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# **CNSS COP29 PERCEPTS DAY 1**

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## **COP29 Day 01 BRIEF – November 11, 2024**

**Location: Baku, Azerbaijan**

**Event: 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

**Date: November 11, 2024**

### **Overview of COP29**

The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) is being held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 2024, gathering world leaders, climate experts, negotiators, and activists to address urgent climate challenges. This year's conference holds particular significance, as the global climate crisis intensifies with extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, and growing pressure for rapid decarbonization across sectors. On November 11, the discussions at COP29 focused on several critical aspects of the climate agenda, including emissions reduction targets, climate finance, the role of emerging economies, and the urgency of a just transition for communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

### **Key Developments on November 11, 2024**

#### **1. Opening of High-Level Segment**

The high-level segment of COP29 officially began on November 11, 2024, with speeches from various heads of state, ministers, and UN officials. The opening ceremony took place at the Baku Convention Center, with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev delivering a welcoming address, emphasizing Azerbaijan's commitment to tackling climate change through both domestic and international measures. Aliyev stated, "Azerbaijan is ready to continue its active participation in global climate action, particularly in the area of renewable energy and green technologies." World leaders and representatives of major climate organizations gathered to deliver speeches calling for global unity in the fight against climate change. The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, also addressed the summit, urging all countries to take immediate, bold action to meet the Paris Agreement targets and to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

#### **2. Climate Finance Commitments**

The issue of climate finance remained central on the agenda on November 11. Developed countries, led by the European Union and the United States, reiterated their commitment to mobilize the promised \$100 billion annually for developing countries. However, some emerging economies, such as India and Brazil, voiced concerns over the slow pace of funding and the need for more transparency in climate finance mechanisms. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen emphasized that the EU had already allocated a significant portion of its budget to climate adaptation and mitigation projects, particularly in the Global South. Von der Leyen added, "The European Union is committed to ensuring that finance flows to where it's most needed to drive a just transition."

### **3. Bilateral Meetings and Agreements**

On November 11, several bilateral meetings were held on the sidelines of COP29. Notably, the United States and China held a high-stakes meeting to discuss collaborative efforts on decarbonization, including green technologies, clean energy innovations, and mutual support for a carbon-neutral future. This meeting was seen as a crucial step in easing tensions and deepening cooperation between the two largest emitters of greenhouse gases. The United States reaffirmed its commitment to cutting emissions by 50-52% by 2030, while China announced new renewable energy goals, aiming for 40% of its electricity generation to come from non-fossil fuel sources by 2035.

### **4. Youth and Activist Movements**

Youth activists, including Greta Thunberg and other prominent climate advocates, participated in protests outside the venue. They called for bolder action and a shift in political leadership towards more aggressive climate policies. Swedish eco-activist Greta Thunberg will lead a protest in Tbilisi against Azerbaijani authoritarianism as Baku is preparing to host the COP29 UN Climate Conference. Thunberg will be joined by Georgian eco-activists, as well as exiled Azerbaijani investigative journalists, activists, politicians who left Baku due to Ilham Aliyev's regime and settled in Tbilisi. Thunberg, in her speech, said, "This is not just a conference; it's a test of our will to survive. We have no more time for promises—action is overdue." Activist groups are particularly concerned about the ongoing subsidization of fossil fuels and the lack of tangible, enforceable commitments to reduce carbon emissions at scale. The protests were peaceful but significant, with activists demanding that COP29 commit to a global fossil fuel phase-out by 2030.

### **5. Global South's Perspective**

Representatives from the Global South, including countries like India, Nigeria, and Bangladesh, emphasized the need for stronger financial and technical support from developed countries. A key area of focus for these nations was loss and damage, a subject that continues to divide the COP29 negotiations. While a consensus is building, many Global South countries feel the current mechanisms do not sufficiently address the financial needs of countries experiencing climate-related disasters.

## **Key Themes and Discussions on November 11, 2024**

### **1. Global Carbon Market and Emissions Trading Systems**

- Countries discussed the implementation and expansion of global carbon markets and emissions trading systems (ETS), including the rules governing international carbon credits and offsets. The debate centered around ensuring that carbon trading does not serve as a loophole for countries to avoid meaningful emission reductions.

### **2. Climate Resilience and Adaptation**

- There were key discussions on how to scale up funding for climate adaptation, particularly for vulnerable nations. Adaptation measures, such as building resilient infrastructure, protecting water resources, and improving disaster response systems, were identified as critical to long-term climate strategy.

### **3. Innovation and Technology**

- The role of innovation in achieving net-zero targets was highlighted, particularly around clean technologies like green hydrogen, electric vehicles, and carbon capture and storage. Several companies and research institutes showcased advancements in these technologies during the side events.

### **4. Role of the Private Sector**

Discussions also focused on how the private sector can accelerate climate action through sustainable investments. Several corporations announced new initiatives in green finance, renewable energy, and circular economy practices, but many activists pushed for stronger regulatory frameworks to hold corporations accountable for their environmental impacts.

## **Leadership and Key Participants**

**Azerbaijan:** President Ilham Aliyev addressed the conference, reiterating the country's commitment to sustainable energy solutions and climate action.

**United States :** Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasized U.S. climate leadership, calling for stronger global cooperation on clean energy.

**China :** President Xi Jinping sent a video message, committing China to continued efforts to reach peak emissions before 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060.

**European Union :** Ursula von der Leyen presented the EU's ambitious green transition plan, highlighting the bloc's investment in green energy and climate adaptation for vulnerable countries.

**India :** Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav spoke about the need for equitable climate action, with a focus on enhancing financial flows to developing countries.



## **1. Report: UAE's Green Ambitions and COP28's Legacy**

The UAE's hosting of COP28 marked a significant milestone in global climate action. As the host nation, the UAE demonstrated its commitment to sustainable development and clean energy. Key outcomes of COP28 included the Global Stock take, increased climate finance pledges, and a focus on accelerating renewable energy deployment and just transition. The UAE's ambitious net-zero emissions goal and investments in renewable energy, CCUS, and sustainable infrastructure position it as a climate leader in the Middle East. To further strengthen its climate leadership, the UAE should continue to prioritize renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency, and international cooperation, while also addressing challenges such as economic diversification and climate adaptation.

While COP28 laid the groundwork for ambitious climate action, the world is now looking towards COP29 to build on these achievements and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future. As the global climate crisis intensifies, it is imperative for countries to work together and implement bold policies to limit global warming and protect the planet.

## **2. Revolutionizing Recycling with AI: A Step Towards a Sustainable Future**

Azersun and FABA International are at the forefront of technological innovation, leveraging AI to revolutionize the recycling industry. Their platforms, Eco19 and Econar, are designed to empower both individuals and businesses to make sustainable choices and reduce waste. Eco19: This platform empowers individuals to make informed decisions about recycling and waste reduction. By utilizing AI-powered tools, Eco19 can help users identify recyclable materials, track their recycling efforts, and learn about sustainable practices. This platform not only promotes individual responsibility but also contributes to a larger movement towards a circular economy.

Econar: This platform is tailored for businesses, providing them with advanced tools to manage resources, reduce waste, and optimize their operations. By leveraging AI, Econar can analyze data on waste generation, identify opportunities for recycling and reuse, and help businesses implement sustainable practices. This can lead to significant cost savings, reduced environmental impact, and enhanced brand reputation.

The integration of AI into the recycling industry marks a significant step towards a more sustainable future. By harnessing the power of technology, Azersun and FABA International are driving innovation and inspiring a new generation of conscious consumers and businesses.

## **Relevance to COP29:**

**The development of AI-powered recycling platforms aligns with the goals of COP29 and the broader global climate agenda. By promoting circular economy principles, these platforms contribute to reducing waste, conserving resources, and mitigating climate change.**

**Circular Economy:** By encouraging recycling and reuse, these platforms contribute to a circular economy, where resources are kept in use for as long as possible.

**Sustainable Consumption:** Econar empowers individuals to make sustainable lifestyle choices, reducing their environmental footprint.

**Corporate Sustainability:** Econar provides businesses with the tools to implement sustainable practices, reducing their carbon emissions and environmental impact.

**As the world continues to grapple with climate change, innovative solutions like AI-powered recycling platforms offer hope for a more sustainable future. By adopting these technologies, we can move towards a circular economy and create a more resilient planet.**

## **Report: Taliban administration officials to attend UN climate conference in Azerbaijan**

The Taliban administration is set to participate in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Azerbaijan, marking a significant step for the group on the international stage. This will be the first time Taliban officials have attended a major UN climate conference since regaining power in 2021. While Afghanistan is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including severe droughts and floods, the Taliban's participation has sparked debate and raised concerns. They will not have full voting rights or participation in formal decision-making processes. However, it does provide an opportunity for the Taliban to engage with other countries, international organizations, and climate experts.

The Taliban's participation in COP29 is a complex issue. On one hand, it highlights the urgent need to address climate change in Afghanistan, a country deeply affected by its consequences. It also provides an opportunity for the international community to engage with the Taliban on this critical issue. However, the Taliban's human rights record, particularly regarding women's rights and education, remains a major point of contention. The international community is wary of legitimizing the Taliban regime and may be hesitant to fully engage with them. The Taliban's attendance at COP29 will undoubtedly be closely watched. It will be interesting to see how they navigate the international stage, engage with other delegates, and present their perspective on climate change and its impact on Afghanistan.



## **Conclusion**

**November 11, 2024, was marked by significant progress in COP29's negotiations, with continued debates over finance, emissions reductions, and the future of global cooperation on climate change. While tensions remain on various issues, especially the pace and transparency of climate finance, the day ended with renewed calls for urgent action and a commitment to a just and equitable climate future. The next few days of negotiations will be crucial in shaping the path forward, as the world continues to grapple with the escalating climate crisis.**