

DAY 2 – Nov. 12  
UNFCCC COP 29 – Baku, Azerbaijan

Day 2 marked the start of a series of high-level climate events at COP 29. While significantly less attended than COP 28, several Head of States made appearances and highlighted new commitments ahead of the February 2025 deadline for the next iteration of Nationally Determined Contributions. Significantly, Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced the UK's new NDC which includes a commitment to reduce emissions by 81% from 1990 levels by 2035.

Peace and security also featured heavily in the high-level statements as the world faces multiple humanitarian crises. Charles Michel, speaking for the European Council, called out imperialism and cycles of vengeance as drivers of war and emphasized the need to strengthen the rule of law. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Türkiye, used his time on the podium to renounce the Israeli attacks in Gaza and Lebanon, noting that the attacks were affecting the soil and water resources of its targets. The crown prince of Jordan, Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, made similar comments claiming that war exacerbated the climate threats to their country. It is worth noting the presence of the Taliban officials at this COP, their first attendance since they took power in Afghanistan in 2021.

These statements come as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees released a report today called “No Escape, On the frontlines of Climate Change, Conflict, and Forced Displacement” that highlights how climate change compounds the risks and ramifications of war. According to this report, over 220 million people have been victim of weather-related internal displacement since 2014 and that those living in extremely fragile states receive only \$2.1 per person per year in adaptation financing (compared to the \$161.7 received by those in non-fragile states).

In the negotiation rooms, discussions are in full swing. It is noteworthy that in the negotiations for the New Collective Quantified Goal for Climate Finance, Parties have rejected the text presented by the Co-Chairs as a starting point calling it “messy, inoperable, underwhelming, perplexing, and difficult to engage with” and have requested a new draft text to work with. Parties have also started to request for a draft text across various agenda items such as in SBSTA 13(b) (rules, modalities, and procedures for Art. 6.4), SBSTA 5(b)/SBI 11(b) (report of the adaptation committee), SBSTA 8/SBI 8 (just transition work programme), and SBI 19 (provision of financial and technical support to developing countries), among others. Parties will get a better sense of the work ahead when these draft texts are released.