



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



UN Climate Change Conference (COP29)



Baku,
Azerbaijan



11 November to
22 November 2024



SIDE EVENT

Forging Greater Solidarity between Azerbaijan and Africa for Climate Action

Venue: World Business Center Date: November 16

Time: 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm (GMT+4)

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Context:

Azerbaijan and Africa face climate challenges that are similar to a great extent. Access to water, management of ecosystems to guarantee quality pasture and inclusion of communities at the fringes of development are but some of the shared challenges. Equally, there are similarities in approaches for addressing the challenges, for instance, community-based water management initiatives to improve water use efficiency and conservation and construction of small-scale water reservoirs, rainwater harvesting systems, and the rehabilitation of traditional irrigation channels. In both Africa and Azerbaijan's rural regions, overgrazing is a significant environmental issue and there are significant community-led efforts in adopting sustainable pasture management practices aimed at improved livestock productivity, and reducing the impacts of climate change on pastoral communities. All these actions fall within the domain of adaptation actions, the priority climate action for Africa. Whereas these call for localized climate actions that are responsive to national circumstances, at the global level action must centre on securing the Global Goal on Adaptation and its anchoring through a bold sub-goal in the New Collective Quantified Goal.

The opportunity to build momentum on this explicit request is now offered by COP29 in strengthening a strong case for Eastern Europe working together with Africa towards pragmatic actions to actualize the ambition of the GGA. The growing understanding between Africa and Europe that top-down approaches are insufficient to address the realities of climate change is an important point to pick up in this conversation. Shifting and accelerating support towards Locally Led Climate Action (LLCA) offers a promising alternative, where community-driven solutions are prioritized to address the unique challenges, each region faces but this requires strong political leadership which the COP29 Presidency can offer.

This convening is built on a dialogue convened by AUC, Africa-European Foundation and PACJA on the sidelines of SB60 in Bonn. This inaugural meeting recommended Africa and Europe need to do things differently and for Europe not to continue overlooking Africa as a source of solutions, and of major economic opportunities, but to support complimenting approaches for the implementation of the SDGs and emission cuts, with clear timelines to accelerate action. We need to inspire ourselves and turn mistakes into successes through bold enabling cooperation and innovations. The convening too recognized EU leaders who have offered new avenues for driving investment, shifting finance flows for transformation, spurring economic growth and jobs, and accelerating climate action. Against this background, the two continents have an opportunity to address common issues jointly. The opportunity that lies with the EU being as responsive as possible to the needs and priorities of African development partners in terms of climate priorities, and particularly, adaptation was also echoed in the meeting. At the meeting, climate diplomats recognized the need to escape from the constraints of the UNFCCC negotiations, to break the silos and anchor negotiations in the real world.

Indeed, the dialogue pointed to the need for increased dialogue between Africa and Europe that is focused jointly on new streams of finance (i.e: Global Solidarity Levies Task Force; Task Force on Debt, Nature and Climate; Reforms on the international financial architecture), to address the long-term balance of power, and refocus attention towards climate action, including adaptation needs, and loss and damage.

This action seeks to leverage COP29 which represents a critical opportunity to spotlight the role of locally-led climate actions in building climate resilience and fostering inclusivity. By forging a partnership between Africa and Azerbaijan, both regions can demonstrate the power of local solutions in addressing global climate challenges

Convened by PACJA, Africa -Europe Foundation, AUC, and Azerbaijan National NGO Forum Public Union this convening seeks to specifically:

1. Provide informal space for contextual sharing of priorities of the two regions to strengthen common areas of interests
2. Frame an approach for advancing the shared priorities of the region that is proximate to people, societies, and local economies, including potentially a fund for advancing these interests
3. Identify strategies and actions that can be jointly pursued in advancing these interests in the build-up to Belem and in subsequent climate-related convenings

Delegates:

This event will be graced by a total of 50 delegates drawn as representatives of the following entities:

- ▶ COP29 Presidency
- ▶ Government of Azerbaijan
- ▶ Africa Union Commission – SEBE,
- ▶ United Nations Economic Commission,
- ▶ Africa-Europe Foundation
- ▶ Representatives from countries from Eastern Europe
- ▶ African Group of Negotiators
- ▶ Azerbaijan National NGO Forum Public Union
- ▶ Pan African Climate Justice Alliance members
- ▶ Select Philanthropies

Agenda:

- a. Informal introductions of delegates present
- b. Exploratory sessions: opportunities for Africa and Azerbaijan to forge and advance a globally transformative agenda and make climate action real to frontline communities
- c. Connecting Africa-Azerbaijan solidarity actions with other solidarity efforts
- d. Firming common approaches and actions



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