



**6 November 2024**

**Dear Colleagues,**

The adverse effects of climate change such as water scarcity, food insecurity, land degradation, infrastructure damage, livelihood disruptions, and human displacement can become in certain contexts a catalyst for conflict and instability. With disproportionate impacts on the most vulnerable – individuals and communities in developing, lower-income, climate-vulnerable, and conflict-affected states; and with women, children and youth, being among others, the most vulnerable groups in such settings there is a growing recognition of interlinkage between climate change and peace, and rising global call to ensure that climate action is peace-sensitive and prioritizes support for those most affected.

In response to the growing voice of the most vulnerable, the COP29 Presidency has been leading international efforts to enhance joint action on the climate and peace nexus. Building upon the important initiatives of previous presidencies, in particular COP26 efforts, COP27 “*Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace*” initiative (CRSP), COP28 “*Declaration On Climate, Relief, Recovery And Peace*” (CRRP), and in partnership with *Egypt, Italy, Germany, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom* as Co-leads of “*COP29 Climate and Peace*” Co-Lead Initiative, we have developed solution-oriented responses to these pressing challenges to be further discussed and actioned during the upcoming COP29 Peace Relief Recovery Day (PRR Day).

One of the key outcomes of PRR Day will be the *Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery* developed collaboratively with the Co-Lead partners. This Call reiterates global pledges and proposes solutions-oriented recommendations on critical issues such as water scarcity, food insecurity, land degradation and rehabilitation, and climate-induced displacement. It also introduces the Baku Climate and Peace Action Hub, a cooperative platform designed to foster synergies between national, regional and international peace and climate initiatives, including CRSP, CRRP, Climate for Peace Initiative (C4P), the climate dimension of the Mattei Plan for Africa, and other relevant initiatives as appropriate.

To ensure continuity and inclusivity, the main ideas of the Baku Call have been discussed with a broad range of stakeholders, including at the events co-organized with the Initiative’s Co-leads and relevant UN agencies at the sides of the 60th Session of the UNFCCC SB and UNGA79, as well as benefited from discussions at significant platforms addressing the peace-climate nexus, such as *the IV Aswan Forum and Berlin Climate and Security Conference 2024*.

The draft of the Call was open for general consultation at Pre-COP and was further refined through several rounds of co-drafting with the Co-Leads, including previous COP Presidencies, and other

interested Parties. We are deeply grateful to these Parties as well as UN agencies, particularly IOM, UNEP, OCHA, and WFP—for their valuable contributions in this process.

The COP29 Presidency also extends its appreciation to a number of international peacebuilding and humanitarian organizations, think tanks, civil society groups, and youth and women-led organizations that provided insight to inform the Call during numerous engagements with the COP29 Presidency such as briefing organized by the *International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)* and other events at the *Geneva Peace Week*.

**Dear colleagues,**

Having this said we encourage and formally invite all Parties and non-Party stakeholders to join the *Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery* ahead of *COP29 Peace Relief Recovery Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November* to foster collaborative solutions and scale up support for the most vulnerable countries and communities worldwide.

By supporting the Baku Call, all stakeholders—including governments, UN agencies, international organizations, multilateral climate funds, development banks, civil society, private and philanthropic entities—can collectively amplify their commitment to peace-sensitive climate action aimed also at relief and recovery. The Baku Call also opens avenues for joint action in the nexus of climate and peace, offering opportunities to engage in its operationalization and partnership building, starting with the rich program of events at COP29 PRR Day.

While inviting you to formalize your support to the Call by communicating through any official channel—note verbale, letter, or email—to COP29 Presidency designated focal point at [climateandpeace@cop29.az](mailto:climateandpeace@cop29.az), we look forward to cooperating with you to make COP29 a milestone event for advancing climate action along with peace, relief, and recovery efforts, and to leave no one behind.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mukhtar Babayev**  
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**COP29 President-designate**



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## **Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery**

We, the governments, UN agencies, other international and regional organizations, financial institutions, philanthropic and private sector entities, academia, and civil society organizations convened on the margins of the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) held in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, on 11-22 November, 2024,

*Recognizing* that the impacts of the climate and environmental crises in certain contexts could pose challenges and threats to international peace and global stability;

*Underlining* concern about the disproportionate impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable countries and communities, who are often affected by multiple challenges of the climate crisis, conflicts and humanitarian needs, and who also often receive an insufficient level of climate and humanitarian finance; emphasizing further that most fragile groups in such settings are women, children, and youth, among others;

*Acknowledging* specific challenges that the climate crisis poses to international peace and development due to its negative impact on water scarcity, food insecurity, land degradation, which trigger or aggravate migration and displacement; being also cognizant of possible security implications of loss of land of some states caused by sea level rise, in particular for small low-lying island States;

*Emphasizing* that these challenges offer an opportunity for international cooperation and collective action across different sectoral mandates to reduce humanitarian needs, enhance peace and environmental outcomes, while ensuring the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

*Reaffirming* pledges made in the *COP27 Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace (CRSP) Initiative*, the *COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace (CRRP)*, as well as welcoming important regional and cross-regional initiatives with a strong emphasis on solutions to climate challenges to peace, such as the *Climate for Peace Initiative (C4P)*, the *climate dimension of the Mattei Plan for Africa*, and the forthcoming *Common African Position on Climate Change Peace and Security (CAP-CPS)*; recognizing the growing demand by developing countries, in particular the most vulnerable, for swift operationalization and delivery on these pledges;

*Welcoming* efforts by the COP29 Presidency to ensure continuity and foster a broad and inclusive approach in organizing the COP29 Peace, Relief, and Recovery Day including through partnership established within the “COP29 Climate and Peace” Co-Lead Initiative<sup>1</sup> as well as with the COP28 Presidency including coordination mechanism supporting CRRP to drive climate action in climate vulnerable and conflict-affected areas; *welcoming* further efforts by the COP29 Presidency to support delivery on concrete solutions to challenges of climate change impact on water scarcity, food insecurity, land degradation, and resulting human displacement, pose to international peace and security; in particular to scale up financial resources for climate adaptation and resilience building in vulnerable countries, especially SIDS and LDCs, affected by multiple challenges of climate change and conflicts, and high humanitarian needs;

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<sup>1</sup> Co-lead Initiative developed by Azerbaijan as COP29 Presidency together with Egypt, Germany, Italy, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates

We call on all parties to enhance concerted efforts to address climate-change-related causes of human insecurity, deliver on existing and offer new pledges for scaling up international cooperation and finance as well as relief and recovery efforts to enhance climate adaptation and resilience building in vulnerable countries, affected by the interconnected challenges of climate change and conflicts and with high levels of humanitarian needs.

In fulfilling these objectives, we undertake:

1. To call on the global community to reduce emissions and keep 1.5°C within reach as mitigation along with adaptation and resilience building are the main pillars to avoid further risk by climate change for human security and global stability;
2. To foster agreed solutions, among all concerned parties, to climate change-induced water scarcity in climate-vulnerable and conflict-affected situations through investment and action in adaptation, as well as inclusive water cooperation based on international law and agreements<sup>2</sup>, and integrated water resources management (IWRM), working towards ensuring equitable use while avoiding causing significant harm; joint management and sustainable use of shared water resources, while accounting for socio-economic considerations;
3. To address the impacts of climate change on food security as a potential trigger of instability in climate-vulnerable and conflict-affected situations through building sustainable and resilient food systems that strengthen the adaptive capacity of food-insecure populations to climate hazards, enhance agricultural productivity, ensure equitable access to adequate and nutritious food, and promote climate-adaptive farming practices;
4. To mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and conflicts on land use and degradation, as a threat to human security, including through the implementation of ecosystem restoration activities related to REDD, Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which involves the conservation, restoration and management of land resources in ways that maintain productivity, prevent degradation, remove impediments for land rehabilitation, and ensure long-term ecological balance, which are integral to achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
5. To promote risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peace-positive climate change adaptation and resilience-building measures in vulnerable areas by strengthening national capacities and climate-resilient infrastructure, enhancing sustainable livelihoods, nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, and ensuring equitable resource management to address climate-induced displacement; while also improving data and analysis on human mobility in the context of climate change and climate-induced conflict and to enhance efforts to meet protection and assistance needs of climate displaced persons, including access to shelter, food, water, healthcare, and legal aid;
6. To foster solutions to mobilize climate finance for the most climate-vulnerable countries and communities affected also by conflict and humanitarian crisis by engaging a wide variety of sources and channels, including climate finance funds and mechanisms,

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<sup>2</sup> When it concerns parties-signatories to specific agreements

multilateral development banks, the private sector and philanthropies with a view to scaling up and improving access to relevant financial resources, achieving their effective use and reducing transaction costs, including through facilitating relevant procedures and adopting, in consultation with the national governments of countries in the fragile context, of common principles for effective climate finance;

7. To deliver on joint pledges through the swift implementation of voluntary solution packages and encourage new pledges, including through disseminating information on the impact of the committed solutions on affected communities;
8. To support the Baku Climate and Peace Action Hub<sup>3</sup>, launched at the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) as the outcome of the “COP29 Climate and Peace” Initiative, and aimed at deepening dialogue, understanding and fostering further action to deliver on identified solutions, including through promoting synergies between initiatives on climate change and peace intersection such as CRSP, CRRP, C4P, the climate dimension of the Mattei Plan for Africa and other relevant initiatives, as appropriate;
9. To follow up on the implementation of this Call, including through holding annual dialogue meetings of the Baku Climate and Peace Action Hub on the sidelines of future UN Climate Change Conferences, to review progress, share best practices, advance cooperation opportunities on concrete projects and initiatives; identifying potential additional actions, and ensuring the sustainability of international cooperation on the climate change, peace, recovery, and relief nexus;
10. To encourage efforts of the COP29 Presidency to enlarge the support for the Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery, *inter alia*, through the cooperation: with Parties, in particular dialogue with and facilitation of a network of vulnerable countries; UN agencies, constituencies under the UNFCCC process; as well as other stakeholders including philanthropic and private sector entities, civil society and peacebuilding organizations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth and children.

National governments and other stakeholders can endorse this Declaration through any official written communication (e.g., letter, note verbale) addressed to the COP29 Presidency or via email to [climateandpeace@cop29.az](mailto:climateandpeace@cop29.az)

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<sup>3</sup> The Brief Concept Note as annexed to this Call

# Baku Climate and Peace Action Hub

Brief Concept Note<sup>1</sup>

## I. Background

The adverse effects of climate change and environmental crisis can lead to water scarcity, food insecurity, cause land degradation, damage infrastructure, disrupt livelihoods and accelerate and trigger human displacement. Thus, climate change could pose in certain contexts, a risk to global peace and stability, with disproportionate impacts on the most vulnerable – developing, lower-income, climate-vulnerable and conflict-affected states; with women, children and youth, being among others, the most affected groups in such settings. As awareness on the relationship between climate change and peace increases, so does the urgent global call to ensure that climate action promotes peace wherever possible and to scale up support to the most climate-vulnerable countries also affected by conflicts.

## II. Vision and Mission

Building on previous initiatives of COP26, COP27 and COP28 Presidencies, in particular, relevant recommendations by the *COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace (CRRP)*, COP29 presidency, in partnership with the Co-leads of “COP29 Climate and Peace” Initiative<sup>2</sup>, developed the vision of the Hub to serve as a cooperation platform to promote synergies and foster joint action between regional and international initiatives on the nexus of climate and peace.

This vision, enriched through inclusive consultations with a broad range of parties, UN agencies and other stakeholders, including at the sidelines of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNFCCC SB, UNGA79 and pre-COP<sup>3</sup> was widely supported by the representatives of vulnerable countries, as well as peacebuilding and environmental communities.

In line with recommendations from these consultations, the Initiative’s Co-Leads group which brought together the governments of *Azerbaijan, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom*, at its first meeting (26-27 July 2024), endorsed the launch of the **Baku Climate and Peace Action Hub**<sup>4</sup> as one of the joint objectives to be achieved as the outcome of the **COP29 Peace, Relief, and Recovery Day** on 15 November 2024. The Hub will pursue to meet the needs of those most affected by climate and conflict vulnerability, by advancing joint action to deliver on identified solutions, including in the following areas:

<sup>1</sup> As annexed to Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery.

<sup>2</sup> Co-lead Initiative developed by Azerbaijan as COP29 Presidency together with Egypt, Germany, Italy, Uganda, the United Kingdom and recently joined by the United Arab Emirates.

<sup>3</sup> High-Level Roundtables on “Climate, Peace, and Human Mobility” (COP29/ IOM); on “Accelerating Climate Action and Finance for Peace, Relief, and Recovery” (COP28/COP29 with Chad, Germany, Timor-Leste, Uganda, and the United Kingdom) at the side UNGA79. Workshop on climate action and food Security in conflict affected setting (COP28/ COP29 with WFP, FAO, and IFAD, 25-26 June 2024, Rome). IV Aswan Forum (2-3 July 2024, Cairo) and the Berlin Climate and Security Conference (BCSC, 8 October 2024, Berlin).

<sup>4</sup> Hereinafter also referred to as “Baku Hub” or “Hub”

1. Deepening the dialogue and understanding and forging joint action on climate and peace nexus through fostering synergies between initiatives on climate change and peace intersection, such as COP27 “*Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace*” (CRSP), COP28 “*Declaration On Climate, Relief, Recovery And Peace*” (CRRP), “*Climate for Peace*” Initiative (C4P) and the climate dimension of the *Mattei Plan for Africa* and other relevant initiatives as appropriate;
2. Identifying gaps and offering solutions to enhance international cooperation and scale up access to relevant financial resources by countries most vulnerable to climate change and conflicts, including through facilitation of relevant procedures and common principles for effective climate finance and action for relief, recovery, and peace;
3. Identifying areas of potential cooperation and facilitating it, including through fostering joint action and pilot projects between climate- and peace-related initiatives, other interested parties, UN agencies, MDBs, climate finance mechanisms and other stakeholders to support delivery on identified solutions;
4. Maintaining a dialogue with and supporting of a network of most climate-vulnerable countries affected by conflicts to achieve strengthening of national capacities, local ownership, efficiency and accountability of joint actions;
5. Facilitating follow-up on the implementation of the Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery through dialogue and cooperation with its signatory parties and organizations.

### **III. Operationalization:**

In fulfilling its mission and functions the Hub will feature Co-lead partners of the COP29 Presidency from the “COP29 Climate and Peace” Initiative in its Steering Committee to be supported with expertise by identified expert think tanks implementing the associated peace and climate initiatives of the Co-lead partners; and to be facilitated by functional secretariat, supported and hosted in Baku by the COP29 Presidency with opportunities for cooperative engagement and assistance in a hybrid form by the disposed partners in the Steering Committee.

The Hub will forge partnership with dedicated national and UN institutions as implementing agencies of the identified pilot projects; facilitate joint action through dialogue and cooperation with climate finance mechanisms, MDBs, national donor institutions, development and relief entities; and undertake its mission in consultation with and engagement of constituencies under the UNFCCC process and other stakeholders, including philanthropic and private sector entities, civil society, peacebuilding and environmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples, local, women, youth and children communities.

Interested Parties, as well as relevant UN and other inter-governmental and international organizations, initiatives and programs willing to advance the work of the Hub, can contribute as partners of the Hub: by endorsing the Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery; and expressing their intention of partnership under the Hub through submitting, to COP29 Presidency, concrete projects to advance the Hub’s goals.