

COP29

Report prepared by International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) COP29 Team

OPENING & CLOSING PLENARIES WEEK 1

11 November

The opening of UNFCCC COP29/CMP19/CMA6 and SBSTA61/SBI561 on Monday, 11 November, was extended into the evening, as the morning Plenary was suspended shortly after it began due to persistent disagreement on the meeting agendas – despite extensive consultations with the Parties in the preceding days and into the early hours of that morning.

At the resumption of the plenary, delayed multiple times, President Babayev thanked Parties for the flexibility and proposed the adoption of the agendas without the items they had suggested to include, with the understanding that he would convene presidency consultations. On the dialogue on GST implementation under matters relating to finance, President Babayev proposed to retain that placement, while adding a footnote indicating that this does not prejudice the outcomes of the discussions.

The Opening Plenary was also marked by the swift and unexpected adoption of a decision on Article 6.4, after years of stalled progress on this topic.

The newly elected COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev highlighted the urgency of the climate crisis, the cost of inaction, and the need to build trust and momentum for collective action if we are to succeed at this conference.

The UNFCCC Business and Industry Constituency had the opportunity to deliver the attached opening statement on Tuesday, outlining our key priorities for COP29. The SBs closing statement will be delivered tomorrow morning at the resumed plenary to hear statements.

16 November

During the Closing Plenary convened by the Subsidiary Bodies Chairs – Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) – yesterday evening, many parties expressed strong concern regarding the state of negotiations on a long list of items, with most of the challenging issues pushed into the second week.

Texts and process are now in the hands of the COP29 Presidency. Negotiations will continue across three tracks: ministerial consultations focusing on outstanding political issues, continued technical work on a limited set of issues, complimentary presidency consultations. The exact balance among these three formats will be presented tomorrow when the COP29 President will reveal his plans in a plenary session taking place at **10:30am in Plenary Nizami**. Groups, Parties and Observers will also have the opportunity to make their statements.

KEY ISSUES IN NEGOTIATING ROOMS

NCQG

Here in Baku, all eyes are on the negotiations for the New Collective Quantified Goal – aka NCQG – which Parties are expected to conclude after years of complex preparatory work.

The NCQG – intended as the successor to the 2009 pledge by developed countries to provide \$100 billion annually by 2020 for climate finance to support developing countries' adaptation and mitigation efforts – is widely viewed as the top negotiating priority and critical outcome of this year's COP, as well as the key foundation for renewed trust in the Paris Agreement and our collective ability to achieve its core goals.

Following good engagement at the High-level ministerial dialogue on the NCQG last month in Baku, Parties resumed discussions on Tuesday in a contact group co-chaired by Australia and UAE, with the objective to produce a text during the first week that resolves technical issues and puts forward clear options for ministers.

During the first meeting, Parties rejected the 11-page [substantive framework](#) for a draft negotiating text published by the co-chairs mid-October and mandated them to produce a new version, which was released as a 34-page document the following morning. Parties welcomed the document as a basis for discussions, but requested further streamlining to avoid duplication. After releasing new texts on Thursday and Friday, the co-chairs highlighted the impossibility of streamlining further and encouraged Parties to talk to each other's. The latest version of the text can be found [here](#).

While some progress has been made throughout the week, both in informal consultations and behind closed doors (inf inf), on access, rights-based considerations for recipients, transparency, and addressing the cost of capital in vulnerable and emerging economies, substantive divergences remain. The most challenging issues – among which quantum, contributors, structure, and qualitative elements of the goal – will all be handed over to ministers, making it hard to see how they will be able to bring Parties together in the critical second week.

BINGO participated yesterday to the open Dialogue between Parties and Observers on “Scaling up adequate and urgent climate finance for the common goal: opportunities and challenges”, and delivered [this statement](#).

Article 6

Following years of challenging technical discussions on Article 6 and a failure to reach consensus on 6.2 cooperation and the 6.4 mechanism in Dubai last year, Parties unexpectedly adopted [a draft decision](#) on the mechanism established by Article 6.4 during Monday's Opening Plenary, to the surprise of most observers.

The decision “takes note” of the work done by the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body – responsible for formulating the guidelines for the mechanism – over the past year, which was finalised at the beginning of October with the adoption of [standards](#) for project methodologies requirements and [standards](#) for activities involved in carbon removals.

While we warmly welcomed Monday's decisions as a critical step forward in the long-overdue operationalisation of the mechanism, some Parties expressed concern about the way the decision was adopted, and warned against the precedent it could set for future decisions, particularly as the Body's adoption of the standards (instead of recommendation) did not leave room for Parties to discuss them further.

Despite the significant step taken on Monday, a number of additional issues regarding further guidance on Article 6.4 have been discussed this week in informal consultations facilitated by Australia and Bhutan, including on the timing and content of authorisations, the mechanism registry's

function, and guardrails needed as the Body starts developing credit rules on the basis of the approved standards.

Parties also extensively engaged in informal consultations facilitated by Norway and Saudi Arabia and in discussions at the Heads of Delegation's level on Article 6.2 – that defines the internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (called ITMOs) that Parties can trade bilaterally or multilaterally.

Despite success in streamlining an initial 43-page text into a shorter, more accessible version for engagement, substantial and unresolved divergences remain between Parties on the definition of cooperative approaches and inconsistencies, the format and changes of authorisations, and additional functionalities and procedures for the international registry.

Draft conclusions for [6.2](#) and [6.4](#) were forward by SBSTA to the COP29 Presidency in the Closing Plenary yesterday evening, under the strict understanding that much of the text does not represent consensus.

Global Stocktake

Informal consultations co-facilitated by Barbados and Canada under the item on implementing the GST outcomes proved complex, with key diverging views remaining on the scope of the dialogue. While developed countries, AOSIS, LDSs and AILAC would like to see a comprehensive follow up of the GST outcomes, including mitigation, adaptation, and finance, LMDCs, African Group, and Arab Group have been called for prioritising financial support and tracking progress on the NCQG.

In yesterday's Closing Plenary, Parties agreed to forward this matter to the CMA on the basis of the co-facilitators' [informal note](#) and recognising that this note includes divergent views on modalities, has not been agreed upon, does not reflect consensus, is not exhaustive, has no formal status, is open to revision, and does not prejudice further work or prevent Parties from expressing any further views.

Mitigation

Informal consultations on the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme (MWP), co-facilitated by Germany and South Africa, saw significant and consistent divisions throughout the week. The co-facilitators' informal note was met with mixed reactions from Parties and groups. Developed countries and other groups, including AOSIS and LDCs, were willing to engage, whereas LMDCs, African Group, and Arab Group rejected the note, arguing it exceeded the programme's mandate.

During yesterday's informal consultations, the proposal from the co-facilitators' to forward procedural conclusions to the CMA was opposed by LMDCs. Given the lack of agreement, this item will be automatically included in the agenda of the next SB session, as per Rule 16 of UNFCCC Draft Rules of Procedure. During the Closing Plenary, many Parties expressed deep disappointment, emphasising the urgency of progress on the MWP, and highlighted that Rule 16 does not represent discussions Parties had this week.

Adaptation

In discussions under "Matters relating to the global goal on adaptation", co-facilitated by Slovenia and Gambia, Parties welcomed the SB Chairs' convening of technical experts to assist in the technical work under the UAE–Belém work programme, and focused on the need for further guidance on defining adaptation indicators and streamlining the current list.

Progress was slow, with important disagreements emerging on the substance. G77 & China advocated for indicators tracking means of implementation, while EU, UK, Japan, Canada and others opposed this view. Discussions also focused on the timing of the GGA's review in relation to the GST.

In the Closing Plenary Parties adopted [procedural conclusions](#) to forward the matter to the CMA, on the basis of the co-facilitators' [draft text](#).

Agriculture

Informal consultations under the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on agriculture and food security, co-facilitated by Belize and Germany, built on the positive progress made at SB60. Parties engaged constructively over the past week and reached agreement on the online portal for sharing information on projects, initiatives and policies, aimed at enhancing the implementation of climate action.

A key welcome feature is the inclusion of submissions from non-Party stakeholders – a different approach from the usual engagement of observers in such submissions.

In the Closing Plenary, Parties adopted [draft conclusions](#) which request that the UNFCCC Secretariat further develops the portal and creates a submission template by SB62. The consideration of this matter will be continued at SBs next session in June 2025.

Just Transition

Contact group discussions under the UAE Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP), co-chaired by Trinidad and Tobago and Norway, where among the difficult ones this week. Disagreements among Parties persisted on a number of issues, including references to unilateral trade measures and GST outcomes, stronger dimension on national contexts and priorities, as well as the need to close implementation gaps and to align just transition efforts with the 1.5° goal.

In the Closing Plenary, Parties recognised that consideration relating to this agenda item did not conclude, and [agreed](#) to forward this matter to the CMA for further consideration.

Kind regards,
ICC COP29 Team