

# COP29

## A year in review

### Executive Summary

Each year the COP team at Generation Climate Europe organises events, capacity building opportunities, educational materials, and advocacy training for youth in preparation for the conference. Over the past years, our work has culminated in an in-person delegation to attend COP and advocate for youth, highlighting key priorities that are relevant for the organisation.

This report details the various activities that the COP team undertook in preparation for COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.



# Acknowledgements

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## 1. Background on UNFCCC COPs

The Conference of the Parties has been an annual occurrence under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since 1995. These climate negotiations are among the most important of this field, as the pledges and commitments made during these conferences are undertaken on a large scale. They have drawn attention and scrutiny due to the controversy surrounding how countries engage in the processes.

Significant outcomes have come about as a result of COPs, most notably the Paris Agreement in 2015 which set bounds for global temperature limits and their corresponding climate action plans, as well as the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, which set out emissions targets to follow. This platform is crucial in the fight against climate change, particularly in the engagement of various actors in the COP process. For civil society, influencing decision-makers has historically been the greatest challenge in ensuring adequate climate action.

## 2. GCE's presence at COPs

GCE has prioritised continuous growth in the COP processes. The process to become an accredited organisation was initiated in 2022, with accreditation being granted in 2024. Since 2022, GCE members have participated in the conferences, with the formal delegation growing continuously due to partnerships and the dedication of the COP working group at GCE, which has ensured the representation of young people at these fora and opened up new opportunities for them. The COP28 report published in 2024 details the specifics of GCE's past engagement at COPs.

Consistently, the COP team has prioritized effective and representative advocacy for young people, so that the voices of young people are heard in spaces where they would otherwise not be. Since the creation of the COP project team at Generation Climate Europe, these efforts have been gradually bolstered.

## 3. The build-up to COP29

### 3.1. RCOY Europe

The Regional Conference of Youth (RCOY) Europe took place in Vienna in May 2024, bringing together over 100 young people from more than 30 countries across Europe. This event served as a platform for European youth to collaborate and discuss key issues affecting their future, particularly climate action, sustainability, social equity, and youth participation. The conference culminated in the publication of the European Youth Statement, which outlined concrete demands for a more sustainable, inclusive, and socially just Europe.

The statement reflects a collective vision for Europe that addresses urgent challenges and lays the groundwork for an inclusive and prosperous future. It highlights the importance of involving young people as key stakeholders in decision-making processes and ensuring their perspectives are embedded in policies that shape Europe's response to the climate crisis.

The conference strongly emphasised the intersectionality of social justice and the climate crisis, calling for a fair transition that leaves no one behind. Climate action must address structural inequalities and ensure that the voices of marginalised groups -including socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals, women, and Indigenous communities- are heard. Youth representation was at the heart of this event, both as contributors and leaders of change.

Participants called for youth-friendly policies that remove barriers to participation, including visa support, funding for travel, and better communication about available opportunities. The young people in attendance also advocated for fair remuneration of the contributions made by volunteers as well as the discontinuation of unpaid internships in the interest of increased accessibility.

#### Priorities and Key Demands

##### Energy Transition

- Setting ambitious emissions reduction targets (95% by 2040 compared to 2019 levels).
- Phasing out fossil fuels entirely by 2035.
- Promoting decentralized renewable energy solutions like solar and wind.

##### Climate Finance

- Prioritising funding for climate mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage, especially for vulnerable communities.
- Implementing the "polluter pays" principle to finance climate initiatives.
- Ensuring that climate finance is gender-responsive and supports human rights.

##### Water and Oceans

- Recognizing water as a central pillar in climate action.
- Supporting coastal communities and integrating ocean conservation in climate strategies.
- Developing international ocean-cleaning programs and advocating for the BBNJ treaty (The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction).

#### Social Justice and Intersectionality

- Ensuring marginalised communities are included in climate centered decision-making.
- Supporting youth participation through funding, visa assistance, and mentorship.
- Addressing climate-related inequalities, particularly affecting children and indigenous youth.

#### Education and Awareness

- Integrating climate education into school curricula at all levels.
- Promoting lifelong learning on climate and sustainability issues.
- Enhancing political education and sustainable development education from an early age.

#### Sustainable Cities and Rural Areas

- Increasing green spaces in urban areas for climate adaptation and mental health benefits.
- Improving public transport and prioritizing renewable energy use in transportation.
- Empowering rural communities through decentralized energy systems and reliable local funding.

GCE had a presence at RCOY Europe with a total of 8 members in attendance, who were actively engaged in the discussions, events and the writing of the Regional Youth Statement.

Prior to the RCOY Europe, GCE's COP Coordinators played integral roles in shaping the agenda, focus, organisation, and structure of the conference. Through having an active role in the early stages of the RCOY's development, ties with other members of youth civil society were strengthened and the team became immersed in the climate negotiations process in the lead-up to the SBs that followed in June 2024.

Members of GCE additionally led a workshop on Climate Finance, wherein participants explored the topic of innovative finance beyond the basics. A deep-dive was conducted into the elements and factors that feed into the most urgent conversations happening about climate finance, with a focus on understanding the nuances on why climate finance is such a divisive issue in the negotiations spaces.

Moreover, GCE members engaged with other participants and activist groups at the opportunity market.

## **4. SB60: The 2024 Bonn Conference**

The Bonn Climate Change Conference is a pivotal event in the UNFCCC process, setting the stage for upcoming negotiations at COP29 by starting negotiating the documents to be adopted at COP29.

Held from 3-13 June 2024 at the World Conference Center in Bonn, SB60 marked the first major UN climate meeting since the Global Stocktake (GST) decision at COP28, making it a critical reminder of the gap in implementation of the Paris Agreement. With 8,606 registered participants, including negotiators, observers, and media representatives, the conference underscored the deep divisions between parties, particularly around key issues such as mitigation, finance, and adaptation. For those unable to attend in person, several events at SB60 were made available via webcast, providing broader access to the proceedings and enabling remote participation.

Throughout the conference, a series of technical and side events were held, featuring a wide range of discussions and contributions from civil society focusing on the ongoing negotiation streams and topics that are not formally negotiated. At SB60, GCE's external partnerships were instrumental in ensuring a strong presence in the negotiations spaces, as well as the engagement between civil society and decision-makers.

### **4.1. Key Negotiation Outcomes**

Despite the high hopes that followed the Global Stocktake outcome of COP28, the SB60 negotiations showed slow and limited progress.

One of the main areas of concern was the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP), intended to scale up global mitigation efforts during this critical decade. However, discussions on the MWP remained deadlocked, and many negotiators and observers expressed frustration over the lack of ambition. The deadlock raised concerns that mitigation might become a "taboo topic" within the UNFCCC process.

On climate finance, another area of significant contention, parties failed to resolve major divides on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) - set to replace the \$100 billion annual commitment post-2025. Key disagreements included who should contribute to the goal and how much the contributions entailed.

In addition, discussions on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) showed limited ambition, with a lack of clear direction given on how to scale up adaptation efforts in vulnerable regions and locations.

## **4.2. Civil Society Actions and Advocacy**

Throughout SB60, civil society advocated for justice, human rights, and climate action.

Frontline communities and Indigenous groups strongly called for the integration of human rights standards into all climate protection measures. They emphasized the importance of protecting the space for civil society action and preventing human rights violations associated with climate projects. In line with these concerns, calls were made for future UNFCCC host countries to guarantee basic rights to civil society and activists.

The “Not Without Us!” initiative brought gender issues to the forefront, focusing on the Gender Action Plan and highlighting the role of women in climate justice. Additionally, discussions during the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) negotiations underscored the importance of education, public awareness, and participation in making climate action more inclusive and accessible to all.

## **4.3. Our Delegation**

The GCE delegation at SB60 comprised six members attending the conference over its two weeks duration. The GCE delegation prioritised the active engagement of members in formal and informal bilaterals.

YOUNGO Spokes Council Meetings were instrumental for civil society across the board to stay updated on new developments, align their strategies, and discuss priorities for the day. Building on past advocacy, GCE engaged alongside YOUNGO, the official youth constituency of the UNFCCC, as well as other activist networks to lobby for stronger commitments on mitigation, finance, and adaptation.

Throughout the conference, GCE delegates provided regular updates on social media, interviews, and reflections, helping to keep European youth informed and engaged with the latest developments from the negotiations.

## **5. EESC Youth Delegate Programme**

The EESC Youth Delegate to COP Programme is an initiative organised by the European Economic and Social Committee together with GCE and the European Youth Forum. As its second mandate has come to a close, the reflections made by the youth delegate for

2023-2024, Diandra Ni Bhuachalla, are critical in ensuring that young people are represented in an authentic and productive manner.

“It was brilliant to experience how integrated the youth delegate role is within the AHG on UNFCCC. The encouragement and interest of the other members of the group to hear youth perspectives was always heartwarming. The NAT President always ensured that everyone within the group had an opportunity to speak, should they wish to, and receiving a special named welcome at the beginning of the sessions also made me feel particularly included and at home.

It took me some time to figure out the impact that I could have at COP, as a young person as part of civil society. As a United Nations Youth Delegate for Ireland 2021-22, I was so lucky to be used to being able to follow/contribute to negotiations, but youth inclusion within that space at COP is very limited, along with young people being part of their national delegations in the first instance.

However, I also found out that there are all different sorts of reasons why people attend COPs - for negotiations, side-events, networking, social media, etc. This really helped me to understand my role, and the role of the EESC, more broadly within the UNFCCC process, and helped me to make a greater impact in my messaging especially at COP29 I believe.”



As one of the first of its kind, the EESC Youth Delegate Programme has established best practices that other EU institutions can look to when establishing their own mechanisms. As the programme is now entering into its third mandate, the selection process is underway with a new youth delegate set to be selected soon!

## 6. Virtual Events

The team continued to plan virtual events in the lead-up to COP29, with the intention of engaging young people in climate negotiations without the associated exclusivity preventing accessibility to the process.

One of the major drivers behind the events calendar for 2024-25 was to explore the intricacies of the UNFCCC in its system and processes, the role of COPs in climate change policymaking, as well as activism and its intersection with these negotiations.

Virtual events are much more accessible to a wider audience, giving young people the chance to exchange knowledge, network, and share ideas without the limitations of in-person activities.

## 6.1. The COP Podcast Series

The COP podcast series was conceptualized due to a demand for more accessible information about the conference processes. In many cases, young people are presumed to know exactly what is going on as well as the context behind certain topics—this podcast is a continuous effort to fill in some of those gaps.

Young people who were active in civil society spaces were highlighted as guest speakers throughout the podcast episodes, each of them having had an area of expertise that granted insight into the topic discussed.



**Global Stocktake:** This episode, featuring the GCE Vice-President Sophia Wiegand and ClimaTalk’s Millie May, was moderated by COP Coordinator Penny Kapusuzoglu. The GST, one of the pivotal outcomes of COP28, was unpacked in this episode. The speakers explored the implications of the Global Stocktake as well as predictions for how it would be addressed at future COPs going forward.

**Biodiversity:** The episode on biodiversity featured GCE’s Biodiversity Working Group Coordinator, Damien Jahan, as well as Namir Chowdhury and Axel Eriksson. The intention of highlighting biodiversity was twofold, partly because of GCE’s overarching focus on the topic, but also in light of the Biodiversity COP to take place later in the year. Among the topics addressed were the upcoming biodiversity plans and the necessity of Nature Based Solutions in how biodiversity and wildlife are preserved and protected.

**Greenwashing:** The third episode of the COP29 cycle centered on greenwashing and accountability, particularly in the context of the Green Claims Directive. Featured speakers included GCE’s Kira Kluge, Alba Mullen Project Lead on Textiles at GCE, and YES-Europe’s Josh Bierschbach. The perspectives explored on the topic of greenwashing dove into hot topics linked to the energy and the textiles sectors respectively.

As a continuous project, the COP Podcast Series will be a featured part of the COP30

cycle in 2025-26.

## **6.2. COP29 Essentials – A Crash Course on Climate Negotiations**

This two-day workshop gave participants an overview on the main topics that would be discussed at COP29, along with guidelines on participation and creating an impact in climate negotiations spaces.

Inspired by the success of our Masterclass on Climate Negotiations training devised for COP27, the team approached this training with the intention of relaying information that may not typically be accessible to all young people participating in climate negotiations.

### **Day 1**

Building a connection with all of the participants was an integral part of devising this crash course event; the personal and interactive element to the training was prioritized. Time was allotted to getting to know one another, between participants as well as the participants and facilitators.

The agenda was packed with several sessions to catch all participants up on what they need to know about the UNFCCC negotiations and processes. An overview was provided on the history of UNFCCC COPs, some of the most important outcomes of previous COPs, and an interactive deep-dive into how COPs work on the ground. The decisions that have led to collective and institutionalised action were given particular attention, as a way to demonstrate how past precedent has impacted the major decisions of the recent COPs, in addition to how these precedents can affect future negotiations.

Resources were shared regarding efficient networking and the channels that can be utilized by young people getting involved in the climate movement. The first day of the training focused on ensuring that everyone had a similar level of knowledge on climate negotiations, to avoid any confusion when specific topics were spotlighted.

The second session was led by the COP29 Coordinator for Generation Climate Europe, Penny Kapusuzoğlu, who prepared a workshop on advocacy and lobbying in climate change negotiations. The workshop session briefly touched upon the fundamentals of lobbying in climate negotiations before deep-diving into how to adjust one's pitch according to their audience; the participants all completed various activities on how they would prepare for bilaterals with different stakeholders, including the information that they have– as well as information that they may not have– about the person with whom they are meeting. The exercise facilitated participants to discover their own style of lobbying and negotiations, and how to get the most out of chance interactions with negotiators.

Following the workshop, a toolkit that Penny developed using the feedback from participants was disseminated, so that they would be able to utilize their negotiations skills in any setting.

The final session of the day was led by Project Officer on COP29 Events, Areesha Rashid, who was joined by Jakob Mohl, Biodiversity Coordinator, on the topic of ecosystems and biodiversity. The event underscored the importance of understanding the planetary boundaries as interconnected phenomena and stressed a need for biodiversity to be considered in a more significant manner in climate negotiations. One of the example cases that was analyzed with the participants was the EU Nature Restoration Law to demonstrate how youth advocacy has been able to influence policy making at an international level.

## Day 2

The second day of the training centered on Green Cities, which was then followed by a session on Sustainable Finance and ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) in an effort to dive deeper into the critical subject of climate finance, which has proven itself to be increasingly relevant at COPs.

Zhuldyz Ramazanov, Project Officer on COP29 Events summarised her experience: *"During this two-day event, I had a session with two speakers, one working on Green Buildings in Central Asia and other ESG head in ACMA Power. I did an introduction to the matters of sustainable development and ESG, to give an overview of the topic and introduce the deeper topics covered by speakers."*



Project Officer on COP29 Events, Sakshi Krishna, organised a keynote speech and a panel discussion for the final aspect of the training, titled Empowering Youth through Climate Finance.

The panel was composed of the following speakers:

- Tolu Olusina, a climate consultant with the International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- Aurora Audino, Sustainable Finance & Climate Policy Consultant (also with the IFC)
- Fidelis Stehle from FIMCAP Europe
- Emmanuella Doreen Kwofie, lawyer and climate negotiator and Project Manager for Grandhedge International, a youth-led non-profit organisation

The panelists emphasised the importance of negotiations moving towards a climate finance goal (NCQG) and underscored that the upcoming COP29 would be vital in reaching a goal that is sufficient for progress. The crash course closed on a note of encouragement, pressing participants to do their own research and facilitate their own engagement in climate negotiations leading up to COP29.

### 6.3. Webinar: What to know for COP29

In contrast with the crash course on climate negotiations, which assumed varying levels of knowledge on COPs and the negotiations process, the webinar organised on 'what to know for COP29' aimed to educate experienced participants on the expected themes leading into COP29, with a target demographic of youth delegates or young people attending COPs who may be seeking guidance on efficient operating at COPs.

#### Webinar topics covered:

Climate Finance

Adaptation & Mitigation

Loss & Damage

Climate Justice

The webinar comprised a brief overview of the main outcomes of COP28 before exploring the potential outcomes of COP29 along with their associated consequences. The negotiations of interest were pointed out and then analyzed, so that participants could be prepared to follow certain sessions at the COP itself.

Climate finance, expected to be one of the main negotiation items at COP29, coincided with other topics to be addressed as COP due to its sheer scope. A commonly repeated sentiment about the topic is that climate finance is 'the centre of everything', namely Mitigation and Loss & Damage. As such, there are different levels and tiers to addressing climate finance as a concept, which this webinar outlined for the audience.

Key concepts of climate finance were explained, resulting in the conclusion that many outcomes that must be achieved for a 'successful' COP29 include setting new climate finance goals, refining carbon markets, operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund, as well as boosting private sector investment for climate resilience.

While addressing Loss & Damage, the importance of the Global Loss and Damage Fund was emphasized. One of the major concerns were the expected updates on funding commitments and transparency measures to be applied by states. When addressing equity-focused solutions and accountability from states in financing the just transition, these are some of the primary logistical 'problem issues' that arise.

That said, Mitigation and Adaptation could qualify as 'continuous' discussion topics at COPs— much like other topics, it is certain that conversations about mitigation and

adaptation will not be resolved at one singular COP but will rather require attention at a series of COPs to increase progress and development. A special focus was concentrated on the Ministerial Paris for Adaptation, Mitigation, and Article 6.

The closing sentiments of the webinar were anecdotal, supported by Namir Chowdhury, COP29 Coordinator for Generation Climate Europe, who shared his personal experiences about making the most of opportunities at COPs without getting overwhelmed by the number of options; prioritising specific items and setting aside time for networking were among the more valuable insights that he has gained from his last few COPs.

#### **6.4. Webinar: Debriefing the main outcomes of COP29**

This post-COP29 debrief event was aimed at people trying to understand the main outcomes of COP29 and what the next steps on various negotiation topics and decisions would be.

Discussing the outcomes of the main negotiation items, the panel was made up of the following speakers:

- Timon Steger, YOUNGO Finance & Markets Working Group
- Hermia Chan, YOUNGO Article 6 Coordinator
- Elizabeth Chavdarska, GCE Just Transition Coordinator
- Sebastian Salcedo, GCE Nature Restoration Project Lead
- Axel Eriksson, GCE Project Lead on COP29 Strategy

Timon explained that the decisions made on climate finance are at best very weak in terms of quality and commitments by states. The NCQG decided upon was insufficient for what would be needed. Another critical problem was that there were very few details on how vulnerable communities will be protected.

Hermia informed the participants that under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, it is possible for states to receive credits for carbon reductions and sell those, which other countries can then buy to reach their targets. One of the decisions that resulted from COP29 concerned standards on the methodology requirements as well as authorisation conditions and a dual-tier system for issuing and trading carbon credits.

Elizabeth addressed the Just Transition Work Programme and explained the necessity for climate solutions to be inclusive and equitable– to “leave no one behind.” The UNFCCC Just Transition Work Programme aims to achieve the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement through just and equitable transition in all sectors. However, at COP29 no decision was made as parties could not come to a consensus, indicating that the negotiations (and thus, any meaningful progress) will be delayed until a future date.

Sebastian highlighted the failure of parties to come to an agreement on mitigation, along with a walk-back from the COP28 wording of “transitioning away from fossil fuels.” Concerns were shared about the watered-down language and what this will mean for the approach taken to fulfilling commitments.

Axel gave insights into youth participation at COP29, giving anecdotes about his own advocacy work and civil society actions that made clear to negotiators in the venue that civil society will not stop advocating for climate action. In the second week of negotiations, civil society in attendance at COP29 did stage such a demonstration, making their collective disagreement with the direction of negotiations clear to negotiators.

The event closed with the emphasis on networking and staying in contact with fellow activists and other organisations in order to plan collective actions and make a greater impact together.

## 7. Partnerships with global and regional youth NGOs for shared advocacy

GCE’s COP29 Team actively collaborated with youth networks and organisations in the lead-up and throughout the duration of COP29 in the interest of shared advocacy.

These collaborations primarily involved sharing and discussing negotiation developments, co-organising multilateral meetings, hosting and speaking at side events, and organising opportunities to spotlight youth.

The engagements of GCE operate both at a global and regional scale:

- **At a global scale**, youth come together physically and digitally in **YOUNGO**, the official youth constituency of the UNFCCC, to shape intergovernmental climate change policies and empower children and youth to formally bring their voices to the processes. GCE members engaged actively in their working groups on mitigation, food, and finance & markets. One member attended the Climate Finance Academy provided by their Finance & Markets Working Group and collaborated on a side event held on unilateral trade measures’ impact on Mozambican youth.
- A new partnership was forged following COP29, when Generation Climate Europe joined the **Climate Reality Project’s** Reality Tour as a partner organisation for the in-person training occurring in Paris, France on 28-30 March 2025. GCE President Agata Meysner hosted a day of training and COP29 Coordinator Penny Kapusuzoglu gave a short speech to sum up the importance of climate advocacy,

in addition to the several members of GCE who were chosen to participate in the training.

- **On an organisation to organisation basis**, GCE maintained and strengthened its ties to pre-established partnerships with the **European Youth Forum (YFJ)** and **Youth and Environment Europe (YEE)**. Along with this, increased coordination and representation was facilitated between GCE and Member Organisation **FIMCAP**. Best practices include jointly developing a relationship to the UN youth delegates to inform each other prior to major events on the positions.
- As members of the steering committee of the **Children & Youth Pavilion (C&YP)**, providing a physical space for children and young people to engage at COPs in the Blue Zone of the designated space, GCE contributed to the preparation of the programme, hosting of side events, and logistical support.
- As members of the **Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe**, our delegation attended the weekly CAN strategy meetings, the small group meetings amongst thematic working groups, and occasionally observed bilateral meetings organised by the network. We shared our priorities with the network and supported their actions when aligned with our areas of work. GCE members participated in the action on committing trillions of dollars in climate finance, which ended up in an article of the [Guardian](#).

One of the most significant outcomes of these collaborative advocacy efforts was the **organisation, preparation, and debriefing of bilaterals with key European decision-makers**.

These meetings provided a platform for young people to voice their own priorities, present demands, and ask critical questions about policy developments, which offers key insights into what happens behind the scenes.

This was particularly crucial at COP29, where many negotiations took place in “*informal informals*”— closed-door discussions that were made inaccessible to observers and ostracized civil society.

Through bilaterals, youth representatives could at least gain an understanding of party positions and engage in targeted advocacy efforts. **Ensuring these opportunities are shared among youth NGOs is essential in making them more accessible, impactful, and representative.**

Bilaterals and youth dialogues before and during COP29 included, but were not limited to, meetings with

- European Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra
- Deputy Director-General of DG CLIMA, Jan Dusík
- MEP Lena Schilling of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

- Robert Habeck, Minister for Economics and Climate Action, Germany

### **Other opportunities and collaborations**

Generation Climate Europe coordinated with Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) and FIMCAP to develop a shared position on climate action ahead of COP29. Over several months, youth organisations came together in discussions, exchanging ideas and shaping a common vision on key climate issues.

This collaboration functioned to unify youth voices, ensuring that their priorities and demands were clearly represented in the lead-up to the negotiations. By working together, these organisations strengthened their collective advocacy, amplifying the role of young people in global climate action and pushing for more ambitious policies at COP29.

## **8. Our thematic priorities for COP29**

To shape the thematic priorities for COP29, Generation Climate Europe's COP29 team developed a comprehensive consultation process that engaged both GCE's internal network and broader European youth groups. The objective was to foster active support for GCE's advocacy before, during, and after COP29 from its member organisations and youth stakeholders. Another key component of this process was to ensure that the messages and priorities communicated by GCE are as representative as possible of what young people are prioritizing in the conversation on climate and environmental issues. The consultation process aimed to determine the strategic priorities and how they should be promoted.

Another important aspect that the team took into consideration was ensuring GCE's advocacy remained inclusive, reflecting the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of European youth, both through a wider consultation and acknowledgement of the perspectives that may be underemphasised in the strategy.

The first phase of the consultation process took place in May 2024, focusing on internal consultations with GCE working groups. The focus groups centered on three priorities identified by the COP29 Strategy Team as particularly relevant at COP29: Climate finance, mitigation and adaptation, and meaningful youth participation and inclusivity in climate action. Additional focus group meetings were conducted throughout July on the same topics with the broader GCE COP29 team and FIMCAP, one of the member organisations of GCE.

Recognizing the importance of reaching beyond its core network, GCE also conducted a youth survey in July and August. To enhance the representativeness of the process, the COP29 Strategy Team collaborated with the COP29 Partnership Team to reach out to

various youth organisations representing underrepresented communities. This involved proactively reaching out to youth organisations representing LGBTQI+ communities, feminist groups, and Roma communities, among other groups.

It was a goal established early in the team's activities to reach young people from Eastern, Western, Northern, and Southern Europe, in order to have geographical diversity in the responses. At least one organisation from each group and one from each region was contacted. To maximise reach, the survey was shared through social media channels. The survey ultimately provided valuable insights that were carefully incorporated into the refined thematic priorities and advocacy methods.

All of the inputs gathered were consolidated into a single comprehensive document with special attention given to the most frequently mentioned and recurring themes.

Read Generation Climate Europe's COP29 thematic priorities [here!](#)

These priorities formed the foundation for the advocacy activities conducted by GCE in the journey taken towards COP29. The document was sent to allied organisations and key actors to lobby, in particular the EU delegations. Finally, the thematic priorities were used as a tool to identify which negotiation topics and other activities at COP29 were most relevant for GCE members to follow and report on in our channels.

Generation Climate Europe was a part of a strong advocacy from civil society organisations for the Global North to commit to providing climate finance on the scale of trillions, not billions, of US dollars.

## 9. COP29: At the conference

### Delegation

With 10 virtual badges distributed to members of the COP29 team, the delegation's on-the-ground presence was supplemented by the research and updates provided by the virtual delegation. This facilitation of 'hybrid' engagement between the team enabled members on-site to be assisted by those who were working remotely. There was a blend of GCE members on-site, most of whom only attended for one week.

During the first week, the delegates in attendance focused on following the negotiations, engaging with other youth civil society, and joining bilaterals and multilaterals as opportunities arose.



Badges utilized were a blend of GCE badges and those distributed either by partner organisations or through external opportunities wherein badges are awarded based on the quality of applications. In total, the GCE members in attendance of COP29 exceeded the number at all previous UNFCCC COPs.

### Side Events

- Side event on EU climate policy impact on youth in developing countries: GCE had the opportunity to co-organize the EU-Mozambique CBAM Side Event at the Children & Youth Pavilion, focusing on the impact of EU climate policies on youth in developing countries, with Mozambique as a key case study. Collaborating with the Belgian Development Agency (Enabel), YCAC-MOZ and the YOUNGO Finance & Markets working group, we helped shape discussions on the **equity and fairness of the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), particularly its implications for Mozambican industries, youth livelihoods, and economic sustainability**. The event underscored the importance of inclusive policy-making, ensuring that young people from both the Global South and the EU are meaningfully engaged in climate finance decisions. Key takeaways included the need for transparent and fair CBAM implementation, revenue recycling mechanisms that support climate adaptation in affected regions, and enhanced EU-Global South cooperation in designing just climate policies.
- European Regional Networking Session: For the second consecutive year, GCE organised and took part in the informal European Regional Networking session for young people, hosted by the Children & Youth Pavilion. Intended to facilitate the dialogue and interaction between young Europeans at the Conference of the Parties, the session provided a lively space to engage.
- Youth Engagement on Local Climate Action: Project Lead on COP29 Strategy, Axel Eriksson, spoke at this event on behalf of Generation Climate Europe. Hosted by ANP|WWF Portugal at the Portuguese Pavilion, the event intended to explore the importance and contributions of work carried by and with young people in connection to cities' climate efforts. In sharing the initiatives and actions of young people engaging in climate advocacy, this event provided a platform for youth in the climate space.



## Conclusion

The journey to COP29 demanded time, energy, and effort on the part of the entire COP29 team at GCE. In addition to being an informative overview of the activities we undertook before, during, and after COP29, this report functions as a letter of appreciation for all of the GCE volunteers who channeled their passions into giving visibility to the actions and priorities of young people in this climate movement, working tirelessly to promote our vision for the future at the highest of levels.

From meeting with decision-makers to strategizing with other members of youth civil society, the COP29 team at Generation Climate Europe dedicated over a year to ensuring that youth voices were heard.

There is a long road ahead of civil society, especially young people, advocating for meaningful change, as we look toward the future. The next step is to begin planning for COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

A new team is busy strategizing for what changes are to come and the path to take in the lead-up to it. It is with the passion that GCE volunteers have, along with their drive for change, that we will ensure that our collective activities at COP30 make a difference.



## Staying in touch

Please contact [cop@gceurope.org](mailto:cop@gceurope.org) with any questions that you may have about our activities and opportunities for engagement.