



# **ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD FOUNDATION (E2F) @ COP29 REPORT BAKU, AZERBAIJAN.**

# E2F Delegates Present

1. Achare Elvis Ayamba – Founder & Executive Director at Environment and Food Foundation (E2F)- Cameroon
2. Zandisile Howe - Eswatini
3. Christine Mhone - Malawi
4. Muhammad Afaq - Pakistan



# Our key objectives

1. Influence UNFCCC COP29 resolutions and decisions to address climate change and benefit local communities
2. Explore partnerships and collaboration with like-minded Individuals, Networks and CSOs to collectively influence outcomes / comprehensive solutions that benefit African people and nature



## **E2F's main focus**

During the recently concluded UNFCCC COP29, E2F delegates were following different thematic areas. This report highlights E2F delegates participation in COP 29, where they represented global youth, YOUNGO and the African Climate Change Youth Task force. Their involvement focused on advocating for inclusive climate policies, amplifying youth voices and promoting financial resilience for child and youth led climate action.

# Debriefing COP29 Key outcomes By E2F Delegate: Mohammad Afaq

## 1. Disappointed or Hopeful? Updates on Key Issues at COP29!

COP29, the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference, is a global climate summit organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This year, it is being held in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, from November 11 to November 22. The annual conference brought together representatives from around the world, including national governments, international organizations, civil society, and businesses, to discuss and negotiate actions to address climate change. COP29 attracted a total of 66,778 registered participants (3,975 attending online), with the host country Azerbaijan having the highest number of delegates at 2,229. Brazil and Turkey followed, while China ranked fifth, sending 969 representatives. Of the participants, 59% are male, and 41% are female. The two key issues of this conference are climate finance and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Let's take a closer look at the progress!



# Climate Finance Target Achieved



## 2. Climate Finance Target Achieved: \$300 Billion, Far Below Developing Countries' Needs.

COP29 has been called the "Finance COP," focusing heavily on climate finance. One of its primary goals is to establish a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) to replace the previous annual \$100 billion target. However, substantial progress remains elusive: the current consensus is that developed countries will provide \$300 billion annually by 2035, far below the \$1.3 trillion demanded by developing countries. Initially, the proposed target was just \$250 billion per year, sparking strong opposition from several developing countries. After two days of extended negotiations, a consensus was reached on November 24, increasing the figure to \$300 billion. The agreement also emphasizes collective efforts to scale up support from public and private sources to reach \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035. Despite this, the negotiations were repeatedly stalled due to sharp disagreements among parties. The United Nations has called on countries to "stop posturing and take real action!"



# Article 6 of the Paris Agreement: A New Era for Global Carbon Markets?

## 3. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement focuses on enabling countries to cooperate on climate action through carbon markets.

Article 6.2 allows countries to set bilateral carbon trading agreements, while Article 6.4 aims to establish a centralized system under UN oversight to offset and trade carbon emissions. On COP29's opening day (November 11), representatives reached a consensus on the carbon market standards under Article 6.4, creating a framework to generate carbon credits that reduce emissions and attract investment, particularly in developing countries. By the end of the first day, countries approved standards to ensure these credits represent genuine, additional, and verified reductions. On the fourth day (November 14), the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) released further draft guidance on Article 6.4 and the first new draft on Article 6.2 since the Bonn meeting. The UN stated that this compliant carbon market could generate \$1 trillion annually by 2050, while reducing the cost of implementing national climate plans by \$250 billion annually.



# Active Participation by Other Stakeholders

## 4. Active Participation by Other Stakeholders

Non-Party Stakeholders (NPS), including businesses, local governments, investors, and civil society, have been recognized for their critical roles in global climate action. Thanks to their active engagement, numerous new initiatives, declarations, reports, and funding opportunities were launched at COP29. UNFCCC documented achievements across various areas, such as enhancing actions and ambition (including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), adaptation plans, resilience, and transparency) and supporting actions (including finance, carbon markets, and technology). However, the impact of these declarations and actions remains to be evaluated. For a detailed list of these achievements, visit the official website:

[https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Summary\\_Global\\_Climate\\_Action\\_at\\_COP\\_29.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Summary_Global_Climate_Action_at_COP_29.pdf)





# Controversy Over an Oil-Rich Host Nation

**5. The choice of Azerbaijan, an oil-producing country, as the host has sparked controversy.**

Oil-producing nations have long contributed significantly to carbon emissions, and their central role in climate negotiations may hinder progress. For instance, Azerbaijan's support for petrochemical industries has raised doubts about the conference's leadership credibility. Since the conference began, the legitimacy of the COP process has been questioned, with debates over whether fossil fuel-producing countries are suitable hosts or even participants. Proposals for reform range from reducing the frequency of COP meetings to merging climate and biodiversity summits. However, after two weeks of intense negotiations, practical solutions remain elusive.

While the COP process is far from perfect, it remains the primary platform for global climate negotiations. In the absence of alternatives, it is essential to continue engaging with and strengthening this platform to advance global climate action. For now, the road to effective global climate action remains long and challenging.





# Highlights of E2F's Participation

# Speaking engagements & Side events engaged by E2F delegate: Zandisile

## Key Activities

### 1. Rapporteur for PACJA side events

Throughout COP 29, Zandisile served as a rapporteur for the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) side events. Her responsibilities included summarizing discussions, capturing insights and documenting key outcomes to support PACJA's advocacy for inclusive, equitable and just climate policies.



# Key Activities

## 2. Tracking the Gender Track

As part of her engagement, Zandisile followed the Gender track on negotiations at COP 29, Focusing on how gender considerations are integrated into climate action. She observed and documented progress on the gender climate action plan, ensuring that these observations can give insights that could inform future advocacy for women and girls in climate governance.



# Side Event: Keynote Speech at the Africa Pavillion

## 3. Event: *Towards Inclusive NDCs 3.0 in Africa: Evidence and Best Practice for Child Sensitive NDCs*

- **Date:** November 18, 2024
- **Organizer:** UNICEF regional Offices (ESAR, WCAR, MENAR)
- **Partners:** UNECA, Africa NDC Hub, UNFCCC, WRI, YOUNGO

Zandisile delivered the keynote speech representing African youth and YOUNGO. The speech emphasized the need for child sensitive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) highlighting the disproportionate impacts of climate change on children and the lack of their inclusion in climate policy. She advocated for meaningful engagement of children and youth in NDC processes, aligning with recommendations from the expert dialogue on children and climate change and Africa's broader climate goals. Link to article by UNECA:

<https://www.uneca.org/stories/african-youth-call-for-bold-climate-action-to-protect-their-future>



# RCOY Southern Africa 2024

## 4. Event: Financial Climate Resilience for Child and Youth-led Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Projects

Organizer: RCOY Southern Africa, supported by UNDP Zambia, UNICEF Zambia, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Voices for Just Climate Action VCA Zambia.

Representing the Southern Africa Climate change youth task force, Zandisile participated in this event as a panelist to amplify the Regional Youth Statement compiled during RCOY Southern Africa 2024 in Lusaka, Zambia. The discussion focused on fostering financial resilience and securing resources for youth led adaptation and mitigation projects. She shared regional priorities and underscored the significance of youth driven initiatives in addressing climate challenges.



# Advocacy climate action speaker

## 5. Event: Youth advocacy climate action side event

Location: Zone B, Location 5

Organizers: Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice alumni, PACJA

As one of the lead speakers during the youth advocacy climate action side events, Zandisile presented key points from the youth statement on adaptation finance, which was developed at the youth forum on adaptation finance in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The points highlighted Africa's priorities for Adaptation Finance and emphasized the importance of inclusive, equitable funding mechanisms to address Africa's unique climate challenges.



# Activities, Actions, Advocacy Activities, Side Events, and Negotiation engaged by Christine

**Christine** actively attended various key side events, networking opportunities, and discussions that focused on Africa's role in climate justice, financing, health, and solidarity. Some of the notable events I participated in include:

## 1. The Imperatives of a Just NCQG: Lessons from Morocco and Other African Nations on Why the NCQG Must Centre a Needs-Based Adaptation in its Sub goals

Venue: Morocco Pavilion

Organizers: PACJA, ACSEA, German Watch, and DI

- **Key Takeaway:** Highlighted the need for climate finance to address adaptation priorities in the Global South.

## 2. Radical Approaches for Accelerating Debt-Free Climate Finance Flows to Underserved African Countries

- Venue: Senegal Pavilion

• Organizers: Ministries of Finance of Senegal and Kenya, PACJA, AFDAN, and UNECA

- **Key Focus:** Explored innovative, debt-free financing solutions for African countries.





# Activities, Actions, Advocacy Activities, Side Events, and Negotiation engaged

## 3. Forging Greater Solidarity Between Azerbaijan and Africa for Climate Action (By invitation only)

Venue: “Mugam Klub” Secured by Azerbaijan NGO Forum

Organizers: Azerbaijan NGO Forum

- **Significance: Strengthened South-South partnerships for collaborative climate action.**

## 4. Priceless Contribution & Fair Shares: How Africa’s Contribution Through Transitional Minerals in Global Decarbonization Agenda Should Count in Climate Negotiations

• Venue: DRC Pavilion

• Organizers: Government of DRC, PACJA, and other partners

- **Key Discussions: Addressed Africa’s role in providing critical minerals for global decarbonization.**

## 5. Promoting Inclusive Climate Action - Why Africa and Azerbaijan Must Root for Funding Mechanisms That Leap-Frog Locally Led Climate Actions

• Venue: Azerbaijan NGO Forum

• Organizers: PACJA and NGO Forum of Azerbaijan

- **Takeaway: Advocated for localized solutions in climate funding strategies.**





# Reflections and Impact by Zandisile

COP 29 provided a platform to elevate African youth voices and emphasize the urgency of inclusive climate action. My contributions focused on;

- Advancing discussions on child sensitive NDCs.
- Strengthening advocacy for youth led climate resilience initiatives.
- Amplifying African youth perspectives through international media platforms.
- Reinforcing Africa's stance on equitable climate finance through PACJA's press statement.
- Zandisile's participation in COP 29 demonstrated the critical role of youth in shaping climate policy and action. She extends gratitude to partners and organizers who facilitated these engagements and she remains committed to advocating for sustainable and inclusive climate future.

# Final Reflections and Key takeaways by Christine



- **Final Reflections**

- COP29 was a profound experience that highlighted both the progress and challenges in global climate action. The event served as a critical platform for engaging with key stakeholders, exploring innovative solutions, and amplifying the voices of vulnerable communities, particularly those from the Global South.

- **Key takeaways include:**

- The urgent need for climate finance that prioritizes just transitions, adaptation, and debt-free solutions for underserved nations.
- The importance of fostering South-South collaboration and strengthening solidarity to address shared climate challenges.
- The recognition of health, particularly mental health and gender-based vulnerabilities, as critical components of climate action strategies.
- Throughout the discussions, side events, and engagements, COP29 underscored the role of inclusive and locally led climate solutions. It reaffirmed the need for stronger partnerships, innovative financing mechanisms, and the prioritization of Africa's unique needs in climate negotiations.
- This experience has deepened my commitment to advocating for equitable climate justice and ensuring that marginalized communities are at the forefront of global solutions.

# Connect with Environment and Food Foundation (E2F)

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- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Environment-and-Food-Foundation-E2F-2253738778181556/>
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