



APSWDP AT UNFCCC COP 29 - BAKU EXPERIENCE: A REPORT

11th - 24th November, 2024

In Solidarity for a Green World



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP)

Association in Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations


Affiliated with the Department of Global Communications (DGC) of the United Nations

Accredited with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Observer Status with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Provisional Observer admittance in the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD)

Associated with the UNESCO MIL Alliance, Registered with the NITI AAYOG (Former Planning Commission)



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United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

Yaşıl dünya
namına hemray olaq

COP29

UN CLIMATE
CHANGE CONFERENCE
2024

COP29

In Solidarity for a
Green World

COP29

Livestock kills 75% of
our land, forest & Oceans

VEGAN lifestyle

can restore this **75%** and achieve
Climate Success **in 2 years**

Veganpolicy.com

Building sustainable cities - and a sustainable future - will need open dialogue among all branches of national, regional and local government. And it will need the engagement of all stakeholders - including the private sector and civil society, and especially the poor and marginalized.

- Ban Ki-moon

Former Secretary-General of the United Nations

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APSWDP Cohort COP 2024 - Novel Partners





BACKGROUND





ABOUT UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is the UN process for negotiating an agreement to limit dangerous climate change. It is an international treaty among countries to combat "dangerous human interference with the climate system". The main way to do this is by limiting the increase in **greenhouse gases in the atmosphere**. It was signed in 1992 by 154 states at the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)**, informally known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro. The treaty entered into force on 21 March 1994. "UNFCCC" is also the name of the Secretariat charged with supporting the operation of the convention, with offices on the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany.

The convention's main objective is explained in Article 2. It is the "*stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic [i.e., human-caused] interference with the climate system*". The treaty calls for continuing scientific research into the climate. This research supports meetings and negotiations to lead to agreements. The aim is to allow ecosystems to adapt to climate change. At the same time it aims to ensure there are no threats to food production from climate change or measures to address it. And it aims to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner. The UNFCCC's work currently focuses on implementing the **Paris Agreement**. This agreement entered into force in 2016. It aims to limit the rise in **global temperature** to well **below 2 °C (3.6 °F)** above levels before the Industrial Revolution, and even aiming to hold it at 1.5 °C (2.7 °F). The **Paris Agreement** superseded the UNFCCC's **Kyoto Protocol** which had been signed in 1997 and ran from 2005 to 2020.

By 2022, the UNFCCC had 198 parties. Its supreme decision-making body, the **Conference of the Parties (COP)**, meets every year. Other meetings at the regional and technical level take place throughout the year. The Paris Agreement mandates a review or "*global stocktake*" of progress towards meeting its goals every five years. The first of these took place at **COP28** in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 2023.

The treaty sets out responsibilities for three categories of states. These are developed countries, developed countries with special financial responsibilities, and developing countries. The developed countries are called Annex I countries. At first there were 38 of them. Annex I countries should adopt national policies and take corresponding measures to limit their emissions of greenhouse gases. They should also report on steps for returning individually or jointly to their 1990 greenhouse gas emission levels.



COOP 29

ate change



CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES (COP)

The **United Nations Climate Change Conference** are yearly conferences held in the framework of the UNFCCC. They serve as the formal meeting of the UNFCCC Parties (**Conferences of the Parties**) (**COP**) to assess progress in dealing with climate change, and beginning in the mid-1990s, to negotiate the Kyoto Protocol to establish legally binding obligations for developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2005 the Conferences also served as the **Meetings of Parties** of the **Kyoto Protocol (CMP)** and since 2016 the Conferences also serve as **Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA)**.

The first conference (COP1) was held in 1995 in Berlin. The 3rd conference (COP3) was held in Kyoto and resulted in the Kyoto protocol, which was amended during the 2012 **Doha Conference (COP18, CMP 8)**. The **COP21 (CMP11)** conference was held in Paris in 2015 and resulted in adoption of the Paris Agreement. COP28 took place in the United Arab Emirates in 2023 and included the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement. The UAE nominated Sultan al-Jaber, who is also head of Abu Dhabi's national oil company ADNOC, to preside over COP28. Azerbaijan hosted COP29 last year 2024.

COP 29 BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

The 29th Conference of the Parties to the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29)**, to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 22 November 2024, is a pivotal opportunity to accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis.



Welcome to COP29
Entrance

With global temperatures hitting record highs, and extreme weather events affecting people around the globe, COP29 will bring together leaders from governments, business and civil society to advance concrete solutions to the defining issue of our time. A key focus of COP29 will be on finance, as trillions of dollars are required for countries to drastically reduce **greenhouse gas emissions** and **protect lives and livelihoods** from the worsening impacts of climate change.

The conference will also be a key moment for countries to present their **updated national climate action plans** under the Paris agreement, which are due by early 2025. If done right, these plans would **limit global warming to 1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels and double as investment plans advancing the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

ABOUT APSWDP

APSWDP (Association of Professional Social Worker and Development Practitioners) is a registered, not-for-profit, membership-based professional organization of social workers and development practitioners, working in various social welfare domains across the country; such as *poverty reduction, sustained livelihood, integrated health, quality education, economic development, social equity and justice, environmental protection, employment, disease control, migration due to urbanization, de-addiction, climate change, peace and harmony, water & sanitation*. APSWDP primarily focuses on three of the five priority action areas of **Global Action Programmes (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development of UNESCO**, i.e. Building capacities of educators and trainers, Empowering and mobilizing youth, and accelerating sustainable solutions at the local level.

The Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) is a registered not-for-profit professional membership-based organization of professional social workers and development practitioners working in various social welfare domains across the country. APSWDP has been conferred **Special Consultative Status** with **the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** and affiliated with the **Department of Global Communication (DGC)** of the **United Nations** since 2019.

Recently, APSWDP has been conferred **accreditation under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and extended **Observer Status in United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)**, **Observer Status in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** and **provisional admittance in the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD)**.

UNFCCC OBSERVER STATUS CONFERRED TO APSWDP

The Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) has significantly contributed to **global climate advocacy** through its active participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In **2022**, APSWDP **was conferred provisional Observer Status**, which was later confirmed as full Observer Status during the twenty-seventh session of the **Conference of the Parties (COP27)** in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. This milestone underscored APSWDP's growing role in fostering dialogue and action on climate resilience and sustainable development.

At COP27, APSWDP nominated one Vietnamese youth delegates representing youth organizations, highlighting the importance of youth leadership in addressing climate challenges. Building on this foundation, APSWDP expanded its engagement at COP28, nominating six delegates, surpassing its allocated quota of two seats. The delegation included three APSWDP members and three representatives from partner organizations in India and the USA, exemplifying the association's commitment to inclusivity and international collaboration.

In 2024, APSWDP achieved new heights of participation at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The association nominated a diverse **delegation of 22 professionals**, including representatives from government and non-government entities in the USA, India, Mongolia, and Azerbaijan. To ensure broader participation, APSWDP also nominated 10 virtual delegates, leveraging technology to include more voices in critical climate discussions.

APSWDP's proactive involvement in the UNFCCC process reflects its dedication to empowering communities, advancing sustainable development, and championing climate action. By fostering youth leadership, promoting global partnerships, and driving meaningful participation, APSWDP continues to strengthen its impact and contribute to building a resilient, sustainable future.







APSWDP Cohort COP 2024 - Novel Partners





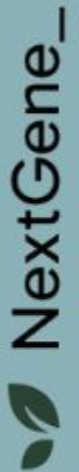
Casplan
Plenary Hall

Guest
Professional Service
Observer
Karimvot Singh

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International Carbon Neutrality Industry Research Organization (ICNIRO), UK

International Carbon Neutrality Industry Research Organization (ICNIRO) is a leading research institution dedicated to advancing global carbon neutrality and supporting sustainable industry practices. Through innovative research, ICNIRO focuses on developing and promoting carbon-neutral technologies, policies, and strategies for industries worldwide. The organization collaborates with governments, businesses, and other key stakeholders to drive actionable insights into reducing carbon footprints and achieving net-zero emissions. ICNIRO also offers expertise in energy efficiency, sustainable production methods, and climate-resilient solutions, empowering industries to transition smoothly toward a greener and more sustainable future.



Azerbaijan Democratic Student and Youth Organization (ADSAYO), Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan Democratic Student and Youth Organization (ADSAYO) working in the field of youth work, youth active participation, education and enlightenment, ADSAYO takes seriously the issues of climate change, its consequences, combating it, urban development and its problems and future, youth activism and sustainable development, which have become serious problems in the world today. ADSAYO is implementing various projects and programs at the national and international level in these listed areas. It focusses on Socio-economic conditions, Arts & Humanities, Children, Education, Local NGO development and Capacity building.



Terrasols Solutions Private Limited, India

Terrasols Solutions Private Limited is a pioneering sustainability consultancy committed to driving positive change. With a team of seasoned professionals and a passion for innovation, we offer a comprehensive range of services tailored to meet the unique needs of our clients. Our approach combines cutting-edge technology with sustainable practices, ensuring that our solutions not only meet today's demands but also contribute to a healthier planet for future generations.





Native Ideas for Sustainability Research and Governance (NISRG), India

Native Ideas for Sustainability Research and Governance (NISRG) was established in December 2021. We provide high quality consulting and communications services to a diverse range of organisations already in or looking to pivot into the climate space. Our clients include universities, sustainable businesses, civil society and more.



Young Environmentalists Programme Trust (YEPT), India



Young Environmentalists Programme Trust (YEPT) is an advocacy and partnership platform to raise awareness about positive environment change in order to achieve green, productive, safe, healthy, inclusive, and sustainable planet. Its goal is to place the community and youth agenda at the highest level in development policies. It is coordinated by expert members and driven by a large number of committed partners from around the world.

KReate Foundation, India

KReate Foundation is a not-for-profit organization set up with the objective to revitalize urban living by tackling the complex challenges faced by growing cities. Through research and strategic partnerships, KReate intends to foster resilience and sustainability, creating lasting positive impacts on individuals, society, and the environment. KReate Foundations objective is to create thriving cities for everyone by crafting sustainable, inclusive urban spaces through innovative solutions and stakeholder engagement.





The Indigenous People's Climate Justice Forum, India

The Indigenous People's Climate Justice Forum is dedicated to finding inclusive solutions that respect and integrate the experiences and wisdom of India's Indigenous communities. Based out of Assam, the IPCJF co-founded by Rituraj Phukan and Jadav Payeng is a grassroots organization devoted to climate action, advocacy and community resilience in the Eastern Himalayan region.



IGNITING MINDS, India

IGNITING MINDS is committed to fostering a sustainable, eco-conscious society through transformative initiatives in reforestation, water conservation, and climate education. We aim to empower communities, engage youth, and promote actionable climate resilience across India.



The Global Youth Federation (GYF), India



The Global Youth Federation (GYF) is a national non-governmental organization based in India, registered under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Headquartered in Chandigarh, we are dedicated to youth empowerment, environmental conservation, disaster management, and promoting government schemes for economically weaker sections. Our organization operates across all 28 states and 8 Union Territories of India, partnering with government departments, international NGOs, and national institutions.

YouVAH, India

YouVAH is a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Himachal Pradesh, India. Its name stands for 'Youth for Voluntary Action in Himachal' and it is registered under the provisions of Himachal Pradesh, 2006 (Act No. 25 of 2006) having registration ID 'HPCD-8391'. YouVAH is constituted by the present and passed out NSS Volunteers from Different Colleges of Himachal Pradesh who came together during the lockdown in 2020 to run a campaign named Mission Digital CoroAware. **Website:** <https://youvahngo.org/>



The Indigenous People's Climate Justice Forum, India

Go Group is an informal, non-profit youth organization with members based in Egypt (Cairo) and China (Chengdu), dedicated to fostering social change and improving environmental sustainability. The primary purpose of our group is to promote and support initiatives aimed at advancing human rights, environmental protection, gender equality, anti-discrimination, and sustainable development. We strive to empower youth through volunteerism, non-formal learning, and cross-cultural exchange. Our activities are designed to raise awareness, build skills, and drive action across various causes, including animal welfare, social integration, and the protection of vulnerable groups. We achieve these goals through a variety of initiatives, such as educational campaigns, youth exchanges, community service projects, and advocacy for environmental conservation. Specifically, Go Group focuses on fostering the active participation of young people in global discussions, promoting social integration, and supporting non-formal learning opportunities that equip youth with the knowledge and tools to create positive change in their communities. We are committed to advancing social entrepreneurship, encouraging youth leadership, and ensuring that all individuals have access to opportunities that promote equality, respect, and sustainability.



The Global Youth Federation (GYF), India



Tomorrow in Focus is a non-profit association dedicated to empowering communities and individuals to create lasting solutions in the areas of social equity, environmental sustainability, education, and economic resilience. Tomorrow in Focus focuses on addressing community challenges through grassroots initiatives, skill development, educational programs, and project collaborations aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially in the production of short films and preservstion of cultural.



PROFILE OF OBSERVERS





COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan



AZERBAIJAN

COP29 Baku
Azerbaijan

The house of solidarity

OBSERVERS



Head Delegation

Dr. Vivek Trivedi
Founder-cum-Principal Advisor,
APSWDP, India

- **Founder of APSWDP:** Established the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), with consultative status at UN ECOSOC and observer status with UNFCCC.
- **Ph.D. in Social Welfare Administration:** Earned from Panjab University, Chandigarh.
- **Recognized Leader:** Awarded Brightest Young Climate Leadership Award (2010) and State Awards (2014, 2020).
- **Development Practitioner:** Working as Social Development Officer in Development Cell, NULM, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh.
- **Global Presence:** Has received accolades from institutions like UNESCO, the British Council, and Chandigarh Administration.



Deputy Head Delegation

Dr. Anshu Kumar
Hon. Director International
Relations, APSWDP, India

- **Technical expert** with over 33 years of experience in Refrigeration & Air-conditioning (RAC), including 20+ years under the Montreal Protocol (MP).
- **Specialized in managing projects, training, and capacity building** in Asia & Pacific regions for MP, HCFC phase-out, HFC phase-down, and cold chain management.
- **Extensive experience in developing vocational curricula and international standards** for RAC technical training institutes.
- **Led UNDP's efforts in implementing MP projects**, including the Kigali Amendment and energy efficiency initiatives in RAC sectors.
- **Partnered with various UN agencies and governments** for project development and capacity building across multiple countries.

OBSERVERS



Dr. Mousami Prasad,
Assistant Professor, Indian Institute
of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, India

- Specializes in renewable energy opportunities, particularly in decarbonizing the electricity sector and industries.
- Focuses on greening the steel-making process, exploring the techno-economics and strategic considerations of producing green steel.
- Interested in early adopters of green steel and their role in the energy transition.
- Currently an Assistant Professor at the Department of Management Sciences, IIT Kanpur (since April 2022).
- Former Research Fellow at The Australian National University, working on energy policy and sustainability (Feb 2020 - Apr 2022).



Mr. Bhavesh Swami,
Lead Clean Energy,
The Climate Reality Project (TCP) India
& South Asia

- Over 17 years of experience with organizations like the World Bank, GEF, government bodies, and NGOs.
- Key contributor to NCR's largest Renewable Energy Park in Gurgaon with MNRE, Haryana Government, and ADEME.
- Advanced resource efficiency in Indian SMEs through the Bureau of Energy Efficiency project.
- Led projects reducing 2 million tons of CO2 emissions, featured in India's COP15 submission as a 'Project Worth Emulating.'
- Certified Climate Reality Leader and Mentor Lead, advocating for clean energy and climate change action.
- Engages with students, officials, and civil society on national and international platforms.

OBSERVERS



**Mr. Rajeev Chodhary,
Hon. Director (Capacity Building &
Training), APSWDP, India**

- Experience: Over 16 years in the health and development sectors, specializing in project implementation at various levels.
- Global Leadership Certifications: Certified in Tobacco Control (Johns Hopkins University) and Climate Leadership (The Climate Reality Project).
- Alumnus: Scholar in the 2021-2022 IGTC Program, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
- Forum Participation: Active participant in prominent forums, including COP 28 in Dubai, UN Business & Human Rights Forum in Thailand, and the World Conference on Lung Health in Hyderabad.
- International Impact: Engaged in the Jeju International Future Generation Forum (South Korea) and other global discussions on health, climate, and human rights.



**Mr. Karamveer Singh,
Chief Executive Officer, APSWDP,
India**

- Experience: Over 10 years in community work with expertise in Project Management, Capacity Building, and Sustainable Tourism.
- Education: Holds an MSW from IGNOU and an MCA from MDU, along with a B.Sc. in Electronics from Kurukshetra University.
- Professional Roles: Consultant (Academic) at the Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights; CEO (Honorary) of APSWDP.
- Associations: Young Climate Leader with The Climate Reality Leadership Corps and Climate Change & Youth Leadership Trainer at Nehru Yuva Kendra, Chandigarh.
- International Representation: Represented APSWDP at COP 28, Dubai, and other global forums including UNESCO and UNITAR events.
- Achievements: Awarded certificates of appreciation for COVID-19 relief efforts and contributions to community welfare initiatives.

OBSERVERS



Ms. Elsie Gabriel
Ambassador for India Ocean Quest
Founder YEP & National Coordinator
OCR, Director PHSA USA

- Founder, Young Environmentalists Programme Trust: Promotes youth-led environmental action and sustainability.
- Founder, Ocean School India: Focuses on ocean literacy and marine conservation.
- National Coordinator, Oceans Climate Reality Project India: Leads climate action for ocean protection.
- Ambassador, Ocean Quest Global: Advocates for coral reef restoration and sustainable diving.
- Board Member, PHSA USA: Supports global health and environmental initiatives.
- Education: Honours Degree in Education from Loreto House, Kolkata University. I. Master's Degree from Sophia College, Mumbai University.
- Advocate for Gender Equality in Environmental Leadership: Mentors women in sustainability, fostering leadership in conservation efforts.



Mr. Shriyash Ramesh Gune
Chief Green Officer, The Eco Factory
Foundation

- An advocate for sustainability, committed to fostering eco-friendly practices in diverse sectors, including rural, urban, industrial, and individual domains.
- Focuses on creating innovative solutions that address environmental challenges and drive sustainable development.
- Actively works on promoting green technologies, renewable energy, and waste reduction initiatives to reduce ecological footprints.
- Collaborates with various stakeholders, including communities, organizations, and governments, to implement sustainability practices.
- Dedicated to educating and inspiring individuals and businesses to adopt greener, more sustainable lifestyles and operations.

OBSERVERS



**Mr. Gurpreet Choudhary,
Hon. Director, Research &
Innovation, APSWDP**

- Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Administration at the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Chandigarh, with a Ph.D. in Public Administration.
- Authored and edited books such as *Urban Local Governance in India: Dynamics, Challenges, and Innovations* and *Rural Renaissance: Insights into Indian Local Governance*, with research focusing on governance reforms, sustainable development, and digital democracy.
- Published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and presented at national and international conferences.
- Actively involved in capacity-building programs, advocates for youth-centric policy innovations, and contributes to APSWDP's initiatives by blending academic research with actionable fieldwork.



**Mr. Amit Joshi,
Hon. Director - Partnership and
Outreach Synergist, APSWDP**

- Social Work Professional with over 20 years of experience in the development sector, specializing in public health.
- Expertise in National TB Elimination Program and HIV/AIDS initiatives since 2004, with a focus on multisector engagement and supervisory support.
- Extensive experience in urban development as a Capacity Building Specialist, driving system strengthening and community welfare.
- Instrumental in promoting sustainable development and improving health outcomes at regional and national levels.
- Drives capacity-building initiatives to strengthen the workforce in public health and social services.
- Leadership in development programs with a focus on sustainable impact.

OBSERVERS



Ms. Gulnara Baghirova,
Azerbaijan Democratic Students &
Youth Organization (ADSAYO),
Azerbaijan

- The Executive Director of ADSAYO, Azerbaijan, leads the organization with a strategic vision.
- Holding a Ph.D. degree, they bring academic excellence to their role.
- They specialize in international relations, youth engagement, and program management.
- Their leadership focuses on executing impactful programs that empower youth and encourage international collaboration.
- They are dedicated to fostering meaningful youth involvement and efficiently managing global initiatives.



Mr. Asgarli Asif,
Chairman, Azerbaijan Democratic
Students & Youth Organization
(ADSAYO), Baku, Azerbaijan

- The Chairperson of ADSAYO, Azerbaijan, provides strategic direction to the organization.
- As a Ph.D. holder in Political Science, they contribute deep academic insights to their work.
- Their expertise lies in political science, international relations, and youth development.
- They drive key initiatives aimed at unlocking youth potential and building global partnerships.
- Their professional efforts are centered on amplifying youth participation and engaging with the political landscape in Azerbaijan.

OBSERVERS



Mr. Akbar Elman Oglu Akbarov
Young Volunteer
Azerbaijan Democratic Students & Youth Organization (ADSAYO),
Azerbaijan

Mr. Huseyn Asif Oglu Asgarli,
Outreach Volunteer
Azerbaijan Democratic Students & Youth Organization (ADSAYO),
Azerbaijan

- A passionate young volunteer at the Azerbaijan Democratic Students & Youth Organization (ADSAYO), Azerbaijan.
- Actively involved in various initiatives, contributing to the organization's youth empowerment and community-building efforts.
- Dedicated to fostering engagement and providing support to the organization's goals of international cooperation and youth development.
- His role reflects a commitment to positive social change and youth-led action in Azerbaijan.

- An enthusiastic outreach volunteer at the Azerbaijan Democratic Students & Youth Organization (ADSAYO), Azerbaijan.
- Plays a key role in connecting the organization with local communities and fostering youth participation.
- Committed to supporting ADSAYO's mission by promoting its initiatives and engaging with diverse groups.
- His efforts focus on enhancing youth involvement and broadening the organization's impact through effective outreach activities.

OBSERVERS



**Mr. Varun Kashyap,
Co-founder of LetsEndorse and
Buzzworthy, India**

- Co-founder of LetsEndorse and Buzzworthy Ventures and is passionate about social entrepreneurship and creating irreversible impact.
- Mechanical engineer from Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh, he initiated livelihood activities for Self-Help Groups in urban slums during college, sparking his commitment to entrepreneurship and social change.
- He was one of the five Indians selected as a German Chancellor Fellow (Humboldt Fellowship) in 2014.
- Varun is a post-graduate in Liberal Arts and Leadership from Ashoka University, a Global Shaper (World Economic Forum), an AI-Gore Climate Fellow, a Jadeja Motwani Fellow, an Aspire Circle Fellow, and a Pearson Fellow.



**Mr. Manish Kumar,
Founder & CEO, Terrasols Solutions,
India**

- Founder & CEO of Terrasols Solutions, India, leading the company towards pioneering innovations in eco-mobility.
- Dedicated to empowering the transition to clean energy by developing and expanding EV charging infrastructure.
- Focused on building sustainable solutions that support the growth of electric vehicle adoption across India.
- Spearheading initiatives to drive the future of energy with cutting-edge EV charging networks and services.
- Committed to reducing carbon footprints and promoting eco-friendly transportation for a cleaner, greener future.

OBSERVERS



**Ms. Tanya Gabriel Satish,
CEO and Youth Ambassador of the
Young Environmentalists Programme
Trust, India**

- She is the project lead for the ocean, climate and environment education assessments that are conducted in academic institutions, and is responsible for overseeing policy development for processes and requirements.
- Tanya is also a member of the United Nations YOUNGO and Board Member of Ocean School India, having participated at various international conferences.
- She is trained and certified by former Vice President of USA Al Gore in Rio Brazil in 2014 and is a Climate Reality Leader.
- Tanya majored in English and Psychology from Sophia College Mumbai University and is a MBA PG.



**Ms. Ratna Singh,
Founder and CEO, Earth Safety Valve,
India**

- Ratna Singh is a rising young environmental leader from India and an award-winning climate advocate.
- Currently pursuing her B.Sc. (Hons) in Environmental Science at the University of Delhi (2022-2026).
- She is the founder and CEO of Earth Safety Valve, an international youth-led alliance focused on educating people about environmental conservation and sustainability.
- Earth Safety Valve created the climate comic book "I Can't Breathe," showcased at COP27 in Egypt and distributed nationwide in partnership with the Canada High Commission to promote climate action.
- Operates "Planet Pulse," a global podcast channel featuring 30+ environmental scientists and fostering collaboration at UFCCC summits like COP, LCOY, and RCOY

OBSERVERS



Mr. Vaibhav Tiwari,
Chief Sustainability Officer, Terrasols Solutions

- Chief Sustainability Officer at Terrasols Solutions, driving the company's commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainability.
- A law graduate with specialized expertise in sustainability from WWF, bringing a legal and environmental perspective to sustainability practices.
- Actively involved in Carbon Credit projects, working to reduce emissions and create impactful solutions for climate change.
- A strong advocate for sustainable living, embodying eco-friendly practices in both personal and professional life.
- Focused on creating and implementing strategies that promote environmental protection, carbon offsetting, and sustainable development.



Dr. Harshita Umesh,
Climate Change and Human Rights Advocate, USA

- Dr. Harshita Umesh, a dedicated and multifaceted professional, is deeply committed to advancing healthcare and driving social change. Her remarkable journey is adorned with accolades that mirror her unwavering dedication.
- Her research as an RGUHS - STS Scholar and ICMR- STS Scholar exemplifies her dedication to advancing medical knowledge. Active involvement with UN organizations, publications, internships, mentorships, and continuous learning underline her commitment to holistic growth.
- In the medical realm, Dr. Harshita Umesh has earned the Young Medical Achiever Award (Youth Health Icon Award) and the "30 under 30" recognition by the Indian Medical Association. Beyond her career, she enjoys diverse interests such as reading, music, movies, travel, and sports.

OBSERVERS



**Ms. Tselmeg Urtnasan,
Co-founder Climate Mongolia,
Mongolia**

- She is 2024 MTE Climate Ambassador with the World Bank Group, Global Youth Climate Network (GYCN), and Connect4Climate.
- With four years of experience in communications and advocacy, she has worked with UN agencies such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and UN Volunteers (UNV), as well as with governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- She studied Bachelor of Business Administration from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University during 2013-18, in addition to International Affairs from 2012-13 in National University of Mongolia.
- She is active Member of NDC Working Group and YOUNGO.



**Dr. Sakshi Grover
Consultant for Environment &
Engagements at The Climate Reality
Project India & South Asia**

- An enthusiastic environmentalist, focused & driven person who feels deeply for the environment. She like to deploy her skills in environmental management, awareness, education & conservation.
- She is an environmental Consultant with The Climate Reality Project - India & South Asia from May 2023 to date.
- She studied Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Environmental Sciences in Environmental Sciences from University of Lucknow.
- She has expertise in waste management, ecology, sustainable development, Environmental Impact Assessment, Forest Management etc.
- She was awarded Junior Research Fellowship by UGC in 2016.

OBSERVERS



Mr. Nayak Pritish Kumar
Founder Bhumitra, India

- Pritish Kumar Nayak, 26, is a software engineer, climate leader, and founder of BHUMITRA.
- Led climate initiatives for three years, organizing 50+ plogging events in Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda to tackle plastic waste.
- Planted over 1,000 trees and motivated peers to join environmental efforts.
- Conducted 50+ workshops at schools and colleges to educate youth on climate change.
- Collaborated with organizations like Tata Power on Earth Day and Environment Day to boost community engagement.
- Contributed to BHUMITRA's key projects like SEED BANK, Youth Climate Education, and Climate and Health.
- Aims to inspire environmental responsibility and lead by example.



Ms. Anjali Rai,
Retd. Sqd. Leader Indian Air Force, India

- Anjali Rai is an experienced military leader transitioning to corporate life, bringing over a decade of expertise in HR Management, learning & development, leadership training and ESG initiatives in defence.
- Throughout her career she has held diverse appointments in various domains and has been the team Commentator for the prestigious Suryakiran Aerobatic Team of IAF.
- A trainer and facilitator who loves to learn and lives to grow, aiming to make an impact in the field of environment and sustainability in future.
- Having expertise in HR Management, Employee Engagement, Learning & Development, Talent Development, and Leadership Development.

OBSERVERS



Ms. Sarabsyim Amiraslanova
Program Coordinator, Azerbaijan
Democratic Students & Youth
Organization (ADSAYO), Azerbaijan

- Ecology student focused on ecosystem fieldwork, aiming to develop practical skills and knowledge.
- Holds a diploma from Ecological Lyceum and studied Ecology at Baku State University.
- Completed a Bachelor of Ecology from the University of Geneva (Coursera).
- Gained marketing and sales experience at Afandy Business Academy, with roles such as receptionist and teaching assistant at Brain Power School.
- Volunteered at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (April-Sept 2023) and Migration Volunteer Public Union (July-Sept 2023).



Dr. Sumit Arora
President, APSWDP

- Experience: Over 17 years as a Social Development Specialist with expertise in urban development, gender studies, climate change, and behavior change.
- Education: Holds a Doctorate in Sociology and advanced diplomas in Disaster Management, Human Rights, and AIDS education.
- Professional Roles: Guest faculty at institutions like MGSIPA, CRRID, and AILSG.
- Publications: Published extensively on topics like HIV/AIDS, transgender acceptance, and gender dimensions.
- International Participation: Alumni UNITAR CIFAL Jeju, South Korea; and represented APSWDP at APCW-2019 at UN-ESCAP, Bangkok.
- Association: Climate Leader with The Climate Reality Leadership Corps; and Hon. National Coordinator (Waste) with the Climate Reality Project India & South Asia.

OBSERVERS



Mr. Akash Yadav
Hon. Director Legal Affairs, APSWDP

- Advocate with 8 years of experience handling diverse legal matters at the Punjab & Haryana High Court.
- Empaneled Advocate for multiple government departments, including Municipal Corporation Chandigarh and PSPCL.
- Represented clients before various tribunals, commissions, and authorities across Punjab and Haryana.
- Honorary Director of Legal Affairs for APSWDP, representing the organization at international forums like the UN Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum.
- Recognized with certificates and letters of appreciation for contributions to human security and community relief initiatives.
- Holds a B.A. LL.B. (Integrated) degree from Punjabi University, Patiala.



Mr. Vijay Kumar Thurram
Senior Project Coordinator- Saahas, India

- Architect turned Urban Planner and Climate Action Enthusiast with 3+ years of experience in Climate Advocacy, Solid Waste, and Storm water Management.
- Currently Senior Project Coordinator at Saahas Zero Waste, focusing on holistic waste management solutions.
- Recently served as a Mentor for the Asian Environmental Youth Network (AEYN) - Cohort 05.
- Represented India as one of 25 delegates at the 2nd South Africa-India Youth Forum in October 2024, organized by IYESF and SABYA.
- United Nations Local Pathways Fellow (2022 Cohort) with UN SDSN.
- Served as a Member of the Indian Youth Diplomacy Forum (IYDF) under the Climate theme for South Asia.
- Delegate and Facilitator at the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) – India 2024, organized by YOUNGO under UNFCCC.

OBSERVERS



Ms. Ankita Rani,
Youth Volunteer, APSWDP

- BA (1st Year) student at Panjab University, skilled in digital marketing, MySQL, and graphic design.
- Intern at RCTC-PGIMER, Chandigarh, managing social media and events, and volunteer for impactful initiatives with APSWDP and PGIMER.
- Completed the UNFCCC climate change course and participated in COP29 UNFCCC (online) to engage in global climate discussions.
- Passionate about climate finance, youth leadership, and advocating for transgender rights to foster inclusive social change.
- Talented painter with a focus on themes like nature, space, and earth.




Mr. Deepak Yadav
Assistant Editor, Times of India


- Postgraduate in Mass Communication and Journalism with over 18 years of experience in the field.
- Currently serving as Assistant Editor at The Times of India.
- Expertise in covering political developments, urban local bodies, and administration for over a decade.
- Recently expanded coverage to include urban development, sustainability, energy, and ecology.
- Actively associated with several civil society organizations and think tanks, contributing to policy dialogues and knowledge sharing.
- Proactively participates in APSWDP core meetings, offering valuable insights on the current socio-political scenario in the region.

YOUTH NGOs





APSWDP at COP29: Driving Impact Through Networking and Vibrant Engagements





COP29 Digital Innovation Pavilion

13 NOVEMBER 10:30AM GMT+4

Digital Innovation for Sustainable Solutions in Ocean Conservation

Speakers: [Five circular portraits of speakers]

Partners: [Logos for various organizations]

Digital Innovation Pavilion

Overview

At COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) played a pivotal role in shaping climate discourse and fostering global collaborations. As organizers and facilitators, APSWDP spearheaded five key events that addressed critical climate challenges, focusing on sustainable urban futures, international partnerships, and community-driven climate action. These events provided a platform for thought leadership, knowledge exchange, and policy advocacy, contributing valuable insights and actionable strategies towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In addition to organizing these high-impact meetings, APSWDP actively participated in several side events, demonstrating its commitment to engaging with global stakeholders, exchanging ideas, and contributing expertise to diverse discussions on climate resilience and sustainability. APSWDP's dynamic involvement in these events underscored its role as a proactive contributor to international climate dialogue, bringing valuable perspectives on youth engagement, sustainable urban development, and inclusive policymaking.

The key events where APSWDP took on the role of an organizer and facilitator included:

1. **Youth at the Crossroads: Catalyzing Climate Action Through Sustainable and Cultural Tourism**
2. **Strengthening International Collaboration and Networking on Climate Change**
3. **Global Pathways to Green Cities and Coastal Areas: A Vision for Ocean Health, Climate Resilience, and Community Justice**
4. **Advancing Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development**
5. **Release of the Report: International Eco-Visionary Dialogue on Advancing Sustainable Urban Future (IEDASUF)**

Furthermore, APSWDP's active participation in influential side events allowed the organization to extend its advocacy efforts, contribute to meaningful discussions, and build valuable partnerships across diverse sectors.

In Solidarity for a
Green World



Overview

APSWDP representatives provided insights, shared best practices, and engaged in collaborative dialogues at the following events:

- **The Climate Dialogue: The Voice of the World's Youth** – Organized by ROSATOM (State Atomic Energy Corporation, Russia), this event provided a platform for global youth to voice their perspectives on nuclear energy's role in climate action and sustainable development.
- Press Conference – **Beyond the Lies: Exposing Meat and Dairy's Greenwashing – Go Vegan to Save the Planet** – A critical discussion highlighting the environmental impact of animal agriculture and advocating for plant-based solutions to combat climate change.
- **Raising Climate Ambition** – Hosted by the Climate Reality Project, this session explored actionable strategies for enhancing climate commitments globally and the role of communities in pushing for ambitious climate policies.
- **Combating Climate Change: Promoting Global Solidarity for COP29** – Organized by ADSAYO, Azerbaijan, this roundtable examined how international collaboration and solidarity can accelerate climate action and promote sustainable development practices across regions.

Through its proactive engagement as both an organizer and a dynamic participant, APSWDP strengthened its **global partnerships, expanded its influence, and contributed meaningful insights to critical climate discussions.** The organization's involvement at COP29 reaffirmed its dedication to driving sustainable development, fostering climate resilience, and empowering communities worldwide.

Events at COP29 by APSWDP

1. Fostering International Collaboration and Networking on Climate Change

- **Date:** November 12, 2024
- **Objective:** Fostered partnerships and collaborations to address critical climate challenges through capacity-building initiatives and strategic MOUs.
- **Event Category:** Panelist Meeting
- The Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), India, organized a crucial meeting titled "*Fostering International Collaboration and Networking on Climate Change*" at COP29, focusing on fostering strategic global partnerships to tackle climate challenges. The session brought together a diverse range of stakeholders, including policymakers, academics, and industry leaders, to discuss innovative solutions and collaborations for sustainable development.
- The event commenced with a formal welcome address by Dr. Anshu Kumar, who outlined APSWDP's vision of strengthening international cooperation to address climate challenges through knowledge-sharing and policy advocacy. Dr. Vivek Trivedi provided an insightful background of APSWDP's mission and emphasized the need for multi-sectoral engagement in climate action.
- A key highlight of the meeting was the signing of multiple **Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)** with organizations such as **the Young Environmentalists Programme Trust (YEPT)**, **Terrasols Solutions Private Limited**, and the Indigenous People's Climate Justice Forum. These partnerships aim to advance sustainability research, capacity-building initiatives, and policy-driven climate interventions.
- The event also featured the official release of APSWDP's flagship publications, including the ***International Journal of Social Work and Sustainable Development (IJSWSD)*** and the report **Advancing Sustainable Urban Futures**. These publications provide actionable insights and case studies for sustainable urbanization, renewable energy, and public health infrastructure.
- In his closing remarks, Mr. Amit Joshi reiterated the importance of strategic alliances in achieving climate resilience and called for sustained engagement to implement actionable solutions. The meeting concluded with commitments to continued collaboration and capacity building for climate action.



Picture: APSWDP organized Panelist Meeting on Advancing Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development and release of APSWDP Journal - International Journal of Social Work and Sustainable Development (IJSWSD) by Dr. Mousami Prasad, IIT Kanpur, India.

2. Advancing Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development

- **Date:** November 14, 2024
- **Objective:** APSWDP leveraged COP29 as a platform to establish long-term collaborations with global organizations, emphasizing climate resilience and community-driven innovation.
- **Event Category:** Panelist Meeting
- The Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) hosted a high-impact strategic meeting titled "Advancing Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development" at COP29. The session aimed to catalyze meaningful collaborations to address pressing climate resilience and sustainability challenges through multi-sectoral cooperation and innovative solutions.
- Bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, and civil society organizations, the session focused on strengthening cross-border partnerships to drive collective action towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A landmark achievement of the meeting was the signing of key Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with renowned institutions, including:
 - International Carbon Neutrality Industry Research Organization (UK): Focused on achieving net-zero emissions through research and strategic interventions.
 - IGNITING MINDS Organization (India): Dedicated to empowering communities through education and environmental awareness initiatives.
 - Native Ideas for Sustainability Research and Governance (NISRG): Specializing in sustainability policy advocacy and implementation strategies.
- These partnerships set the foundation for joint research initiatives, capacity-building programs, and grassroots engagement, with an emphasis on climate action, youth participation, and localized sustainable solutions.
- A significant focus of the discussions was on APSWDP's commitment to inclusive development, particularly addressing the needs of marginalized communities and indigenous populations who are most vulnerable to climate change. Mr. Karamveer Singh underscored the urgent need to integrate youth perspectives into policy frameworks, asserting that long-term sustainability goals cannot be achieved without meaningful youth engagement in decision-making and implementation.

- Key themes explored during the session included:

1. Renewable Energy Transitions:

- Scaling clean energy solutions for urban and rural areas.
- Strategies for financing and policy support to accelerate adoption.

2. Equitable Urban Development:

- Inclusive urban planning to ensure climate justice.
- Community-based approaches for climate resilience.

3. The Role of Academia in Climate Action:

- Leveraging academic research to inform policymaking.
- Building bridges between academia and local governance for sustainable solutions.

The meeting culminated in the presentation of a collaborative roadmap, outlining concrete actions for **sustained partnerships, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building initiatives to accelerate SDG-aligned projects globally.**

The session concluded with a powerful call to action, urging stakeholders to foster greater **international cooperation, enhance funding for climate initiatives**, and drive innovation to create resilient and sustainable communities.

Through this strategic meeting, APSWDP reaffirmed its dedication to **driving impactful partnerships that promote sustainability, equity, and resilience on a global scale.**



Picture: APSWDP organized Panelist Meeting on Advancing Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development.

3. Release of the Report: International Eco-Visionary Dialogue on Advancing Sustainable Urban Future (IEDASUF)

- **Date:** November 14, 2024
- **Objective:** Introduced a comprehensive report detailing best practices and pathways for sustainable urbanism, aligning with global climate goals.
- **Event Category:** Panelist Meeting
- The Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), in collaboration with global partners, hosted a landmark event at COP29 with the release of the report titled "*International Eco-Visionary Dialogue on Advancing Sustainable Urban Future (IEDASUF)*." The report serves as a comprehensive resource that outlines strategic pathways and innovative solutions for fostering sustainable urbanism in alignment with global climate goals and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The session attracted policymakers, researchers, urban planners, and development practitioners who engaged in thought-provoking discussions on actionable strategies to address pressing urban challenges such as rapid urbanization, climate resilience, and public health infrastructure.

Key Themes Discussed in the Session:

1. Renewable Energy Integration in Urban Planning

- Speakers highlighted the potential of solar, wind, and geothermal energy solutions to power urban spaces efficiently while reducing the carbon footprint of cities.
- Case studies were presented on successful implementations of energy-efficient urban projects, showcasing the impact of green technologies in urban settings.

2. Public Health and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

- The report emphasizes the role of sustainable urban infrastructure in enhancing public health outcomes, with a focus on promoting clean air initiatives, green spaces, and waste management strategies.
- Experts discussed urban planning models that integrate climate resilience and health-conscious designs, ensuring cities are equipped to combat climate-related health risks.

3. Ocean Conservation and Sustainable Coastal Development

- Collaboration with local communities was identified as a key driver for effective ocean conservation efforts.



4. Knowledge Sharing for Capacity Building:

- APSWDP announced plans to organize capacity-building workshops and seminars based on the report's findings to empower urban stakeholders with the tools needed for sustainable city planning.

5. Policy Advocacy for Climate-Resilient Cities:

- The session called for stronger policy frameworks that prioritize environmental sustainability, economic resilience, and social inclusion in urban governance.

Speaker Highlights:

- Dr. Sachchida Nand Tripathi discussed the **role of data-driven policies in sustainable urban planning** and called for proactive implementation of climate-resilient strategies.
- Dr. Anshu Kumar emphasized the **critical role of local governments in translating global sustainability goals** into actionable urban initiatives.
- Mr. Amit Joshi reiterated APSWDP's commitment to fostering partnerships that drive meaningful change in urban landscapes worldwide.

The session concluded with a collective call to action for cities to adopt the report's recommendations and work towards creating sustainable, climate-resilient, and inclusive urban environments. The release of the IEDASUF report at COP29 marks a significant milestone in APSWDP's ongoing efforts to empower cities with forward-thinking solutions for a sustainable future.



Picture: APSWDP participation in COP29 NGO Coalition organized event "Advancing Climate Action through South-South Cooperation: The Role of NGOs"





4. Round Table on “Global Pathways to Green Cities and Coastal Areas: A vision for the Ocean Health, Climate Resilience and Community Justice”

- **Date:** November 15, 2024
- **Objective:** Facilitated discussions on advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through innovative urban practices, partnerships, and inclusive approaches.
- **Event Category:** Roundtable Discussion
- The Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), in collaboration with international partners, hosted an impactful roundtable discussion titled “Global Pathways to Green Cities and Coastal Areas: A Vision for Ocean Health, Climate Resilience, and Community Justice” at COP29. This session provided a global platform for experts, policymakers, and young leaders to explore innovative strategies for building climate-resilient urban and coastal environments. The discussion focused on fostering sustainable partnerships, advancing inclusive policies, and addressing climate-related challenges that coastal communities and urban populations face today.

Moderated by **Ms. Elsie Gabriel** and **Dr. Vivek Trivedi**, the roundtable covered key themes such as:

1. Sustainable Urban Futures and Coastal Resilience

- Speakers emphasized how cities and coastal areas must adapt to climate change by integrating nature-based solutions, smart urban infrastructure, and sustainable coastal management.
- Experts discussed case studies on climate-proofing coastal cities through green infrastructure, ocean conservation, and community-driven solutions.

2. Community Justice and Inclusive Livelihoods

- Panelists highlighted the importance of social equity in climate resilience efforts, advocating for inclusive urban planning that addresses the needs of vulnerable communities, including indigenous groups and coastal populations.
- The discussion explored how collaborative governance models can empower marginalized communities to play an active role in shaping climate action policies.

3. Ocean Health and Blue Economy Strategies

- A special focus was placed on the role of blue economy initiatives in fostering economic growth while protecting marine ecosystems.



Picture: APSWDP organized Roundtable on Global Pathways to Green Cities and Coastal Areas: A vision for the Ocean Health, Climate Resilience and Community Justice at Inspiration Space, Extreme Hangout Pavilion.

- Speakers underscored the importance of marine biodiversity conservation, sustainable fishing practices, and coastal tourism models that align with climate resilience goals.
- Presenters from international coastal advocacy groups shared insights on how ocean literacy and policy interventions can safeguard ocean health.

4. The Role of Local Governments in Climate Resilience

- The session showcased successful policies adopted by local governments to address rising sea levels, coastal flooding, and urban heat island effects.
- Solutions included integrated coastal zone management, sustainable transportation networks, and disaster risk reduction strategies tailored for coastal communities.

5. Key Takeaways and Outcomes:

- **Commitment to Collaborative Climate Action:** The roundtable reinforced the need for cross-sectoral partnerships, bringing together civil society, academia, and governments to co-develop solutions for climate-resilient urban and coastal systems.
- **Policy Advocacy for Ocean Health:** The event called for stronger policy frameworks at the local and global levels to prioritize sustainable ocean management, resilience planning, and equitable access to coastal resources.
- **Youth Engagement in Coastal and Urban Sustainability:** Participants emphasized the crucial role of youth in advocating for sustainable solutions, sharing examples of youth-led initiatives in coastal conservation and urban greening projects.
- **Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building:** The roundtable facilitated a dynamic exchange of best practices, with commitments from key stakeholders to collaborate on future capacity-building programs aimed at supporting green cities and resilient coastal areas.

The session concluded with a call to action from Dr. Vivek Trivedi, encouraging global stakeholders to work collectively towards sustainable urban and coastal transformations. Elsie Gabriel emphasized the urgency of safeguarding coastal communities through proactive policies and inclusive development approaches.

This roundtable at COP29 served as a catalyst for dialogue, advocacy, and action, driving forward an ambitious agenda for sustainable urbanization and coastal resilience in the face of climate change.

5. Youth at the Crossroads: Catalysing Climate Action through Sustainable and Cultural Tourism (Round Table)

- **Date:** November 20, 2024
- **Objective:** Highlighted the role of youth in transforming the tourism sector into a climate-resilient, sustainable, and culturally enriched industry.
- **Event Category:** Roundtable Discussion
- The Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), India, hosted a thought-provoking session titled "*Youth at the Crossroads: Catalyzing Climate Action Through Sustainable and Cultural Tourism*" on 20 November 2024, at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The event brought together passionate young changemakers, experts, and advocates for **sustainable development, highlighting the intersection of urbanization, transportation, and energy in reshaping tourism.** With an engaging lineup of discussions, the session explored how youth can champion eco-friendly practices, preserve cultural heritage, and catalyze climate action through innovative solutions. The discussions showcased practical approaches for **integrating renewable energy, advancing green transportation, and fostering inclusive urban planning.**
- The session delved into critical sub-themes such as "**Urbanization and Sustainable Tourism,**" "**Transforming Transportation for Climate-Friendly Tourism,**" and "**Energy Transition in Tourism.**" Speakers emphasized how urban hubs, often centers of cultural and historical significance, can adopt solar-powered facilities, zero-waste practices, and green spaces to align urbanization with climate resilience. Transforming transportation was identified as a key avenue for **youth leadership,** with actionable ideas like **championing electric and hydrogen-powered mobility, creating pedestrian-friendly networks, and leveraging digital platforms for virtual tours.** Similarly, transitioning tourism energy systems to renewable sources like **solar, wind, and geothermal energy** was highlighted as a vital step toward reducing emissions while ensuring economic sustainability. Through real-world examples, the panel demonstrated how youth-led innovations can bridge the gap between cultural preservation and climate-conscious tourism.

- The session also marked a significant milestone with the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between APSWDP and Tomorrow in Focus**. This partnership aims to amplify **sustainable and cultural tourism initiatives through AI-driven animation, making critical narratives accessible to wider audiences**. The innovative collaboration seeks to bridge communication gaps for NGOs and governmental organizations, ensuring impactful stories reach global platforms. The event concluded with moderator Gurpreet Choudhary's compelling remarks, summarizing key takeaways and inspiring attendees to continue their advocacy for climate action through sustainable tourism. By empowering youth to lead the transition toward eco-friendly urbanization, renewable energy, and greener transportation, the session underscored the potential of tourism as a cornerstone of a sustainable and culturally enriched future.



Picture: APSWDP organized Roundtable Discussion on Youth at the Crossroads: Catalysing Climate Action through Sustainable and Cultural Tourism.



APSWDP India

APSWDP India

karamveer

Mousam Prasad

RAJEEV KUMAR

RAJEEV KUMAR



Participants

Chat

React

Share

Host tools

AI Companion

Apps

Pause/stop recording

More

End



**APSWDP's Dynamic Presence in
COP29 Side Events**



1. The Climate Dialogue: The Voice of the World's Youth

- **Date:** November 18, 2024
- **Objective:** To empower youth as catalysts for innovative climate solutions and global collaboration toward sustainable development.
- The "Climate Dialogue: The Voice of the World's Youth," organized by **ROSATOM (State Atomic Energy Corporation, Russia)** on November 18, 2024, at the Baku Olympic Stadium in Azerbaijan, was a significant event during COP29. Held in the Russian Federation Pavilion (E9) within the Blue Zone, the session brought together young leaders, policymakers, and experts to explore innovative solutions for addressing climate change. Moderated by Nadezhda Dzyuba, the dialogue emphasized the **crucial role of youth in driving green technologies, preserving natural resources, and reducing carbon footprints to achieve environmental sustainability**. The event, conducted in Russian with simultaneous English translation, fostered a global exchange of ideas.
- Representing India, **Gurpreet Choudhary, Honorary Director of Research and Innovation** at the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), highlighted India's unique blend of traditional wisdom and modern innovation in tackling climate challenges. He discussed sustainable practices in holy regions like Himachal Pradesh, where cultural and spiritual traditions have long supported biodiversity conservation. Choudhary also shared **India's leadership in renewable energy, referencing its target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 under the International Solar Alliance**. He showcased grassroots initiatives like zero-waste management in Kerala and water conservation programs in Rajasthan as models of youth-driven sustainable action.
- Choudhary emphasized the **role of education and nationwide programs**, such as **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**, in mobilizing youth for environmental efforts. Advocating for global collaboration, he stressed the need to replicate India's best practices worldwide to tackle shared climate challenges effectively.
- The event featured diverse perspectives from experts like Alexandra Ryabykh and Canon Otto, **focusing on youth contributions to climate action and international cooperation**. It concluded with a call for global partnerships and youth-led initiatives to advance the global climate agenda and achieve sustainable development goals.

2. Beyond the Lies: Exposing Meat and Dairy's Greenwashing – Go Vegan to Save the Planet

- **Date:** November 21, 2024
- **Objective:** To expose the environmental impact and greenwashing of the meat and dairy industries, and promote plant-based diets as a key solution to the climate crisis.
- On 21 November 2024, the **Mr. Gurpreet Choudhary, Hon. Director Research, Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP)** participated in a press conference titled "**Beyond the Lies: Exposing Meat and Dairy's Greenwashing – Go Vegan to Save the Planet**" held in Area C, Room 10, at UNFCCC COP29, Baku. The event focused on exposing the environmental and ethical impacts of the meat and dairy industries while highlighting their misleading sustainability claims. The speakers delved into the significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced by livestock farming, which accounts for **14.5% of global anthropogenic emissions, surpassing those from the entire transportation sector**. They emphasized that methane and nitrous oxide, two potent greenhouse gases from livestock, play a major role in accelerating climate change.
- The discussion also addressed the extensive environmental footprint of animal agriculture. The meat and dairy industries utilize over 80% of global agricultural land, contributing to deforestation, biodiversity loss, and degradation of critical ecosystems like the Amazon rainforest. The unsustainable resource use was further underscored by the water footprint, where **15,415 liters of water** are needed to produce just 1 kilogram of beef compared to **322 liters for vegetables**. Panelists highlighted the corporate greenwashing tactics used by major meat and dairy companies to mislead consumers about the environmental impact of their products. These deceptive campaigns were identified as obstacles to climate action and transparency.
- The event concluded with recommendations for action, including integrating plant-based food systems into climate policies and incentivizing sustainable dietary shifts. The panel stressed the **need for awareness campaigns to educate the public about the environmental, ethical, and health benefits of plant-based diets**. Additionally, they advocated for **stricter policies to regulate emissions and resource use** in animal agriculture, alongside encouraging research and transparent data sharing. The press conference provided a platform to amplify discussions around transitioning toward sustainable food systems to address the climate crisis effectively.

3. Combating Climate Change: Promoting Global Solidarity for COP29

- **Date:** November 16, 2024
- **Objective:** To foster global solidarity in combating climate change by promoting circular economies, advancing sustainable development, and empowering youth through international collaboration.
- **Event Category:** Round Table Discussion
- **Organized by:** Azerbaijan Development and Sustainability Youth Organization (ADASYO)

The round table event, "Combating Climate Change: Promoting Global Solidarity for COP29," organized by ADASYO, provided an essential platform for discussing the role of circular economies, sustainable development, and youth engagement in international relations to address global climate challenges. The event brought together policymakers, sustainability experts, and youth leaders from across the globe to explore actionable strategies for achieving climate resilience.

- In his opening remarks, Mr. Asif Asgerali, Chairman of ADASYO, emphasized the urgent need for **global cooperation and stressed that climate change can only be tackled through a shared commitment to sustainability, innovation, and active youth participation.** He highlighted the importance of youth-driven initiatives in accelerating the transition towards a greener, more resilient future.
- The APSWDP delegation, represented by:
 - Mr. Vivek Trivedi (Founder cum Principal Advisor, Head Delegation, APSWDP, India)
 - Mr. Karamveer Singh (CEO, APSWDP, India)

Key Discussion Points

1. Circular Economies:

- Mr. Asif Asgerali highlighted the importance of transitioning from a linear to a circular economy to achieve long-term sustainability goals.
- Dr. Vivek Trivedi shared successful case studies of youth-led circular economy initiatives in India, focusing on waste reduction, resource efficiency, and eco-innovation in urban and rural contexts.

2. Sustainable Development:

- Discussions centered around aligning national policies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Picture: APSWDP participated in a Round Table on Combating Climate Change: Promoting Global Solidarity for COP29 Organized by ADSAYO.

- APSWDP representatives emphasized grassroots-level implementation, advocating for stronger collaboration between governments, private enterprises, and civil society.

3. Youth Engagement in International Climate Policy:

- Mr. Asgerali reiterated ADASYO's commitment to providing young leaders with platforms to participate in global climate dialogues, underscoring the need for capacity-building initiatives.
- Dr. Vivek Trivedi stressed the importance of enhancing youth literacy on climate policies and fostering opportunities for young leaders to contribute meaningfully to international sustainability efforts.

• APSWDP Contributions and Outcomes

◦ Knowledge Sharing:

- Mr. Karamveer Singh showcased their flagship initiative, the International Eco-Visionary Dialogue on Advancing Sustainable Urban Futures (IEDASUF), highlighting innovative solutions for climate resilience at the community level.

◦ Collaborative Opportunities:

- APSWDP initiated discussions with ADASYO for joint initiatives focused on youth capacity-building, circular economy workshops, and public awareness campaigns.

◦ Policy Recommendations:

- APSWDP proposed the establishment of youth advisory councils within climate governance structures to ensure meaningful representation and participation.

• Conclusion

- In his concluding remarks, Mr. Asif Asgerali emphasized the importance of **fostering long-term partnerships** and encouraged all participants to actively engage in collaborative initiatives that align with climate goals. APSWDP's participation in the event further reinforced their commitment to **advancing sustainable development through youth leadership and cross-sectoral cooperation**.
- The round table event served as an important milestone in **strengthening international solidarity** and highlighted the pivotal role of youth in shaping a sustainable future.

4. Raising Climate Ambition by The Climate Reality Project

- **Date:** Friday, November 15, 2024
- **Objective:** To assess and strengthen global climate action efforts by scaling up national commitments, accelerating the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and enhancing collaboration among stakeholders.
- **Event Category:** High-Level Panel Discussion and Networking Session
- **Organized by:** Former US Vice President Al Gore and The Climate Reality Project

The special event, "Raising Climate Ambition," served as a critical platform at COP29 to evaluate and **advance global climate action efforts at the midpoint of negotiations**. The event brought together global leaders, policymakers, industry experts, and civil society organizations to discuss scaling up **national climate commitments, accelerating the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and strengthening COP's role in driving impactful climate solutions**.

- APSWDP Representation

The APSWDP delegation, led by senior leadership, actively contributed to the event, representing the organization's commitment to **fostering climate resilience and sustainable urban development**. The APSWDP representatives included:

- Dr. Vivek Trivedi (Founder cum Principal Advisor, Head Delegation, APSWDP, India)
- Mr. Rajeev Kumar (Hon. Director, Capacity Building and Training, APSWDP, India)
- Mr. Karamveer Singh (CEO, APSWDP, India)

- Key Highlights of the Event

The event featured a compelling keynote address by **Former US Vice President Al Gore**, who emphasized the urgent need for countries to enhance their **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** to meet **the 1.5°C target set by the Paris Agreement**. He stressed the importance of transitioning to renewable energy sources and highlighted the dual nature of climate action as both a moral responsibility and an economic opportunity.

- Panel discussions at the event explored innovative approaches to decarbonization, with a focus on:
 - **Scaling Renewable Energy Solutions:** Successful case studies of solar and wind energy adoption, particularly in developing economies.



Picture: APSWDP participated in Raising Climate Ambition and Gala Dinner hosted by the Noble Laureate and Former US Vice President Al Gore, The Climate Reality Project.

- **Sustainable Urban Planning:** Integration of climate-smart infrastructure in city planning.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Strengthening cooperation to mobilize climate finance and technical expertise.

The APSWDP team played an active role in the discussions, contributing valuable insights on the role of media literacy in climate education as a tool to combat disinformation and promote informed climate action among communities.

During the networking reception, APSWDP representatives engaged with key stakeholders, sharing experiences and exploring avenues for collaboration to accelerate climate initiatives.

APSWDP Contributions and Outcomes

1. Showcasing Grassroots Climate Initiatives:

- APSWDP highlighted their flagship initiative, the *International Eco-Visionary Dialogue on Advancing Sustainable Urban Futures (IEDASUF)*, demonstrating the importance of community-driven climate solutions.
- The team emphasized the significance of empowering local communities to adopt climate-resilient urban practices.

2. Collaboration Opportunities:

- APSWDP initiated discussions with The Climate Reality Project on potential future collaborations, focusing on:
 - Capacity-building workshops for community stakeholders.
 - Public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the urgency of climate action and sustainable living practices.

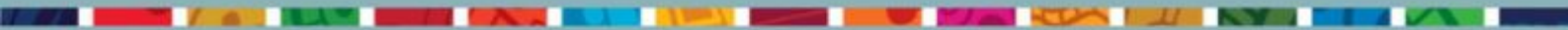
3. Strengthening Global Presence:

- Participation in the event provided APSWDP with an opportunity to expand its network and foster meaningful partnerships with organizations working towards similar sustainability goals.

Conclusion

- The "Raising Climate Ambition" event reaffirmed APSWDP's dedication to **advancing sustainable urban development and climate resilience at a global level**. By actively participating in high-level discussions and networking with international stakeholders, APSWDP successfully expanded its reach and influence in the global climate dialogue. The outcomes of the event pave the way for future partnerships and strengthened advocacy efforts to amplify climate action initiatives in India and beyond.





Reflections and Insights: Experiences from Our COP29 Delegates and Partners





A Trajectory Forged in Passion: From Local Initiative to Global Climate Leadership

My trajectory in climate advocacy ignited upon returning from the **Al Gore Climate Leadership Programme** in Melbourne, Australia, in July 2009. Charged with mobilizing youth and deploying newly honed advocacy skills, I spearheaded a pivotal week-long mega-event in Chandigarh. Collaborating with the Directorate of Museum and Archive, alongside influential government and civil society organizations, this initiative galvanized over **10,000 individuals** and forged alliances with more than 20 diverse entities. We championed climate action through compelling exhibitions and resonant street dialogues, embodying the ethos of "**Think Global, Act Local.**" The resounding success of this grassroots campaign not only energized the local populace but also propelled the urgent need for global climate action onto the forefront during **COP15 in Copenhagen**. While I was initially thwarted from securing a Blue Zone badge for COP15, I witnessed firsthand the potent force of networking through a dedicated volunteer, sparking the vision to cultivate an organization with official **Observer and Consultative Status at UNFCCC, UNEA, and UN ECOSOC**.

This experience kindled within me an indomitable "Never Say Die Spirit." In 2014, after five years of relentless volunteerism in climate action – immersing myself in educational institutions, traversing the breadth of India, and completing rigorous training under UN agencies – I laid the foundations for a local network named **Association of Professional Social Workers (APSWD)**. Through unwavering commitment, meticulous strategy, and countless engagements with diverse populations, I propelled this network onto the world stage as Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP). Within a mere eight years, our organization attained coveted Observer status with **UN agencies**, including the **UNFCCC**, securing a definitive presence at the **annual COPs**.

Today, our association stands as a resounding testament to the power of converting grassroots volunteerism into impactful, professional advocacy. We are privileged to nominate passionate individuals from every corner of the globe as COP Observers and to orchestrate influential side events, compelling panel discussions, focused campaigns, and strategic meetings within the COP venue. In 2024, we **nominated 32 trailblazers from diverse backgrounds to COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan**. We convened three critical meetings within the **Blue Zone**, dedicated to catalyzing global collaborations and partnerships, and hosted two impactful roundtables in the **Green Zone** in concert with prominent international organizations like **WFUNIF and Extreme Hangouts**. These collective endeavors culminated in the signing of 11 landmark Memorandums of Understanding with global entities spanning the NGO, educational, and corporate realms.

Dr. Vivek Trivedi

Founder-cum-Principal Advisor, APSWDP, India
Social Development Officer, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh



"Attending COP 29 was an inspiring and transformative experience. The plenary sessions highlighted global commitment to addressing climate challenges, fostering hope for a sustainable future. The ozone secretariat workshop provided deep insights into international efforts to protect the ozone layer and underscored the importance of collaborative action. Engaging with experts and stakeholders across diverse fields allowed for rich discussions, knowledge sharing, and the exploration of innovative solutions to pressing environmental issues. Witnessing the convergence of global leaders, scientists, and advocates reinforced the urgency of collective action, leaving me motivated to contribute meaningfully to climate solutions and environmental sustainability initiatives. Thanks to APSWDP for giving me this opportunity to be the part of delegation."

Dr. Anshu Kumar

Hon. Director International Relations, APSWDP, India

As the CEO of APSWDP, my participation in COP29 was an incredibly enriching experience, both on a professional and personal level. It was a privilege to represent our organization on such a global stage, where I had the opportunity to connect with diverse cultures and communities. We organized more than three impactful events in the Blue Zone, bringing together participants from various countries and partner organizations to discuss and promote sustainable solutions. I was also honored to be invited to two exclusive programs, which provided further opportunities for collaboration. Throughout the event, I engaged in meaningful networking with global organizations, resulting in the signing of several Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), solidifying APSWDP's commitment to sustainable development worldwide. Representing APSWDP and participating as part of the member delegation was an experience I will always treasure.

Karamveer Singh

Cheif Executive Officer, APSWDP

From 16 to 22 November 2024, I had the honor of participating in the UNFCCC in Baku, Azerbaijan. Serving as a speaker in various panel discussions, I explored key topics including climate change, sustainable cities, youth leadership, innovative solutions, green technologies, and global partnerships for a sustainable future. This experience was profoundly enriching, providing an opportunity to share perspectives and learn from global experts and leaders dedicated to addressing pressing environmental challenges. The discussions highlighted the critical role of youth in shaping resilient, sustainable urban futures and the importance of innovation and collaboration in driving impactful solutions. I am deeply grateful to APSWDP for supporting my participation and for their unwavering commitment to fostering change. With these insights, I look forward to advancing sustainable development initiatives and continuing to work towards a greener, more equitable future.

Gurpreet Choudhary,

Hon. Director, Research & Innovation, APSWDP



Participation in UNFCCC COP29 – United Nations Climate Change Conference 2024

Participating in the UNFCCC COP29 – United Nations Climate Change Conference 2024, held at Baku Stadium in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 16, 2024, was an enriching and unforgettable experience. Representing the APSWDP delegation alongside Dr. Vivek Trivedi and Dr. Anshu Kumar, I had the privilege of engaging in high-level discussions in the presence of global leaders. These sessions provided valuable insights into the latest developments in international climate policies and commitments. Visiting country-specific pavilions allowed me to explore diverse strategies and initiatives undertaken worldwide to address climate change challenges.

Networking was another key highlight of the conference. I established meaningful connections with international delegates, researchers, and policy-makers, paving the way for future collaborations. Observing the active participation of youth delegations and community representatives was particularly inspiring, as their voices brought energy and fresh perspectives to critical climate issues. The conference also provided a unique opportunity to witness the art of diplomacy in action, including conflict resolution and consensus-building among diverse stakeholders.

Additionally, I deepened my understanding of climate finance mechanisms, such as fund allocation, accessibility, and accountability frameworks. Learning about the influential role of non-state actors, including NGOs, private sector organizations, and civil society, further underscored the multifaceted approach needed to address climate change effectively.

A standout moment of the conference was a memorable evening spent with Mr. Al Gore, former Vice President of the United States, during a gala dinner, which added a personal touch to this professional journey. Beyond the conference, I also had the chance to explore the beautiful city of Baku and visit some of its stunning landmarks, making the experience both professionally fulfilling and personally rewarding.

Rajeev Choudhary,
Hon. Director (Capacity Building & Training), APSWDP, India



Key Takeaways from COP29 Participation – Baku, Azerbaijan (November 2024)

The COP29 experience was a transformative journey for me marking a shift from professional stagnation to renewed enthusiasm and purpose. My participation in this global event underscored the significance of:

1. **Preparation and Planning:** The event highlighted the importance of setting clear objectives, roles, and strategies prior to participation, enabling meaningful contributions and impactful engagement.
2. **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Observing the synergy within the APSWDP delegation emphasized how collective efforts, guided by effective leadership, can elevate organizational representation on international platforms.
3. **Networking and Engagement:** Active involvement in discussions and interactions reinforced the power of networking in fostering meaningful collaborations and gaining insights into global trends.
4. **Adaptability and Learning:** Despite initial uncertainty, the experience demonstrated the value of adaptability and the need to embrace challenges as opportunities for personal and professional growth.
5. **Empowerment and Trust:** The delegation's unwavering support showcased how trust and encouragement can drive individuals to realize their potential and contribute meaningfully to organizational goals.

This participation not only provided valuable insights into global climate action but also inspired a renewed commitment to contributing effectively to APSWDP's mission and vision.

Mr. Amit Joshi

Hon. Director - Partnership and Outreach Synergist, APSWDP

Attending the UNFCCC COP 29 held in Baku (Azerbaijan) from 11-22 November 2024 was an eye-opening experience, providing first hand insight into global climate policy discussions. I got insights from world leaders, policymakers, and climate activists, all working toward sustainable solutions. The collaborative atmosphere underscored the urgency of addressing climate change, while panel discussions and side events highlighted innovative solutions across sectors. I was inspired by the passion and commitment to achieving ambitious climate goals, learning the complexities of international negotiations. The experience deepened my understanding of the global effort needed to combat climate change, reinforcing my commitment to contributing to a sustainable future.

Adv. Aakash Yadav

Hon. Director, Legal Affairs, APSWDP

UNITED NATIONS SAYS ABOUT
780 MILLION PEOPLE GO
HUNGRY DAILY WE CAN FEED
EASILY 9 BILLION GOING
VEGETARIAN OR FEED 18
BILLION DAILY FEED 18
World Peace & Prosperity
worldguardian
Enviro Diet-you
channel

PLASTIC IS
KILLING YOU,
ME AND THE
PLANET LETS
WORK FOR
A PLASTIC
FREE WORLD



Reflection on COP29: Multiple Voices; No Action; Our Future Uncertain

Inspired by COP29: Your Voce, Your Action, Your Future

COP29 was my first time at the United Nations climate change conference known as COP or Conference of Parties. The parties are the countries that are UN member states. I thank APSWDP for sharing their pass with me. Although I've been following these annual climate conferences online since my days as a doctoral student, participating in person was a different experience altogether. It allowed me to meet, connect, and hear stories, experiences, and perspectives from people across the world. As an academic, it was a truly enriching experience with political leaders, diplomats, civil society, and media all coming under one roof for one cause.

Leaders' statements reflected the complexity of transition: I attended the statements made by the world leaders during the first two days of the conference. Given the complex geopolitical context of the conference, it did not come as a surprise when many world leaders called for peace and emphasized realism in the energy transition. Some leaders also pointed to the low level of trust amongst countries, which, to my mind, can risk genuine collaboration and cooperation. Some leaders from high-emission countries, including the US, China, and India, were absent. Overall, my impression was that the world is dealing with conflicts, human suffering, high living costs, high energy prices, and high inequalities. Hence, the commitment to reducing emissions will be weighed with practicalities and tight finances.

Learning from engagements: I was privileged to participate in and contribute to two side events during the conference. The first one was organized on "strengthening international collaboration & networking" by APSWDP, where I met the climate reality fellows from India and learned about their impactful work. Youth from Nepal, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan volunteering at Baku shared their views on climate change. Seeing youth having a strong voice at COP29 and precise demands from their leaders was heartening. Members from Burkina Faso narrated their experiences of living with war. I was even more excited to see youth-led initiatives like xxx(Gayathri) and xxx(Nivedita) having an impact on our society in a nonconventional way. I am inspired to share their stories with my students at IIT Kanpur. I was further pleased that APSWDP launched its journal publication and has found a place to document and share what it has learned from India with the global audience. The second event was a panel discussion on "Global Pathways to Green Cities and Coastal Areas: A Vision for Ocean Health, Climate Resilience, and Community Justice." I shared India's experience of solarisation and ethanol blending, drawing insights from my latest research completed for different ministries in India. There could not have been a better outreach than the COP29.

CLIMATE CHANGE
AND HUMAN MOBILITY
PAVILION



Reflection on COP29: Multiple Voices; No Action; Our Future Uncertain**Contd..**

These engagements enriched my understanding of other countries. An even more important takeaway was my exposure to the many efforts of individuals and organisations working in climate space in India.

Catch-ups at corridors: I found the corridor conversations at the COP venue, pavilions, green zone, and bus stations to be most insightful. Many people attend these events in person because of these conversations and dialogues. The coffee side chats and pavilion visits provided me with firsthand information on the action on the ground. I came back armed with many information stickers, reminding me of the great work that civil society is doing. However, I would have indeed done with better-priced meals and a little cheaper coffee, .14 Mannat for a medium-sized cappuccino, which is about 700 Indian rupees for a coffee! I used to buy coffee in Australia at 5 Australian dollars, about 250 Indian rupees. A single-day lunch comprising rice, chicken, and Mexican salad was close to 60 manats. I wonder how many people ate a full meal. Thanks to some tips from a journalist from Hong Kong, I figured out local Baku food options at half the price!

The COP29 deal: "No deal is better than a bad deal" or "a bad deal is better than no deal." As I watched the closing ceremony from India and the reaction to the finance deal, I wondered if COPs were failing to deliver. Do leaders seriously mean no action? Are the lobbying of fossil fuel companies strong enough to resist civil society pressure and deny climate science? Are COPs even worth it? Where are the principles of justice? When all the countries' development levels are different, how can expectations be? I will continue to ponder these questions over months, probably as part of my class discussion. While the finance deal of 300 billion US dollars to be mobilized after several years is simply unjust and unfair, I am also reminded of the number of conflicts currently happening in the world, which suggests when has the world been fair.

Investment in climate finance may be argued as a 'moral obligation,' 'right thing to do,' etc., etc., for developed countries, yet it's also true that private investments are made for profit. Who would want to let their investment sink? Hence, private money will chase positive returns. Now, in terms of public finance, yes, this is something that developed countries must make provision for simply because they are enjoying the fruits of the economic development fuelled by fossil fuel energy. Again, while intuitively, I want to criticize the developed countries' political leadership, I think the fossil fuel industry lobby has the stronghold. I argue this because developed countries are democratic societies with closely interlinked industries and politics. Think of the positions taken by different political parties in the US despite the precise science behind climate change.



9
9 November 2020

The H.E.A.R.T.

Amal Kripalani
Executive Head of the Business Centre

Shah

Reflection on COP29: Multiple Voices; No Action; Our Future Uncertain**Contd..**

So, the COP29 finance deal is no deal, but it was no surprise. I am hopeful that despite the lack of agreement, countries will collaborate and cooperate and progress toward reducing reliance on fossil fuel energy. But I am mindful that the energy transition will happen with more realism rather than hyped optimism. I have seen the rise of the solar energy industry in India, which is fuelled by the private sector.

Finally, while the political will on climate change is fragmented, making the top commitments shaky, the groundwork is rather solid. The trend in clean energy technologies is clear and with carbon markets finding support, the pathway is set towards low emission growth. I remain hopeful of a world which is powered by clean sources of energy and jobs that do not put health at risk. Thank you APSWDP for giving me this opportunity and I look forward to many collaborations with the team.

Dr. Mousami Prasad

Assistant professor, Department of Management Sciences (DoMS), IIT Kanpur India

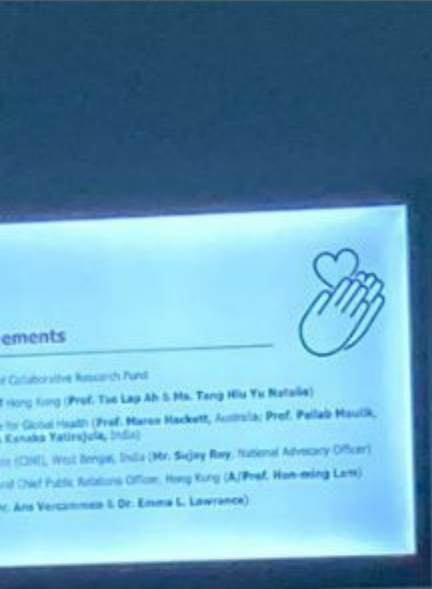
COP 29 was a transformative experience for me Tanya Satish as a Youth Ambassador for the Young Environmentalists Programme Trust, a member of the APSWD (Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners), and a Climate Reality Leader. Speaking at Extreme Hangout UK organisation on the importance of youth-led climate action and interactive engagement strengthened my confidence in using my voice for ocean conservation. Being interviewed by them was humbling.

Attending the inspiring sessions led by Al Gore and our CEO provided invaluable insights into innovative climate solutions and the power of storytelling from global leaders to drive change. Participating in discussions at the Ocean Pavilion deepened my understanding of how ocean literacy is essential to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Connecting with passionate youth from YOUNGO, who are leading climate action worldwide, broadened my network and ignited new ideas for collaborative efforts. The experience enhanced my knowledge of global policy frameworks and how young people can influence them effectively. Returning to my home country, India, I feel more driven than ever to continue advocating for ocean literacy and sustainable marine practices. The connections, knowledge, and inspiration gained have propelled my commitment to ocean education and strengthened my resolve to work harder towards equitable and impactful climate solutions. COP 29 has empowered me to channel my learnings into tangible action for a better, bluer future.

Tanya Gabrielle Satish,

CEO and Youth Ambassador of the Young Environmentalists Programme Trust, India



As the Executive Director of ADSAYO, participating at COP29 as a delegate of APSWDP was a meaningful extension of my work in youth engagement and international collaboration. Events such as Youth at the Crossroads: Catalysing Climate Action through Sustainable and Cultural Tourism and Fostering International Collaboration and Networking on Climate Change perfectly aligned with my mission to empower youth and promote cross-border partnerships. Engaging in these discussions allowed me to integrate my academic expertise with practical strategies for advancing sustainable solutions. Additionally, the release of the report from the International Eco-Visionary Dialogue on Advancing Sustainable Urban Future at COP29, a pre-event I contributed to virtually, highlighted the critical need for urban resilience. The collaborative environment of COP29, further solidified through the signing of an MOU by APSWDP, reinforced my commitment to fostering meaningful youth involvement and amplifying their role in driving global climate action.

Gulnara Baghirova

Executive Director, Azerbaijan Democratic Students & Youth Organization (ADSAYO), Azerbaijan

My participation in COP29 was an exceptional opportunity to align my expertise in political science and international relations with actionable strategies for climate resilience, further strengthening my resolve to foster collaboration and create lasting impact.

Further the sitting in the "Youth at the Crossroads: Catalysing Climate Action through Sustainable and Cultural Tourism" at COP29 as an APSWDP delegate was both enlightening and empowering. As the Chairman of ADSAYO, I have always prioritized building global partnerships and fostering youth potential, and this event directly tied into those goals. The discussions provided valuable insights into how sustainable tourism can not only address climate change but also preserve cultural identities—a vital aspect of empowering communities. Interacting with like-minded individuals and learning innovative approaches to climate action have inspired me to explore new pathways for engaging youth in Azerbaijan.

I am so grateful to Team APSWDP for making us part of COP29 with them. We will collaborate for an impactful sustainable future for youth.

Asgarli Asif

Chairman, Azerbaijan Democratic Students & Youth Organization (ADSAYO), Baku, Azerbaijan

At COP29, ADSAYO, nominated by APSWDP, had a transformative experience witnessing the global commitment to combating climate change. Being part of this prestigious event, ADSAYO felt both honored and inspired, deeply moved by the urgency and collaboration displayed by world leaders and activists. The diverse discussions on sustainable development and climate justice reinforced ADSAYO's belief in the power of collective action. There was a sense of hope amidst the challenges, with innovative solutions emerging from all corners of the world. ADSAYO left the conference feeling motivated to contribute more actively to environmental advocacy, knowing that every effort counts in the fight against climate change. It was a reminder that the future lies in our hands, and we must act now for a sustainable tomorrow.

Sarabsyim Amiraslanova

Program Coordinator, Azerbaijan Democratic Students & Youth Organization (ADSAYO), Azerbaijan

Participating in the Youth at the Crossroads: Catalysing Climate Action through Sustainable and Cultural Tourism roundtable at COP29 was a deeply enriching experience for me as an outreach volunteer with ADSAYO. My role involves connecting with communities and encouraging youth participation, and this event underscored how sustainable tourism can serve as a powerful tool for driving climate action while preserving cultural heritage. Listening to diverse perspectives on youth-led climate solutions allowed me to see new ways to inspire local communities and young people in Azerbaijan.

This experience has not only broadened my understanding of climate action but also reinforced the importance of grassroots outreach in creating a lasting impact. It has motivated me to further strengthen ADSAYO's initiatives by incorporating sustainable practices and empowering youth to become active agents of change in their own communities.

Overall experience at COP29 was enticing and Inspirational. I thank the management of ADSAYO and Indian team of APSWDP as they provided us this international platform.

Huseyn Asif Oglu Asgarli,

Outreach Volunteer Azerbaijan Democratic Students & Youth Organization (ADSAYO), Azerbaijan

Attending COP29 as a delegate of APSWDP was an inspiring and transformative experience for me as a young volunteer at ADSAYO. Coordinating events at such a global platform allowed me to witness the power of collaboration and the impact of youth-led initiatives in addressing climate change. Being surrounded by passionate individuals from around the world reaffirmed my commitment to fostering youth engagement and international cooperation. The experience not only deepened my understanding of global climate challenges but also motivated me to continue working toward positive social change and empowering young voices in Azerbaijan.

Akbar Elman Oglu Akbarov

Young Volunteer Azerbaijan Democratic Students & Youth Organization (ADSAYO) Azerbaijan

Attending COP29 was a profound blend of inspiration, responsibility, and awareness. Having followed COPs virtually since COP26, stepping into the halls of COP29 felt surreal yet carried immense responsibility, knowing many frontline voices could not be present. Being at COP is not an achievement in itself—it's a responsibility to contribute meaningfully. Experiencing firsthand how civil society voices are often sidelined was a stark reminder of the crucial role observers play in bridging negotiations with the outside world, amplifying unheard voices, and holding parties accountable.

As a youth advocate and YOUNGO NDC Working Group member, I collaborated with inspiring advocates to lobby, present position papers, and promote the Global Youth Statement. Representing the UNFCCC Children and Youth Constituency's opening statement was an incredible honor and a moment of solidarity with civil society constituencies. Participating in side events and capacity-building sessions allowed me to bring forward underrepresented perspectives, including those of pastoralist nomadic communities from North-East Asia.

While the agreement to provide \$300 billion annually by 2035 for developing nations is a step forward, it falls short of the scale of action needed. The lack of commitments to phase out fossil fuels and scale up renewable energy highlights the urgency for greater ambition. Despite these disappointments, COP29 reinforced the importance of civil society and youth advocates in ensuring accountability and amplifying the voices of those who cannot be in the room. This experience deepened my resolve to push for equitable and impactful climate action.

Tselmeg Urtnasan

Co-founder Climate Mongolia, Mongolia

Accessing spaces like COP as a young person is challenging, with barriers ranging from funding and badges to capacity building. Yet, our determination is unwavering, and with support from organizations like APSWDP, we're able to engage in processes much larger than ourselves.

Thanks to the badge provided by APSWDP, I had the privilege of speaking on a high-level panel with representatives from Wellcome Trust, IRENA, UNICEF, and the Clean Air Fund—a moment I'll always treasure. I also attended a high-level dinner where we explored ways to unlock public and private partnerships for advancing the climate and health agenda.

One statement that stayed with me was, **"Healthy people can't live on a sick planet, and a sick planet cannot sustain healthy people."** While health is not yet a formal negotiating item, its growing importance is evident with initiatives like the COP Continuity Coalition and the Friends of Climate and Health. My hope for future COPs is to see health firmly integrated into climate action and policy, recognizing its essential role in building a sustainable future.

Dr. Harshita Umesh,

Climate Change and Human Rights Advocate, USA



This esteemed global conference brings together world leaders, experts, and stakeholders to address the pressing issue of climate change. As a representative of The Eco Factory Foundation, I'm honored to contribute to the discussions on sustainable development, climate resilience, and environmental conservation, and to amplify the foundation's mission and vision on the global stage. This access, facilitated through the delegation organized by the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), provided a unique opportunity to engage directly in shaping impactful climate action strategies.

COP29's Key Role in Promoting Regenerative Agriculture and Organic Farming

COP29 serves as a platform for showcasing the unique role of agriculture and food systems in combating climate change and ensuring food security for present and future generations. The conference highlights the importance of agrifood systems solutions in building resilience, supporting adaptation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing carbon sequestration.

Regenerative Agriculture and Climate Change

Regenerative agriculture is a holistic approach to farming that prioritizes soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. By promoting regenerative agriculture, COP29 can help sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance climate resilience. This approach also supports the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

Organic Farming and Climate Action

Organic farming is another critical aspect of sustainable agriculture that COP29 can promote. Organic farming practices avoid synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, reducing environmental pollution and promoting ecosystem services. By supporting organic farming, COP29 can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote soil health, and enhance biodiversity.

Key Takeaways-

- COP29 plays a critical role in promoting regenerative agriculture and organic farming practices.
- Sustainable agriculture can help sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance climate resilience.
- COP29 provides a platform for world leaders to discuss and agree on climate action strategies.
- Promoting sustainable agriculture can help mitigate climate change impacts, ensure food security, and support rural development.

Let's work together to promote sustainable agriculture practices and mitigate climate change impacts. Share your thoughts on how COP29 can support regenerative agriculture and organic farming! Thank you so much for giving me opportunity.

Shriyash Ramesh Gune

Chief Green Officer, The Eco Factory Foundation

COP29

GILTEX

COP29 Baku

ABB

COP29 Baku Azerbaijan

RHENUS LOGISTICS

COP20 Baku Azerbaijan

Wey Airlines

COP29 Baku Azerbaijan

COP29 Azerbaijan

COP29 Azerbaijan

COP29 Baku Azerbaijan
Yaşıl dünya haminə hamroy oluq



Good COP or Bad COP?

Attending COP29 was an incredible experience, and we thank APSWDP for nomination.

COP 29 at Baku, besides being cold and not so affordable for us delegates from the global south was a preview of what actually unfolded in reality with the outcomes.

Although it was filled with meaningful discussions, collaborations, and opportunities to drive action for ocean conservation, resilient cities, and climate mitigations, as someone deeply passionate about ocean literacy and SDG 14, I felt privileged to moderate a panel on the Global perspective on Sustainable Development Goal 14 and Global Ocean Conservation, in collaboration with Extreme Hangout, APSWDP, and the Young Environmentalists Programme Trust. Engaging with global experts and young changemakers on this platform was both inspiring and insightful.

I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to sign an MOU with APSWDA (Andhra Pradesh State Watershed Development Agency). Meeting their team was incredibly inspiring and a testament to the importance of collaboration in driving impactful initiatives.

Another highlight was moderating and speaking at the Digital Pavilion, an official side event on Digital Empowerment in Ocean Data and Solutions. Sharing the stage with global experts to discuss cutting-edge strategies for ocean conservation through technology was an enriching experience that underscored the role of digital innovation in shaping sustainable futures.

I also had the privilege of attending a special dynamic panel discussion and moderating session hosted by the CEO of The Climate Reality Project former vice president of the USA AL Gore at the Landmark Hotel and meeting all our Global CRLs!

Being greeted back with folded hands and a warm "Namaste" when I shared "Greetings from India" to our founder AL GORE was a moment of genuine connection that I'll always cherish. His determination is contagious, and we wish to work even harder as climate warriors.

Key takeaways from COP29 included innovative approaches to fostering ocean resilience, actionable strategies for community-based conservation, and a deeper understanding of how gender equality can strengthen environmental advocacy. COP29 also served as a reminder that collaboration is the cornerstone of progress, and I am eager to explore partnerships and initiatives that emerged from these exchanges. This experience has further fuelled my commitment to empowering communities through education and amplifying the voices of those most affected by climate change, particularly women and coastal populations. As I return, I'm excited to translate these insights into meaningful action.

The Global leaders at COP 29 stretched their delivery out with very weak language to the thousands of attendees who had gathered from all over the world.



COP29 in Baku faced criticism for several key shortcomings that hindered substantial progress in addressing the climate crisis:

1. **Inadequate Climate Finance Goals:** Despite the pressing need for funds, the agreed targets for climate finance fell short. Developing nations advocated for \$1.3 trillion annually, but the draft agreement only referenced \$300 billion—a gap that reflects insufficient ambition and urgency. Moreover, funding continues to rely heavily on loans rather than grants, burdening already indebted countries.
2. **Failure to Support the Most Vulnerable:** Adaptation measures for developing nations, crucial for addressing immediate climate impacts, remain underfunded. Financial mechanisms like grants and risk-sharing tools have yet to be adequately scaled to make adaptation projects viable.
3. **Loss and Damage Fund Challenges:** Although the Loss and Damage Fund was a pivotal topic, dissatisfaction persists over its lack of sufficient operational clarity, funding mechanisms, and equitable distribution to nations most affected by climate disasters.
4. **Deforestation and Conservation Neglect:** Forest preservation, a critical element in climate mitigation, was largely overlooked. Despite earlier commitments to end tropical deforestation by 2030, no significant new funding was pledged at COP29.
5. **Insufficient Action on Fossil Fuel Transition:** While there was progress on carbon markets under Article 6, the lack of a clear framework to phase out fossil fuels was a major disappointment. This gap undermines global efforts to transition to renewable energy.
6. **COP Reform and Host Influence:** The limitations of the COP process itself were evident, with host nation priorities shaping outcomes. Calls for reforms to make COPs more action-oriented and less host-dependent gained traction but remain unaddressed.

Looking ahead to COP30 in Brazil, there's hope that unresolved issues from Baku—especially around nature-based solutions, fossil fuel phase-outs, and equitable climate finance—will see more decisive action.

Meanwhile we need to keep working in our backyards and lobby for policies back here in our own country. Global South has been dealt a unfair hand but we are not going to accept it as India forges ahead with more vigour aiming to not halt any sustainable development Goals and its 2050 mission.

Elsie Gabriel

Ambassador for India Ocean Quest
Founder Young Environmentalists Programme
National Coordinator Oceans Climate Reality
Director PHSA USA

Attending COP29

For me, COP29 in Azerbaijan was a groundbreaking experience. Representing Terrasols Solutions Private Limited, I gained profound insights into the global environmental landscape. Participating in technical sessions and high-level discussions deepened my understanding of climate challenges and solutions, particularly in relation to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) registration and plastic waste management.

The conference was a reminder of the pivotal role private organizations like Terrasols play in addressing climate issues. Witnessing actionable commitments by governments and NGOs reinforced the need for collective action in mitigating climate change.

Cultural Immersion in Azerbaijan

Exploring Azerbaijan's unique culture and heritage was equally enlightening. Walking through the historic streets of Baku and interacting with the locals showed me how sustainability practices are deeply influenced by cultural values. The balance between modernization and tradition in Azerbaijan served as a valuable lesson on integrating local contexts into sustainability projects.

Acknowledgment to APSWDP

My sincere gratitude goes to APSWDP for facilitating this transformative journey. Their exceptional planning made it seamless for me to focus on learning and contributing during COP29. One of the proudest moments was signing the MOU with APSWDP, which will foster impactful collaborations in advancing environmental solutions.

As I return to India, the wealth of knowledge gained will guide me in refining our strategies at Terrasols and tackling challenges in the sustainability sector.

Manish Kumar

Founder & CEO, Terrasols Solutions, India



Attending COP29

Attending COP29 in Azerbaijan was a milestone in my professional journey. Representing Terrasols Solutions Private Limited, I had the privilege of engaging in collaborative workshops and technical sessions that broadened my perspective on climate action. I was particularly inspired by the innovative solutions shared during the event, which will greatly inform our approach to plastic waste management and related sustainability initiatives.

The emphasis on public-private collaboration stood out to me. Observing dialogues between governments, NGOs, and businesses highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in combating climate challenges.

Cultural Enrichment in Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan's rich culture left a lasting impression on me. Experiencing its architecture, cuisine, and hospitality gave me a fresh perspective on how cultural heritage can influence sustainable practices. The unique blend of modernity and tradition in Azerbaijan encouraged me to think about how local values can be incorporated into our projects back home.

Acknowledgment to APSWDP

I am immensely thankful to APSWDP for their meticulous efforts in making this journey possible. Their event during COP29 offered a platform for meaningful exchanges that will shape future projects. Signing the MOU with APSWDP was a pivotal step in cementing our shared vision of driving impactful environmental initiatives.

This experience has equipped me with valuable insights and a renewed determination to innovate and expand the work we do at Terrasols.

Vaibhav Tiwari

Chief Sustainability Officer, Terrasols Solutions



Reflections by Virtual Observers

The UNFCCC COP29, which took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, between November 11–22, 2024 was an astounding event. The forum witnessed the presence of excellencies, global leaders, policy makers, representations from the government, civil society organizations, and private actors. Several side events, plenary sessions, panel discussions etc. took place at the event focusing on the climate change, sustainable development goals, achievement made so far and efforts being laid down at the global level by various entities. The fervor and dedication to accomplishing challenging climate goals, as well as the intricacies of global negotiations, was a learning experience for me. My commitment towards climate change solutions through advocacy and promoting education for sustainable development helped me to understand and to grasping the worldwide effort that is poured and its further requirement to tackle climate change.

Dr. Sumit Arora

President, APSWDP

Attending COP29 UNFCCC online was a highly enriching and transformative experience for me. The event provided a global platform to engage in discussions on climate policy, sustainable development, and the critical role of youth in combating climate change. I found the sessions on climate finance, green innovations, and climate justice particularly insightful, helping me understand how international frameworks can be linked to local grassroots initiatives.

My prior experiences in various internships significantly enhanced my engagement at COP29. Working as a digital marketing intern at RCTC-PGIMER, Chandigarh, allowed me to understand how digital platforms can amplify health and climate awareness campaigns. In addition, contributing as a digital marketer and graphic designer for APSWDP, Chandigarh, gave me practical skills in outreach, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement, which were crucial during my interactions at COP29. My involvement in tobacco control programs at PGIMER and climate change workshops at APSWDP provided me with firsthand knowledge of implementing sustainable projects at the community level. These internships played a key role in equipping me with communication, research, and advocacy skills, enabling me to actively participate in discussions, present my views, and exchange ideas with international delegates at COP29. This experience not only broadened my global perspective but also motivated me to further my efforts in youth climate leadership, social causes, and sustainable development.

Moving forward, I aim to apply my learnings from COP29 and my internships to strengthen ongoing local initiatives, advocate for climate-friendly policies, and inspire more young people to join the fight against climate change. This experience has reinforced my commitment to creating a positive impact through collaborative and innovative action.

Ms. Ankita Rani

Youth Volunteer, APSWDP



Reflections by Virtual Observers

Attending COP29 virtually provided crucial insights into this year's outcomes, particularly on climate finance. It became evident that a fixed, equitable distribution of climate finance is essential to bridging the gap between the Global North and South. High-impact countries must prioritize climate finance to enable effective action in vulnerable regions. The conference underscored the urgency of addressing these disparities, emphasizing that robust financial commitments are vital for implementing meaningful climate solutions and ensuring a just transition for all nations, especially those most affected by climate change.

Bhavesh Swami

The Climate Reality Project (TCP) India & South Asia

Attending COP29 virtually, while leading Youth 4 COP for The Climate Reality India & South Asia, was an invaluable experience. Staying engaged from the opening to the closing ceremonies, I gained deep insights into critical discussions on climate finance, the Paris Agreement, and the Loss and Damage Fund. The NDC reports from South Asian countries helped clarify each nation's commitments. This experience also highlighted youth movements, the role of AI in climate action, and finance equity for indigenous populations, enriching my understanding of global climate strategies and networking opportunities.

Dr. Sakshi Grover

Consultant for Environment & Engagements at
The Climate Reality Project India & South Asia

Attending COP29 virtually was a profound learning experience, particularly in sessions on gender and environment. It was enlightening to witness the collaboration between developed and developing nations in addressing these intertwined issues. The discussions played a crucial role in refining the language and framework of the document on gender and environment, ensuring clarity and alignment with future needs. This collective effort promises to foster more inclusive and equitable climate actions, eliminating ambiguities and paving the way for sustained progress.

Anjali Rai

Retd. Sqd. Leader Indian Air Force, India

Reflections by Virtual Observers

Attending COP29 virtually as a delegate from Azerbaijan was both inspiring and enlightening. The conference highlighted critical issues, with "Climate Finance" emerging as a key focus. New commitments to increase funding to \$150 billion annually by 2030 and establish a transparent allocation mechanism were landmark achievements. The Global Stocktake underscored the urgent need for enhanced mitigation strategies to keep the 1.5°C target within reach. Commitments to Nature-Based Solutions and renewable energy were also noteworthy. The announcement of a youth climate fund resonated deeply, reinforcing my commitment to empowering young climate leaders in India. This experience reaffirmed the power of local actions driving global change.

Nayak Prithish Kumar

Founder Bhumitra, India

Attending COP29 virtually was an insightful experience, focusing on the pivotal New Collective Quantified Goals (NCQG) to address climate needs in developing countries. The conference underscored the responsibility of high-emission developed nations to ensure accountability and transparency in climate finance. With the Global South facing escalating climate impacts, COP29's emphasis on expanding finance for climate-resilient projects is crucial for sustainable development. This reinforced the urgency of collective action to achieve long-term benefits for vulnerable regions.

Vijay Kumar Thurram

Senior Project Coordinator- Saahas, India

Participating in COP29 as a Virtual Observer for APSWDP was an insightful and thought-provoking experience. With my background in journalism and over 18 years of covering political developments, urban governance, and sustainability, this opportunity allowed me to engage with a global narrative on climate action and sustainable development. The sessions on urban resilience, energy transitions, and ecological preservation resonated deeply with my professional focus and enriched my understanding of how these global frameworks can be contextualized for local action.

My understanding of socio-political dynamics in the region further enabled me to contextualize the takeaways from COP29 for local policy and awareness initiatives. This experience reinforced the critical role of journalism in bridging the gap between global commitments and grassroots realities, inspiring me to continue advocating for sustainable urban development and environmental stewardship through my work.

Deepak Yadav

Assistant Editor, Times of India



Empowering Global Partnerships - A Summary



CHILDREN YOUTH



13 CLIMATE ACTION



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



16

5 GENDER EQUALITY



5 GENDER EQUALITY



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



The 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) concluded in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 14–24, 2024, with significant progress in global climate governance. APSWDP (Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners) participated as an observer, contributing to critical dialogues on sustainable development and climate action. The conference's primary achievement was the adoption of the Baku Climate Unity Pact, which outlines several key initiatives:

New Global Climate Finance Goal

Developed countries committed to mobilizing \$300 billion annually by 2035 to support developing nations in addressing climate change. Additionally, the pact encourages all actors to collectively raise \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035, combining public and private sources. This agreement aims to enhance financial support for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in vulnerable countries.

UNFCCC

Mitigation Work Programme

The conference emphasized the importance of reducing emissions in urban areas. It identified technical options for emission reductions in cities and encouraged collaboration across governance levels. Parties and observers were invited to propose topics for mitigation dialogues in 2025. A digital platform is planned for 2025 to facilitate the exchange of information on mitigation actions.

Global Goal on Adaptation

Countries provided guidance to technical experts working on indicators to measure progress toward global resilience. The pact introduced a permanent agenda item on adaptation, the Baku Adaptation Roadmap, and a high-level dialogue to enhance implementation efforts.

Article 6.4 Mechanism

COP29 finalized the framework for the Paris Agreement's Article 6.4 mechanism, establishing international standards for carbon credit trading. This mechanism is expected to unlock significant funding for climate projects, particularly in developing countries, by facilitating the global trading of carbon credits.

REUTERS

Non-Market Approaches (Article 6.8)

The conference concluded the first phase of the work programme on non-market approaches (NMAs), such as actions addressing biodiversity and climate. A new online platform for NMAs was introduced, and the next phase will focus on overcoming barriers to NMAs and integrating them into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Gender and Climate Change

Recognizing the need for gender balance in climate action, COP29 extended the Lima Work Programme on Gender for ten years and launched a new gender action plan. The decision encourages parties to appoint gender focal points, enhance reporting, and integrate gender considerations into climate finance.

Research and Systematic Observation

Parties acknowledged recent publications by scientific bodies and emphasized the importance of supporting enhanced observation systems in developing countries, such as through the Systematic Observation Financing Facility (SOFF).

Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)

A new workplan for 2025–2027 was approved, focusing on convening knowledge holders, regional engagement, and collaboration with UNFCCC workstreams. The secretariat will explore options to enhance the participation of Indigenous representatives and provide interpretation for Indigenous languages.

Unresolved Issues

Several key issues remain unresolved and will be addressed in future conferences:

- Logistics of the Global Stocktake: Intended to assess the global climate effort every five years, discussions on improving this process will continue.
- Just Transition Work Programme: Focused on ensuring that climate action does not lead to unjust consequences for specific groups or countries, this topic requires further deliberation.
- Host of COP31: The decision on the host country for COP31 remains pending, with Australia and Türkiye among the contenders.

General Observations

While the finance goal represents progress, some developing countries expressed concerns over its ambition and the inclusion of voluntary contributions from developing nations. The mitigation work programme decision is seen as limited, with major emitters resisting platforms that could pressure them toward greater ambition. The adaptation decision introduces new workstreams, though their purposes and linkages require clarification.

Outlook Toward COP30

Building on the foundation laid at COP29, COP30 in Brazil is set to play a pivotal role in advancing global climate action. While COP29 addressed critical issues like the new climate finance goal and Article 6 mechanisms, lingering dissatisfaction among developing countries regarding finance and mitigation ambition highlights significant challenges. These unresolved concerns will demand focused attention to ensure progress at COP30.

Scheduled for 2025, COP30 will center on crucial milestones, including the submission of new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by February 9, 2025, and the operationalization of the Paris Agreement's ambition mechanism. The event will need to prioritize inclusive and transformative solutions that balance the needs of both developed and developing nations.

As an observer organization, APSWDP remains steadfast in its commitment to advocating for sustainable development, grassroots empowerment, and social equity. Leveraging its expertise, APSWDP will actively champion climate solutions that emphasize inclusivity and transformative action, ensuring that the voices of marginalized communities are represented in global climate dialogues.

In summary, COP29 achieved significant milestones, particularly in climate finance and carbon market mechanisms, but left critical issues unresolved, setting the stage for further negotiations at COP30.

Kinsey
Sustainability

Beyond
plans to
progress





Picture Gallery







Picture: Inaugural Session at COP 29.



Picture: Inaugural Session at COP 29.



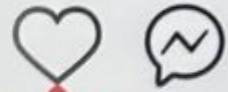
Picture: Interaction with Sadguru, Founder Isha Foundation.



Picture: APSWDP Delegates at various pavillions.



Instagram



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un_azerbaijan 🌍 Capturing Climate Action at COP29! Join us at the UN Azerbaijan Pavilion and be part of the global movement for a sustainable and greener future.

📷 [#COP29](#) [#UNAzerbaijan](#) [#ClimateAction](#)



Picture: APSWDP Delegates in various vibrant moments.



Pictures: MOU Signing at COP29.



Picture: APSWDP Delegates with other delegates at COP 29.



Picture: Meeting on Fostering Global Collaborations.



Picture: Group Pictures of delegates participating in a meeting.



Picture: APSWDP organized Round Table at Inspiration Space, Extreme Hangout Pavillion, Green Zone



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Picture: APSWDP organized 2nd Meeting on Fostering Global Collaboration at Blue Zone.



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Media Gallery



SCRBTEH

From Waste to Wealth



Media Gallery




ADSAYO signed a Memorandum of Understanding

Azerbaijani NGOs are actively participating in the great COP29 events held in our country. So, today in the COP29 Blue Zone, the Azerbaijan Democratic Student Youth Organization (ADSAYO), which is an active NGO of Azerbaijan and is implementing 3 international projects related to COP29 this year, "Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners" of India, a member of the UNFCCC and ECOSOC Association" (APSWDP) and 4 other NGOs signed a Memorandum of Understanding on continuous cooperation and partnership. According to this protocol, which envisages cooperation on future projects, programs and other activities, Azerbaijani and Indian NGOs will promote the legacy of COP29, green active participation, green awareness, as well as continuous and series of activities in education, youth work, social, employment and other relevant topics and fields. will organize, exchange information and experience. In the future, the memorandum envisages the joining of partner NGOs from other countries to this partnership and the

Media Gallery



THIRD SECTOR 13 NOVEMBER 2024 4:44

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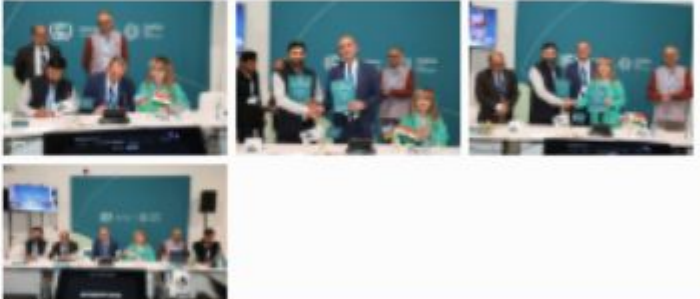
Politics 500

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13 November 13:00

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**COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE
PROMOTING GLOBAL SOLIDARITY
FOR COP29**



11-22 November, 2024
Azerbaijan, Baku





"To solve environmental and social issues, we must build strong partnerships that prioritize people's well-being while preserving the planet for future generations."

– Al Gore

Former US Vice President and Environmental Activist



Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP)

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