

Climate Change

Global | Climate finance, at the heart of COP29

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October 11th, 2024

From 11 to 22 November, the international community will gather in Azerbaijan, a country on the shores of the Caspian Sea, to outline the next steps to be taken on climate change at the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, better known as COP29. In light of the growing urgency of the climate crisis, the main points to be discussed at this new summit are outlined below.

Climate finance will be a primary focus. The New Quantified Collective Goal (NCQG) will be on the agenda in Azerbaijan, where international resource mobilization targets, especially for climate change mitigation, will be discussed. At the previous COP meeting in Copenhagen in 2009, developed countries committed to raising a minimum of USD 100 billion annually. This figure will need to be revised in light of the growing impact of climate change.

Without neglecting the mitigation component, i.e. the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, another central part of the discussions will be the issue of adaptation to the impending effects of climate change on a global scale. To this end, it is expected that progress can be made in providing countries, especially developing ones, with the technical and financial tools they need to develop their national adaptation plans.

Carbon markets are another key element in mobilizing resources for GHG mitigation initiatives. As markets are more dynamic than other financing mechanisms, their importance was made clear in the Article 6 of the 2015 Paris Agreement. Among the most controversial elements on the table for COP29 is whether these markets and other financing mechanisms should be centralized in an international authority for technical issues such as monitoring, reporting and verification of emission reductions, or whether, on the contrary, a decentralized, regional or even bilateral approach should be preferred.

An additional key issue on the program in Azerbaijan is the Loss and Damage Fund for Developing Countries, which has been enabled to receive funding since last year's COP28 in Dubai, with the World Bank assigned as the entity responsible for its administration. Increasing the Fund's resources to match the growing financial needs, as well as accelerating emergency response mechanisms to the climate crisis are among the issues to be discussed, not forgetting the growing interest of the private sector in contributing to this financial instrument.

Looking ahead to what will happen in Azerbaijan in the coming weeks, the international community must join forces to make progress on the issues on the agenda. The climate crisis is no longer a futuristic issue, but one that is increasingly present in everyday life: in local markets where products become more expensive due to disruptions in supply chains, affecting low-income people, but also in millions of families without access to water, or in households that have lost everything due to increasingly intense floods or cyclones. Now is the time for action.



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