

**6<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**  
Statement by His Excellency Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, Minister of Ecology  
and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan,  
COP 29 President Designate

**Thank you, chair.**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an **HONOR** to be here as Azerbaijan's Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources as well as the President-Designate of COP29.

I would like to thank UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen and her able team for hosting us **AND** bringing together such an **IMPRESSIVE** group.

The stakes are clear: if we are to deliver on UNEP's and the UNEA's mission to protect the environment as a whole, we **MUST** effectively fight climate change.

With the climate challenge becoming **EVER** more pressing, we must ensure that the discussions we have here are transformed into **VIABLE** action.

Climate action has become a race...against...time.

As host of COP29, we **KNOW** that we have a **KEY** role to play in this race.

The critical 1.5°C limit is close to being breached - and we can see the world around us being impacted in **SIGNIFICANT** ways.

While we are unified and **COMMITTED** to a 1.5°C goal, we must focus on action and overcome anything that gets in our way.

**As part of our strong commitment to global climate action, we have joined the Global Methane Pledge to collectively reduce methane emissions by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030.**

The impacts of climate change have reached **UNPRECEDENTED** levels around the globe.

It is well publicized that this is causing **MILLIONS** of premature deaths each year. These interconnected challenges underscore the need for effective... inclusive...and **SUSTAINABLE...MULTILATERAL** action.

The interconnected nature of these crises requires transformative solutions that can **ONLY** be achieved through **COLLABORATIVE** efforts.

COP29 can be a **GATEWAY** to that success with Azerbaijan as a bridge-builder that can **UNITE** communities **AND** countries behind the common cause of climate action.

COP28 in Dubai set the stage for this, emphasizing the need to transition away from fossil fuels and to **RAMP** up renewable energy **AND** energy efficiency, while putting in operation the loss and damage fund to help vulnerable nations recover from the adverse impacts of climate change.

Our COP29 Presidency will do its best to transform consensus into action **AND** increase momentum.

Key to that is climate finance, including the New...Collective...Quantified...Goal (NCQG), which will be a **KEY** focus at COP29.

We will also support the process of finalizing the Biennial Transparency Reporting (BTR), which is **CRUCIAL** to ensure progress with the NDC update, **AND** develop a comprehensive framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation.

At COP29, we commit to working towards effective....inclusive, **AND** sustainable multilateral action, bringing together voices from **ALL** segments of society including science, policy, business, and diverse communities.

Demonstrating our collaborative approach, we will work closely with the COP Presidencies of UAE and Brazil within the COP Presidencies Troika.

2024 marks the 'Year of Solidarity for a Green World' in Azerbaijan, during which we look to GALVANIZE our nation to deliver climate action.

UNEA-6 – and COP29 – provide GREAT opportunities for us to do the same at a GLOBAL level.

As we embark on this journey, let us remember that our shared commitment to a sustainable AND resilient future is not just a responsibility; it is a LEGACY we leave for generations to come.

**Thank you again – and I look forward to meeting with you to discuss our common goals and welcome you all to Baku for COP29.**