



29th Conference of the Parties to the
United Nations Framework Convention on

Climate Change

11-22 November 2024



JUSTICE *Coalition* OF RELIGIOUS

This guide was produced by the [Justice Coalition of Religious](#) (JCoR), a coalition of 23 non-governmental organizations that are accredited to collectively represent over 200 congregations of Roman Catholic women and men Religious at the United Nations (UN). For centuries, congregations of Religious have served people who have been rendered poor, vulnerable, oppressed, and marginalized by existing global systems. Through our membership in JCoR, we have united with our sister and brother organizations to enhance collaboration among our members – at UN Headquarters and around the world – in our common mission: to improve quality of life for people who are living in poverty and to enhance our stewardship of the natural environment.

The primary aim of our collaboration is to strengthen the capacity of Catholic Religious and their partners to address the root causes of human and environmental suffering.

We work toward this goal by coordinating national, regional, and global efforts of Religious to call on political leaders to take action for a just, equitable, and rights-based implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), the United Nations' Agenda for 2015-2030.

We hope these pages will help empower you join us in this mission!



What is COP29

COP29 refers to the 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the annual climate COP, delegates from UN Member States come together to negotiate and agree upon actions to address climate change, such as limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, helping vulnerable countries adapt to the effects of climate change, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Governments' representatives also present their national plans for contributing to the accomplishment of these goals and report on challenges, best practices, and progress.

In addition to delegates from UN Member States, COP29 also gathers climate-concerned leaders from civil society, indigenous groups, academia, younger generations, and the private sector to accelerate our collective response to the climate crisis. At COP29, all of these actors will discuss the key priority of establishing a new goal on climate finance, ensuring every country has the means to take strong climate action, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and build resilient communities.

Why is COP29 important?

COP29 is a pivotal moment for the world. We know what actions we must take in order to tackle the climate crisis, and we must act now. Everyone has a role to play. We need to accelerate the transition to renewable energy, phase out fossil fuels, strengthen climate resilience, provide the financial resources to put solutions into action, and ensure no one is left behind. "We rise together, or we fall together. Let's make COP29 count."





Essential TERMINOLOGY

The following terms provide an important foundation for understanding the global-policy conversation on climate change. You will want to be familiar with them if you plan on participating in or following the discussions at COP29

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UNFCCC outlines the legal framework and principles for international climate change cooperation. Its overarching goal is to reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and to desist from dangerous human interference with the global climate system. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC is the United Nations body tasked with assessing the science related to climate change. It collects scientific, technical, and socio-economic data on the risks and impacts of climate change and produces reports to guide governments in an effective response to the crisis. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is an international treaty, adopted in 2015, to address climate change. It marks a significant achievement in the global discourse as the first legally-binding agreement to unite a multitude of countries in a collective commitment to engage in ambitious efforts to tackle climate change and its impacts. Under the Paris Agreement, individual countries determine how much they will reduce their carbon emissions each year, and these plans are called [nationally determined contributions](#) (NDCs). Click [here](#) to learn more.

Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG13)

SDG13 is a commitment by the global community to combat climate change as an important part of the of the UN's overall Sustainable Development Agenda. It sets specific targets and indicators for measuring our progress in addressing climate change. Its placement in the Sustainable Development Agenda signals a recognition that environmental conservation is a pillar of progress for the international community and should be monitored and promoted alongside other measures of development. Click [here](#) to learn more.

The year of three COPs

Three global treaties emerged from the 1992 [Rio Earth Summit](#): Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Biodiversity loss, climate change, and desertification are significantly interconnected issues that pose existential threats to all of Creation, and this year all three Conferences of the Parties (or COPs) will be held in close succession, working toward cross-cutting solutions to some of the greatest challenges of our time.

BIODIVERSITY

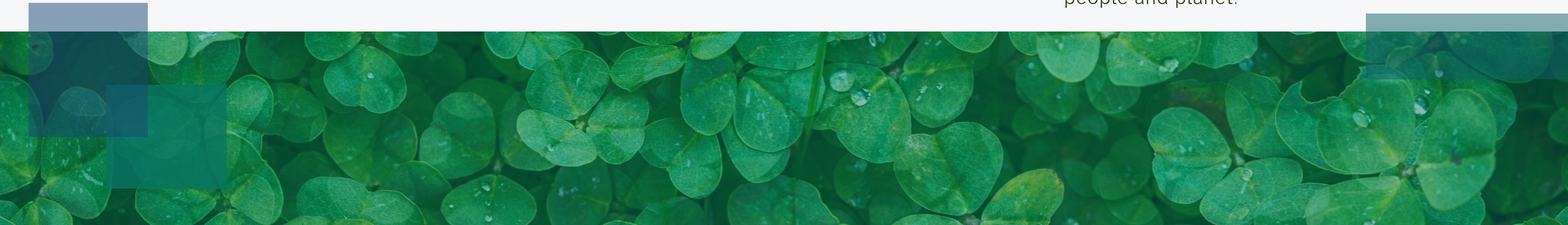
The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a legally binding framework that aims to conserve biodiversity, ensure the sustainable use of its components, and fairly share the benefits of genetic resources. The [16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD](#) (COP16) transpired in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November with a central theme of “Peace with Nature.” Governments failed to reach a consensus and will continue the discussions next year at an interim meeting in Bangkok.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international agreement with the overarching objective to prevent “dangerous” human interference with the climate system. The [29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC](#) (COP29) will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 11-22 November. Finance is the focus of COP29, with an emphasis on setting a new global climate finance goal to support the low-carbon transition and build resilience to climate change impacts.

DESERTIFICATION

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was established to protect and restore land, and it is the only legally binding framework created to address desertification and drought. The [16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD](#) (COP16) will be held from 2-13 December in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia with the theme of “Our Land, Our Future.” It aims to renew the global commitment to accelerate investment and action to restore land and boost drought resilience for the benefit of people and planet.



COP29 Details

When

11-22 November 2024

Where

ONLINE: Follow the proceedings of COP29 at <https://www.youtube.com/@UNClimateChangeEvents/featured>

IN-PERSON: Baku, Azerbaijan

- **Blue Zone:** This zone is the formal conference and negotiation space at COP29. All the official sessions, meetings, side events, and press conferences held during COP29 will take place in the Blue Zone. Only accredited government and observer delegates (individuals registered for COP29 who have an official COP29 access badge) can enter this space.
- **Green Zone:** This zone serves as a platform for a diverse group of non-accredited delegates (including global civil society, youth, indigenous groups, academics, and representatives from the private sector) to engage in dialogue and promote awareness about climate action, in recognition that collaboration among all stakeholders is essential to the task of addressing the challenges of climate change. Electronic tickets are required to access the green zone. Click [here](#) (link coming soon) to register.

COP29 Websites

UNFCCC: <https://unfccc.int/cop29> including the [COP29 virtual platform](#)

COP29 Azerbaijan Presidency: <https://cop29.az> including answers to Frequently Asked Questions [here](#)

COP29 Observer Handbook

This [handbook](#) is designed to help you navigate COP29 and get the most out of your participation





PROGRAMME *of events*

Programme

Click on the following links to access the [overview schedule](#), the [schedule of events](#), and the [daily programme](#) (available starting 11 November)

11 November: COP29 Opening

12-13 November: World Leaders Climate Action Summit

14 November: Finance, Investment and Trade Day

15 November: Energy / Peace, Relief and Recovery Day

16 November: Science, Technology and Innovation / Digitalisation Day

18 November: Human Capital / Children and Youth / Health / Education Day

19 November: Food, Agriculture and Water Day

20 November: Urbanisation / Transport / Tourism Day

21 November: Nature and Biodiversity / Indigenous People / Gender Equality /
Oceans and Coastal Zones Day

22 November: Final Negotiations



Side Events

Click on the following links to access the full list of COP29 [side events](#) and [exhibits](#)

Recommended EVENTS

VISIT JCoR's WEBSITE

Please visit [JCoR's COP29 webpage](#) to access a curated list of side events and parallel events that are recommended by JCoR and our Religious community at the United Nations in New York.

CLICK HERE

SOCIAL MEDIA Recommendations



Use the hashtags:

#COP29 and #COP29Azerbaijan

Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR)

Twitter: [@JCoR2030](#) Facebook: [@JCoR2030](#)

LinkedIn: [@JCoR2030](#) YouTube: [@JCoR2030](#)

JCoR Members

Click [here](#) to access a Twitter list of JCoR members

Your congregation's NGO at the UN

Need help? Find many congregations' NGO's social media details [here](#)

Your government's Permanent Mission to the United Nations

COP29

Twitter: [@COP29_AZ](#) Facebook: [@cop29azerbaijan](#)

Instagram: [@cop29_azerbaijan](#) LinkedIn: [@cop29azerbaijan](#)

TikTok: [@cop29_azerbaijan](#) YouTube: [@cop29aze](#)

United Nations Climate Change

Twitter: [@UNFCCC](#) Facebook: [@UNclimatechange](#)

Instagram: [@unclimatechange](#) LinkedIn: [UN Climate Change](#)

TikTok: [@unclimatechange](#) YouTube: [@UNClimateChange](#)

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Twitter: [@IPCC_CH](#) Facebook: [@IPCC](#)

Call to ACTION

The Interfaith Liaison Committee of the UNFCCC invites you to read and endorse an ***Interfaith Call to Action***. This statement expresses concerns, demands, and hopes of faith communities, to be delivered to the UNFCCC Executive Secretariat and the Presidency of COP29. It urges world leaders to approach negotiations in good faith, with genuine intention to find solutions.

"By fostering hope, trust, and decisive action, we can lift the human family's spirit and create ripples of positive change. Together, we can give the world a reason to feel hopeful about our shared future."

Organizations may sign this petition from now up to **9 November 2024**.



[CLICK HERE TO READ AND ENDORSE THE PETITION](#)