



COP29 Updates

The following updates are based on reports from [Climate Action Network Canada \(CAN/Rac\)](#).

Day 1/November 11, 2024

Overall vibe: so far, so good – and surprisingly more positive than expected.

Minister Steven Guilbeault is at COP for just a few short days, from November 11-13. Today, he joined us for a conversation with civil society at the Canada Pavilion, moderated by CAN-Rac Executive Director Caroline Brouillette, where our members and allies raised issues and asked questions ranging from the NCQG to decolonizing climate policy to sustaining our wins in a challenging political environment – both within Canada and globally.

Day 2/November 12, 2024

The pace has already reached a frantic level, with politics driving just as much attention as the negotiations. Day 2 kicked off with an agenda.

As Baku's streets remain shut off to welcome Heads of State and Governments, all eyes are on the World Leaders Climate Action Summit. This summit is a key moment, as leaders will not only present their climate ambitions but also lay the groundwork for COP30 and the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

It's clear that while Azerbaijan's President Aliyev places his country's narrative in the best possible light, he totally missed the opportunity as the COP presidency to speak to why the leaders were actually gathered: to set ambitious goals and strengthen commitments to climate action his speech only sowed skepticism toward the presidency.

António Guterres wasted no time: "Doubling down on fossil fuels is absurd." His message to leaders was clear: we cannot continue on the same path if we're serious about the 1.5°C goal.

The US's message to the world: "On behalf of President Biden, the US is here to help produce outcomes that keep 1.5°C alive." It's still unclear exactly how the US will engage in

negotiations under the incoming climate change-denying administration. The US also reinforced the need for countries to meet their Dubai commitments. While some of this sounds nice, we are left wondering just how much of this climate enthusiasm we can trust when the future of US climate engagement remains cloudy.

In the midst of this, we saw Turkey take a political stand against Israel, accusing them of violating international law, while Brazil stressed that COP29's success is critical to the success of COP30. Iraq also made an implicit plea to US subnational governments, urging them to continue climate action even if Trump pulls out of the Paris Agreement again. It's clear that geopolitics are shaping the conversation—sometimes more than the actual climate goals.

Where is Argentina ?

In another unexpected turn, Argentina has withdrawn its negotiators from COP29. Under Javier Milei's climate science-denying administration, this decision raises concerns about the stability of these negotiations. With Trump's threat to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, this move by Argentina adds to the growing geopolitical risks surrounding international climate cooperation. The next few days will likely tell us a lot about the future of global climate diplomacy.

Loss and Damage

If you wonder what's going on with the Loss and damage fund, know that it continues to be a focal point of discussions, with all countries that have pledged to the fund needing to complete contributor agreements. Unfortunately, the pledges so far have been far below the levels needed.

Day 5/November 15, 2024

Shocking Stats/Lobbying

Oil and gas lobbied the federal government at least [695 times](#) during the first 9 months of 2024. You can read [more about Q3 lobbying on our recent blog](#). Highlights include Minister Freeland's 7 meetings with fossil fuel lobbyists from Imperial Oil, MEG, and LNG Canada and multiple meetings with ConocoPhillips and the Pathways Alliance.

Q3 Profits - Just four Canadian oil majors pulled a combined \$6.3 billion in profits for Q3. That brings the profits reported by Suncor, Cenovus, Imperial and CNRL to \$16.727 billion in 2024, so far. We've also got [a reel out on this](#) if you're able to give it a like or share on social media.

Climate Villain profile launch for CNRL's Murray Edwards. By now you're probably familiar with this series, and hopefully soon you'll be familiar with Edwards. He's been a fixture around the extractive business world for decades - including involvement in the early development of the tar sands, in TMX, the Mount Polley Mine disaster, and Pathways Alliance - and is a general billionaire about town.

From Environmental Defence

[Yesterday we released analysis](#) which found that 28 people with ties to the fossil fuel sector were given Party badges by Canada. That includes 19 employees of oil and gas companies, fossil gas utilities and industry associations. This includes representatives from Cenovus Energy, Enbridge, Imperial Oil, Suncor the Pathways Alliance and CAPP. The other 9 people are from groups affiliated with the oil and gas industry, such as Energy for a Secure Future, which runs massive advertising campaigns in Ottawa promoting fossil exports, First Nations LNG Alliance and Petroleum Technology Alliance Canada.

Please amplify [on X here](#) and [on BlueSky here](#).

There were good stories about it in [Le Devoir](#) and the [National Observer](#).

Today, the Kick Big Polluters Out folks released their [analysis](#) of how many fossil fuel lobbyists are at COP29: there are at least 1773 fossil fuel lobbyists registered for the talks in Baku.

[Check out this video](#) from our friends at the Big Oil Alliance (aka Artists for Real Climate Action) on the presence of big polluters at COP.

A press conference was held on November 15: Don't Nuke the Climate Coalition with speakers from the US, Australia, South Africa, Russia and others. Watch the [webcast](#).

Day 6/November 16, 2024

From Euronews

Hundreds of activists formed a human chain outside one of the main plenary halls at COP29 earlier today. They waved flags, snapped their fingers and hummed or mumbled chants in a silent protest. Many had their mouths covered with papers that read 'Silenced'. As they held up signs calling for more climate finance pledges, negotiators continue to try and work out a deal to deliver just that.

Lidy Nacpil, a coordinator with the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development, told AP protesters like her are 'not surprised' by how the talks are going but past wins like the Loss and Damage fund keep them going. "The role we play is to increase the pressure," she said. "We know we're not going to get the results that the world needs in this round of negotiations, but at least to bring us many steps closer is our hope, is our aim."

Days 6-8/November 16-18, 2024

The lobbying scene at COP29: Right now, there are 1,773 fossil fuel lobbyists walking around the venue, mingling among the delegates. According to Kick Big Polluters Out, fossil fuel lobbyists have received more passes to COP29 than all the delegates from the 10 most climate-vulnerable nations combined. 1,033 delegates from the countries most impacted by climate change are in attendance, while the fossil fuel lobby is outnumbering them. This stark imbalance makes it clear why it took decades for COP texts to even mention fossil fuels.

In the midst of all this, it's becoming clear how critical the leadership of the COP presidency is in steering these negotiations toward the urgency they require. But the race to host COP31 is already heating up, with Turkey, Australia, and South Africa all eyeing the spot. Who will step up to lead the charge in the coming years?

Halfway through COP, we haven't seen much movement; things feel stuck. It's time to get serious and find ways forward to land a fair climate finance deal—we cannot end COP without it.

With little to no progress on the 33-page draft text received on day 3, with paragraphs including slight variations from each other, duplication of language, and repetition, parties agreed to start by discussing the more technical pieces of the agreement, including access, transparency, human rights, and disenablers.

Adaptation agenda items continue to be blocked for a variety of reasons. Part of it is the complicated, legal, and kind of ridiculous governance body issue. The other, finance. There is still no progress on the report and the review of the Adaptation Committee. In the Matters relating to the Least Developed Countries room, countries are arguing over whether or not the CMA should take a decision or the COP. All a part of the larger strategy of soliciting compromise on the "[new collective quantified goal](#)" (NCQG) discussion - as well as developed countries' refusal to engage in discussions over scaling up adaptation finance. Friday the 15th was the first of two Global Days of Action. Calls for global north countries to Pay Up, for bold action, to end fossil fuels, and for solidarity with victims of genocide are just some of the sounds that rang through the halls of the Blue Zone.

On Friday, when the first Fossil of COP29 was finally awarded to the G7 block of nations (that's Canada, France, US, UK, Japan, Germany, and Italy. As Canada is the incoming President of the G7, we hope they take this opportunity to demonstrate leadership, and encourage their fellow G7 nations to #PayUp and ensure the transition is fast, fair, forever, and for all.

Also of note, we managed to deplatform at least one climate denier, with Alberta's Minister of Environment Rebecca Schulz ultimately opting not to speak at a greenwashing panel at

the Canadian Pavilion. Is it because we managed to pack the room with activists from around the world in emissions caps?

The Final Two Days/November 21-22, 2024

The countdown to impactful decisions is ticking louder.

Today, November 21, at the COP29 climate summit, a group of developed and developing nations – including Canada, Chile, the European Union, Georgia, Mexico, Norway and Switzerland -- committed to submit nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that are consistent with IPCC trajectories in line with efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 C, include economy-wide emission reduction targets that cover all greenhouse gases and sustain steep emission cuts that fully align with their own goals to reach net-zero emissions.

Their joint release recognizes the critical role of major emitters to limiting global warming and encourages countries to set and/or accelerate their net-zero greenhouse gas emissions goals. The release also acknowledges the United Kingdom, Brazil, and the United Arab Emirates' 2035 emission reduction targets.

These countries collectively represent roughly 30% of global GDP and nearly 15% of global GHG emissions.

From the CAN-Rac Trenches

First, we stand in solidarity with the 15,000+ volunteers and staff holding the fort at COP29 with the long hours, the endless logistics, and the behind-the-scenes difficulties.

Here's the billion-to-trillion-dollar question: **will COP29 conclude on time, or will we be heading into overtime?** As much as we'd all love to pack up and head home (*or just take a nap in the back of the venue, as some have started doing*), let's not forget that the real goal here is landing a fair, just, and ambitious deal.

The G20 had an undercooked chicken vibe...

The **G20 meeting in Rio wrapped up without the clear breakthrough** we were all hoping for to unlock the political tracks here in Baku. Still, it wasn't a complete miss. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Global Stocktake (GST) and NCQG negotiations, emphasizing the importance of the UN climate regime in keeping 1.5°C alive. Is it enough to kick things into gear in Baku? No.

The final communiqué failed to send a definite signal on phasing out fossil fuels (which we thought we had in our pocket now). While the signal wasn't as strong as we'd like, the

message is clear: it's in Baku that the new climate finance deal must be negotiated, not Rio. **The clock is really ticking.**

COP Presidency: “We have the concepts of a plan...”

They've got a 4-step plan to wrap things up by Friday. **Do we think it's realistic?** We'll see. But here's what they say:

1. Based on all the consultations, ministerial pairs (the negotiation facilitators) should finalize proposals by Wednesday, November 20th at 5 PM.
2. The presidency will take it from there and draft texts – NCQG, JTWP, MWP, GGA, and the UAE Dialogue will be released Wednesday overnight, with not too many options to avoid delays.
3. A feedback session will follow to take all views into consideration.
4. If necessary, additional meetings will be held to reach a final agreement by Friday.

Where is the Cover Decision?

On Wednesday, the COP29 Presidency made it clear that they've done what they needed to do, creating spaces for parties to come together and make progress on both political and technical tracks throughout the year. However, when it comes to the cover decision, they remain **committed not to focus on this, arguing that all focus and energy should be on the NCQG. The cover decision, they say, could just be an unnecessary distraction.** The Presidency seems confident that everything in the cover can be addressed within their existing mandate, and they believe the current structure is more than capable of handling the work.

Where's Waldo? - Canada Edition

Minister Guilbeault may have headed back home, but he's still following negotiations closely from afar, and the Canada negotiating team is here to stay until the (hopefully not too) bitter end. On Tuesday evening, the Minister [released a statement](#) affirming Canada's commitment to reaching an agreement on an NCQG that matches the scale of the climate crisis. On Wednesday, the Ambassador for Climate Change, Catherine Stewart, delivered [Canada's national statement](#) in plenary - [read our analysis here](#). The even-shorter-than-Twitter version: it sent important signals, and we'll be watching to make sure Canada follows through in these last few days, and after we return home.

What will COP29 be remembered for? The answers lie in the decisions made in the next two days.

Overview/November 23, 2024

Please note that these updates and reports are as of **Friday 11:59 pm**. As COP concludes, things move quickly, and these reports may no longer reflect developments past that time.

Summary and Political Context

We're officially in overtime. We all clung to the forlorn hope that the Presidency's four-step action plan would deliver, but honestly? That plan has gone off the rails. After the first draft texts of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP), Mitigation Work Programme (MWP), Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), and UAE Dialogue texts were released on Thursday, November 21, the response was brutal. Let's just say that "unworkable," "imbalanced," and "unacceptable" were the kindest things said.

What was on the table? Developing countries (G77, AOSIS, LMDCs) are demanding at least \$1.3 trillion annually by 2030, focusing on equity and grants. Meanwhile, developed countries (EU, US, Canada) are not ready to commit to any specific figures without a clear understanding of the structure of the fund. On mitigation, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are stressing the urgency of strong action to keep 1.5°C alive. The geopolitical tensions were also running high, with countries like India and China accusing the Global North of hypocrisy, pointing to historical responsibilities and the ongoing expansion of fossil fuels in developed economies.

November 22, 2024

António Guterres, joining us in Baku for the final stretch, weighed in on Thursday, saying, "We are still largely in our initial positions. It's time to move from there and find areas of compromise." It's now or never—will the Presidency's overnight consultations finally break the deadlock?

Then came Friday, November 22: a new set of texts was released by the Presidency, including the NCQG, Mitigation Work Programme, Global Goal on Adaptation, Just Transition Work Programme, GST outcomes, and Gender—of course after the deadline. But the key focus was on the NCQG with a proposed amount of \$250 billion by 2035. That's it. That amount is a serious letdown, especially when the finance needed is far greater. The text is full of ambiguity—what's provided vs. what's Mobilized—and it continues to lack clarity on access and transparency.

Our very own Soomin Hann put it bluntly: "This latest text is a limp, disappointing word salad with zero nutritional value or seasoning. This mess of a text isn't what we ordered, and Parties here need to send it back to the kitchen." The African Group of Negotiators slammed the text as "totally unacceptable and inadequate" while the Alliance of Small Island States called it "unsuitable."

So, where does this leave us? The Presidency is undertaking consultations overnight, after which they'll produce new texts before reconvening in plenary. Whether they're the final texts countries agree upon—whether countries can reach an agreement at all—remains to be seen.

Civil Society and Mobilization

The last two *social* days at COP29 have been exciting to say the least, when considering all of the ways Civil Society as activists, organizers, and advocates have collectively mobilized and once again displayed their unwavering strength and tenacity in the face of frustrating negotiations and a lack of concrete text. If there's one thing we've learned from these final days, it's that civil society isn't backing down.

Thursday was the highly anticipated People's Plenary, a hallmark event that many attendees eagerly await each year. Hundreds of activists filled the hall, each with a piece of tape scrawled with the message "Pay Up!"—a call we've heard echoing through the halls of COP29 for the past two weeks.

Friday was no quieter. Outside the plenary halls in Area D, activists held back-to-back actions all day, directly challenging the negotiators in their own space. This culminated in the Fossil of the Day award being given to the COP Presidency for its lack of leadership and the stalled negotiations and their abominable human rights record. The Colossal Fossil award—given to the biggest culprit of the day—went to the Annex 2 Countries for their continued failure to meet climate finance commitments and contribute fairly to the NCQG. But, as always, there's a silver lining. We also saw the rare "Ray of the Day" awarded to Colombia for its leadership on advocating for climate finance and fossil fuel phase-out.

Fossil of the Day certainly didn't mark the end of this COP. Late into Friday evening, cross-constituency meetings were held to strategize on a path forward as we await new texts and the final plenary. But the most powerful moment came after these meetings, when hundreds of activists marched through the venue, arms across chests, a powerful symbol of their resistance to the UNFCCC's attempts to silence them.

This march was a reminder that, no matter what comes next, civil society will continue to push for a fast, fair, and fully funded transition to a sustainable future.