



**Generation  
Climate  
Europe**

# **Generation Climate Europe: COP29 Thematic Priorities**

## **Introduction**

COP29, the annual [UNFCCC Conference of Parties](#), will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan from the 11th to the 22nd November 2024. This COP marks a critical moment for evaluating progress against the Paris Agreement and scaling up ambition to stay within the 1.5°C target.

At Generation Climate Europe (GCE), the largest climate coalition of youth-led networks in Europe, our strategy for COP29 is clear: We demand ambitious, inclusive, and equitable climate policies that prioritise vulnerable communities and empower youth globally. We call for the Global North, as historical contributors to the climate crisis, to take responsibility by providing significant financial and technical support to nations most impacted by climate change, particularly in the Global South.

We are committed to ensuring COP29 is more inclusive and accessible to all young people, regardless of their background. We advocate for equitable access and opportunities to partake in negotiations, sufficient financial support to engage and travel to negotiations, and sufficient training to ensure that the voices of young people, especially those most affected by the climate crisis, are engaged and amplified.

## **Thematic priorities**

### **1) Climate finance:**

Climate finance is pivotal to enable meaningful action for climate adaptation and mitigation. The lack of commitment from developed countries to provide financial resources and funding to address the climate crisis must be addressed. [Article 2.1\(c\) of the Paris Agreement](#) calls for a transformation of the financial system to build resilient and sustainable economies.

The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) is a collective responsibility that we must recognise at COP29. We call for the following in the development of the NCQG:

- Allocating sufficient financing which is driven by the needs and priorities of countries most vulnerable to climate change. It has been established that nearly \$6 trillion will be required by 2030 to implement national climate action plans,

with much more financing required beyond that date. The allocated funds must be sufficient to address any challenges and vulnerabilities. This must incorporate climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, as well as activities and funds associated with Loss and Damage (L&D).

- Prioritising grants over loans in climate finance, given the escalating debt crisis. Public funding must form the backbone of these contributions, with private sector funding serving as a complementary source.
- Implementing concrete measures to ensure funding is directly accessible to vulnerable communities by cutting out unnecessary intermediaries. This can be achieved through simplified application processes, direct financial channels to local organisations, capacity-building support, and prioritising the leadership of local actors, who are best positioned to implement effective climate solutions.
- Broadening the donor base beyond developed countries should be made contingent on developed countries meeting their existing climate finance obligations, including the \$100 billion goal.
- The sources of funding and their intended goals need to be transparently reported, guaranteeing that the funding is additional to existing funding streams, such as official development assistance.
- Explicit coverage of mitigation, adaptation, and L&D must be established in the NCQG. Additionally, funding must be provided to address the three categories collectively.
- Contributions should be supplemented by taxes on highly polluting industries, such as fossil fuel companies, as well as on luxury goods and services that have a significant environmental impact.
- The decision to adopt the NCQG must recognise the importance of funding across multilateral environmental agreements, including for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals.

## **2) Adaptation & Mitigation**

Adaptation measures must be emphasised alongside mitigation efforts, recognising both forms as critical for all countries' climate action plans. It is essential to establish a differentiated adaptation regime that responds to specific local needs. Adaptation must receive commensurate attention, funding, and implementation focus alongside mitigation strategies.

- Funding for adaptation must be grants-based, locally appropriate, and must centre the countries and communities that are most in need. This should be accomplished by improving access to funds for grassroots community projects with a long-term focus. Additionally, it should include advancements in technologies and best practices, as well as efforts to address patents and other barriers to transfer.

- To effectively implement ecosystem-based adaptation, it is crucial to provide both technical and financial support for the development of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and ensure transparent mechanisms for monitoring their implementation. These plans should integrate disaster risk management strategies that leverage and protect natural ecosystems while meaningfully engaging stakeholders.
- Engage local communities and stakeholders in planning adaptation projects and ensure that they have fair wages, sufficient capacity-building, and advanced technology.
- All adaptation initiatives should focus on creating green spaces, improving air quality, enhancing sustainable transportation options, and ensuring access to clean water and nutritious food. All efforts made must build resilience to climate impacts, contribute to overall community wellbeing, and promote social cohesion.
- Significantly increased investment in clean energy infrastructure, sustainable transportation, and ecosystem restoration, recognising these as investments in future generations' wellbeing.

On matters relating to mitigation, we call for:

- The full realisation of tripling renewable energy and doubling energy efficiency globally - to implement this, European countries and the European Union (EU) must:
  - Shift fossil fuel subsidies to renewable energy by 2030;
  - Endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT); and
  - Commit to a time-bound phase-out of fossil fuels.
- Safeguards to secure the achievement of synergistic climate and biodiversity benefits, including the implementation of nature-based solutions (NbS). The NbS should be implemented without compromising the diversity of ecosystems, including marine, forest, and urban areas.

### **3) Recognising climate change as a systemic threat to wellbeing, health, and security**

The climate crisis poses a significant threat to global health and wellbeing. The direct and indirect impacts of climate change on health, social systems, and overall quality of life are critical. These interconnected issues must be addressed through commitments to:

- Recognise the profound impacts of the climate crisis on health, social systems, and wellbeing in their COP29 stance.
- Integrate climate considerations into all health policies and planning processes.
- Ensure youth representation in climate and health policy-making processes to address the long-term nature of these challenges.
- Strengthen healthcare infrastructure to withstand climate-related disruptions.
- Enhance education and awareness about climate-health links, particularly among youth.