP29 into a new phase of action and implementation on the road to COP30, with the COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion playing a key role in guiding and representing youth leadership throughout.

It will feature the following Panel discussion

- From Ideas to Action: How Digital Transformation Enables Sustainable Development
- From Vision to Reality: Clean Energy and Urban Development for a Greener World
- From Negotiation to Action: Diplomacy for Climate Resilience

Discussion Points:

- Role of youth in shaping inclusive, innovative, and solution-driven approaches to climate action
- Dialogue on key themes including digital transformation, clean energy and urban development, and climate diplomacy
- Discussion on strengthening collaboration across sectors and inspiring concrete initiatives in the lead-up to COP30

Partners: COP29 Presidency, NAM Youth Organization

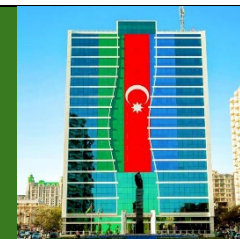
***Registration:** Open call

Day 3 – Wednesday, 1 October 2025

Venue: Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population

85 Salatin Asgarova Street, Baku.

18th Floor of the Administrative Building



PUBLIC AWARENESS ROUNDTABLE ON SHAPING THE FUTURE OF GREEN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN INDUSTRY FOR A JUST TRANSITION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

15:00-16:30

Public Awareness Roundtable on Shaping the Future of Green Workforce Development in Industry for a Just Transition: Opportunities and Challenges.

Description:

This public-awareness roundtable will introduce what a “just transition” is and how skills and policies make it work. Using the evidence-based examples, it will raise public awareness on how workers from traditional industry and mining can transition to green and climate-resilient jobs through reskilling and upskilling. The session targets the wider public and decision-makers, aiming to clarify the roles of Azerbaijan’s institutions, governmental organizations, companies, and training providers in preparing workers for quality green-economy jobs. It is not a national policy plan, but rather an evidence-based concept that offers practical lessons and stakeholder roles to inform dialogue and voluntary collaboration.

Speakers

- **Mr. Sadiq Aliyev**, Chairman of the Managing Board, State Employment Agency
- **Ms. Samira Mirzayeva**, State Employment Agency
- **Mr. Namig Mammadov**, State Employment Agency
- Representative of the Ministry of Economy
- Representative of the Ministry of Energy / Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency
- Representative of the Ministry of Science and Education
- Representative of SOCAR
- Stakeholders from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, universities, vocational training providers, and other organizations

Organiser: State Employment Agency

Note: Closed event. Attendance solely by invitation.

Day 4 – Thursday, 2 October 2025

Venue: Heydar Aliyev Centre



Day 4 Theme: Arts, Culture and Youth-led Innovation

SUSTAINABLE EXPO (10:00-14:00)

	Registration
	<p>“Voices of the Future” – Youth-Led Climate Talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEDx-style talks featuring young Azerbaijani activists, scientists, and green entrepreneurs sharing ideas for Baku’s sustainable future. • Case studies from successful Azerbaijani youth-led projects, such as urban farming, water conservation, and waste reduction. • Interactive discussion with city officials on how young people can shape sustainability policies.
	<p>Art for the Planet – Youth Art Exhibition</p> <p>The session will feature a curated display of 30 powerful visual artworks created by youth. Selected works will cover themes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change and Hope • My Future Earth / My Future Baku / My Future Azerbaijan • The Planet has a Heartbeat • Letters from the Future <p>Register here.</p>
	<p>Innovation for the Planet – Youth Start-Up Exhibition</p> <p>This will be a showcase of 15-20 start-ups or projects led by youths offering practical solutions to climate and sustainability challenges. These include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green tech or renewable energy innovations • Climate-smart agriculture ideas • Eco-products or services • Waste-to-resource innovations • Digital tools or apps for climate education or action <p>Each start-up will be provided with a spot for presentation, product demos, or interaction. Five top projects will be selected by the jury for awards and mentorship opportunities. Register here.</p>

Day 4 – Thursday, 2 October 2025

Venue: EkoSfera EcoCenter, Balakhani



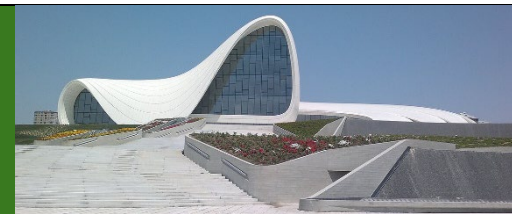
Day 4 Theme: Arts, Culture and Youth-led Innovation

TBC	Registration
11.00-13.00	EcoCulture Kids Day – Balakhani Description: A fun and educational one-day journey to EkoSfera and Baku Landscaping’s EcoCenter in Balakhani, welcoming 50–80 children from schools, eco-clubs, and youth groups. Young participants will explore the EcoCenter and Botanical Garden, take part in interactive eco-games, learn about recycling and biodiversity, and experience hands-on activities that inspire a love for nature and sustainable living.
14:00-16:00	Women Innovating for a Green Future – Gender Community Innovation Description: Running in parallel at the EkoSfera EcoCenter, this inspiring session brings together women and girls for a thought-provoking panel on “Women and Climate Innovation”. The program also features a dynamic Eco-Entrepreneurship Lab, where participants co-create practical green solutions and explore opportunities to turn ideas into impactful environmental initiatives.



Day 4– Thursday 2 October, 2025

Venue: Heydar Aliyev Center



Sustainable Expo: Art & Innovation for the Planet

10:00 - 14:00

Sustainable Expo: Art & Innovation for the Planet

Description:

To harness imagination and drive for change among youth, COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion within the framework of Baku Climate Action Week 2025 will host the Sustainable Expo: Art & Innovation for the Planet. This vibrant, interactive event will highlight two key contributions by youth: artworks that express climate awareness and emotions, and start-up projects that offer real-world sustainable solutions.

The Sustainable Expo aims to create a unique space where the innovation, creativity, and determination of young generations are put at the forefront of climate solutions.

This Expo will not only raise awareness and encourage climate action, but also empower youth with opportunities for learning, recognition, and impact. It aims to bridge creativity and innovation under one roof, turning ideas into impact and expression into action.

Discussion points:

- Showcasing youth artworks as expressions of climate awareness and emotions
- Presenting start-up projects that deliver real-world sustainable solutions
- Creating a platform where innovation, creativity, and determination of youth drive climate solutions
- Raising awareness and encouraging public engagement in climate action through art and innovation
- Empowering youth with opportunities for learning, recognition, and impact
- Bridging creativity and innovation under one roof to turn ideas into action
- Highlighting the role of imagination in shaping future climate solutions

Partners: COP29 Presidency, Regional Development Public Union (RIIB), Small and Medium Business Development Agency (KOBIA)

Registration: Open call

Day 4– Thursday 2 October, 2025
Venue: Baku DOST Center No.4,
31-03 Ziya Bunyadov Avenue.



VISION ZERO: A Roundtable on Strategy for a Green and Safe Future

16:00-17:30

VISION ZERO: A Roundtable on Strategy for a Green and Safe Future

Description:

This roundtable will highlight the role of Vision Zero concept as a global strategy and will provide a platform for sharing successful practices, challenges, and collaborations in implementing Vision Zero. The HSE professionals representing both the public sector and industry, labour inspection officials and other speakers will help to promote a prevention culture by embracing the mindset that every work-related injury and illness is preventable.

Speakers

- **Mr. Ilgar Mammadov**, Deputy Head, State Labour Inspectorate Service under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Republic of Azerbaijan
- **Ms. Gunel Bakhshiyeva**, Deputy Head, Occupational Safety Supervision Department, State Labour Inspectorate Service
- **Mr. Vusal Mammadov**, Chairman of the Managing Board, “Occupational Safety Centre” Public Legal Entity
- **Mr. Farid Guliyev**, Head of Department for Workplace Attestation, Certification and Standardization, “Occupational Safety Centre” Public Legal Entity
- **Mr. Bahruz Najafov**, Head of Occupational Safety and Civil Defense Department, Azerbaijan Railways CJSC
- **Mr. Anar Garayev**, HSE Manager, BOS Shelf International FZCO
- **Mr. Farid Rasulov**, HSE Director, SOCAR Upstream
- **Mr. Ilgar Baghirov**, Head of Occupational Safety Division, HSE and Quality Control Department, SOCAR Neftqaztikinti Trust

Organiser: The State Labour Inspection Service under the Ministry of Labour & Social Protection of Population, Republic of Azerbaijan

Note: Closed event. Attendance solely by invitation.

Day 4 – Thursday 2nd October, 2025

Venue: ADA University

General Assembly Room



16:00 – 17:00

From Cells to Systems: Understanding Climate's Impact on Human Health

Description

This presentation explores the complex relationship between climate change and human health, focusing on how environmental factors trigger cellular-level changes in the body. Attendees will learn about the physiological impacts of climate-related stressors and their potential progression to more severe health issues. Additionally, the role of green hospitals in mitigating these effects will be highlighted, displaying sustainable practices that promote health and well-being while addressing climate challenges. Join us to uncover how a healthier planet can lead to healthier people.

Presenters:

- Dr Ilhama Jafarli, Founder & CEO of the Association of Azerbaijani British Professionals (AABP), UK
- Dr Ramik Guliyev, Head of Health Policy Department, Ministry of Health, Azerbaijan
- Ms Khadija Akhundova, Queen Mary University London (AABP member)
- Ms Khadija Mikayilzade, Azerbaijan Medical University (AABP member)
- Ms Zahra Hasanli, Azerbaijan Medical University (AABP member)
- Ms Madina Amiraslanova, University College London (AABP member)

Day 4– Thursday 2 October, 2025

Venue: French-Azerbaijani University (UFAZ)



Precise Agriculture - Future of farming in changing climate and limited land resources

15:00 - 19:00

Precise Agriculture - Future of farming in changing climate and limited land resources

Description:

The workshop addresses the urgent need for climate-resilient farming practices in the Caspian region. With increasing land degradation, water scarcity, and ecosystem stressors - particularly from the Caspian Sea - farmers and agricultural stakeholders face mounting challenges. Precision agriculture offers a pathway to optimize resource use, improve yields, and adapt to changing environmental conditions.

Discussion points:

- Addressing the urgent need for climate-resilient farming practices in the Caspian region
- Confronting challenges of land degradation, water scarcity, and ecosystem stressors linked to the Caspian Sea
- Exploring precision agriculture as a pathway to optimize resource use and efficiency
- Improving crop yields while adapting to changing environmental conditions
- Engaging farmers and agricultural stakeholders in sustainable solutions

Partners: COP29 Presidency, Caspian Integrated Scientific Network (CASPISTNET), Caspian Locus LLC, Agrarian Innovation Center, Regional Development Public Union (RIIB), French-Azerbaijani University (UFAZ)

Registration: By invitation

Day 5 – Friday, October 3, 2025	
Venue: Multiple venues	
Day 5 Theme: COMMUNITY IMPACT DAY – “ACT FOR THE FUTURE”	
9:15-10:30	<p>WALK THE TALK FOR CLIMATE ACTION</p> <p>Public engagement activity led by United Nations in Baku on the Baku promenade.</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>To start the final day of the Baku Climate Action Week 2025, please come and join us at the Baku Boulevard, to Walk the Talk for Climate Action! Organized in partnership with the United Nations in Azerbaijan, the walk aims to raise public awareness on climate change and to engage and inspire climate action across all sectors of society.</p>

Day 5– Friday 3 October, 2025

Venue: ADA University

General Assembly



Role of Higher Education in the Climate Transition – COP29’s Legacy in Climate Education and Establishment of Azerbaijan Universities Network on Climate Change (AUNCC)

11:00 - 13:00

Role of Higher Education in the Climate Transition – COP29’s Legacy in Climate Education and Establishment of Azerbaijan Universities Network on Climate Change (AUNCC)

Description:

The session “Role of Higher Education in the Climate Transition” will explore the key role played by universities, research institutes, technical training centres, and other higher education institutions in supporting the climate transition. Relying on the experience of the UK Universities Climate Network, AUNCC is expected to focus on adapting to green curriculum in higher education institutions, as well as enable local education system to raise climate education specialists and researchers on a national level. After fruitful discussions, the Azerbaijan University Network on Climate Change (AUNCC) will be established by the universities to reaffirm their commitment to address and combat climate change through collaboration and knowledge-sharing. The network's goal is to harness academic expertise to contribute effectively to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in Azerbaijan and beyond.

Welcome & Introduction

- **Mr Hasan Hasanli**, Deputy Minister of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- **Dr Fariz Ismailzade**, Vice Rector, ADA University
- **Ms Malini Mehra**, CEO, GLOBE & Curator, BCAW2025

Opening Remarks

- **Mr Mukhtar Babayev**, COP29 President; Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Climate Issues
- **Ms Leyla Hasanova**, COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion; NAMYO Chairperson
- **Ms Nigar Arpadarai**, COP29 Climate Change High-Level Champion; Parliament Member

Panel Discussion

Topic: Universities as Catalysts for the Climate Transition: Education, Research, and Collaboration

Panelists

- **Ms Christine Ozden**, Climate Education Lead, Cambridge Press and Assessment, University of Cambridge
- **Mr Stephen Davison**, Deputy Director, Cambridge Zero, University of Cambridge

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Stuart Brocklehurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Business Engagement and Innovation, University of Exeter (tbc) • Dr Alyssa Gilbert, Director, Undaunted - Climate Innovation Lab, Imperial College London (tbc) Local University Rectors / Vice-Rectors (tbc) • Mr Hasan Hasanli, Deputy Minister of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan • Ambassador Fergus Auld, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Republic of Azerbaijan (tbc) • Ms Nargiz Hajiyeve, Country Director, British Council <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leveraging university networks as effective models for collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange on climate change • Advancing interdisciplinary research, education, policy dialogue, and community engagement through academic cooperation • Building on the momentum of the 2024 side event introducing the Azerbaijan Universities Network on Climate Change (AUNCC) Showcasing progress made by universities through COP-related activities and independent initiatives • Defining the structure, format, and goals of the AUNCC • Setting next steps and a roadmap for the network's formal establishment • Positioning universities as key actors in the national and global climate transition <p>Partners: COP29 Presidency, Ministry of Science and Education of Republic of Azerbaijan, ADA University, British Council</p> <p>Registration: By invitation</p>
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Day 5– Friday 3 October, 2025

Venue: Ritz Carlton Hotel

Kalbajar Room



Sustainability Careers Fair

15:30 - 18:00

Sustainability Careers Fair

Description:

As the global demand for sustainability and climate-focused solutions grows, so does the need for a skilled workforce ready to lead the transition to a greener, more resilient economy. Youth - today's students and tomorrow's professionals - must be empowered to see sustainability not just as a cause, but as a viable and exciting career path.

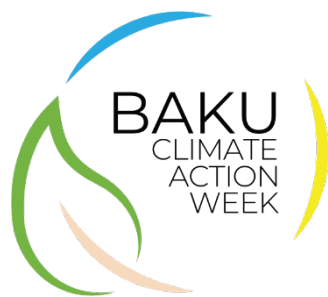
The Sustainability Careers Fair will serve as a dynamic and engaging platform that connects university students with professionals working in the field of sustainability across sectors such as business, consultancy, technology, energy, environment, circular economy, and more. It aims to raise awareness, spark interest, and inspire career choices aligned with sustainable development and climate action.

Discussion points:

- Addressing the growing demand for a skilled workforce to drive the green and resilient economy
- Empowering youth to view sustainability as a viable and exciting career path
- Showcasing career opportunities across business, consultancy, technology, energy, environment, and circular economy
- Connecting university students with sustainability professionals through interactive engagement
- Raising awareness, sparking interest, and inspiring career choices aligned with climate action and sustainable development
- Positioning the Sustainability Careers Fair as a catalyst for building the next generation of green leaders

Partner: COP29 Presidency

Registration: Open call



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

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