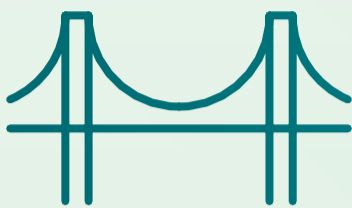


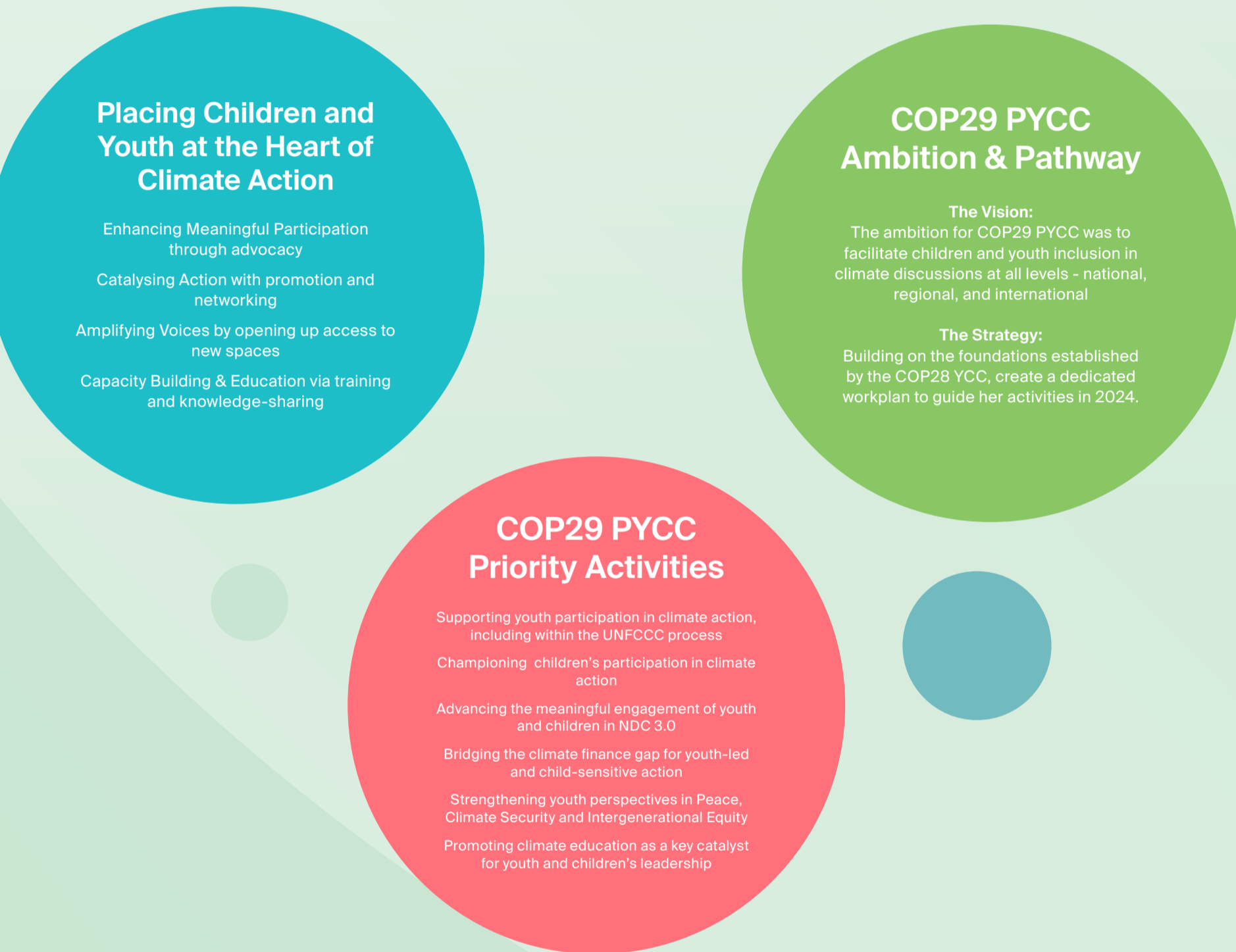
# Empowering Children and Youth for Climate Action: Turning Commitment into Action



## 1. Presidency Youth Climate Champion



The core mission of every Presidency Youth Climate Champion is to enhance meaningful, inclusive engagement of children and youth in climate action. The role serves as a bridge between children and youth – including YOUNGO and other youth groups – and the COP Presidency.



“Children and youth are the communities that will be most impacted by climate change – but they are not just victims. They are essential actors that will deliver the solutions we need to build a sustainable and resilient world. Integrating youth voices into COP decision-making is, therefore, a critical step to building an inclusive process that delivers inclusive outcomes.

**Mukhtar Babayev**  
COP29 President,  
Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Climate Issues



More on  
COP29 PYCC

## 2. Highlights of COP29 PYCC Activities

### Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW)

Baku Climate Action Week (BCAW) – the first ever climate action week within the region had the opportunity to host guests from around the world to work on the climate agenda, and children and youth were an inevitable segment of this initiative. COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion team hosted a series of events dedicated to enhancing children and youth participation, as well as enabling their actions within the climate fora. The series included a variety of themes from art to technology and innovations. While Ideathon and Sustainable Future: Youth-led Green Innovations focused on bringing out tech skills of youngsters to tackle climate change, Caspian Dream – Youth Visions highlighted the importance of visual expression of young people in relation to the consequences of climate change. Finally, AUNCC – Azerbaijan Universities Network on Climate Change focused on the crucial role the education system plays in tackling the given climate transition while also discussing what can be done locally and globally to increase the effective education systems to improve the transition. AUNCC was proposed to establish a bond with UK Universities Climate Network (UUCN) to share best practice on campus sustainability strategies, for example on reducing campus emissions and waste.

### COP29 Climate Change Summer Camp

The COP29 PYCC team hosted a summer camp on climate change. Bringing together young educators as well as young and passionate learners, the focus was on sharing practical knowledge on the science behind climate change and the COP process. The COP29 Climate Change Summer Camp welcomed 75 young educators – 54 international and 21 from Azerbaijan – to help spread this knowledge.

Training modules for the camp were aligned with UNESCO greening curriculum guidance and developed and delivered by the Greening Education Partnership working group leads. These included representatives from UNESCO, IRENA, Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), the Office for Climate Education (OCE), UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), and Teach For All.

### Closing the Climate Finance Gap: Investing in Climate Action for Children

During COP29, PYCC co-hosted the event “Closing the Climate Finance Gap: Investing in Climate Action for Children” in collaboration with UNICEF. The session spotlighted the latest evidence on how climate change disproportionately impacts children and emphasized the urgent need to prioritize their rights and wellbeing in climate finance decisions. It also provided a platform to explore concrete, actionable strategies to close the climate finance gap and ensure that investments in climate action work for – and with – children.

### Advancing Progress on the Global Framework on Children, Youth, Peace and Climate Security

Leyla's activities in this area culminated with a Presidency event at COP29, titled “Advancing Progress on the Global Framework on Children, Youth, Peace and Climate Security”. This was a chance to assess the progress made in 2024 and discuss a format for the GFYPS. The diverse attendance reflected growing support from key Parties – underscoring their commitment – and the COP29 Presidency for a youth-inclusive approach to climate action and peacebuilding. The notable contributions of children and youth were key to ensuring no voice was left behind and paved the way for key areas to be addressed in the lead-up to COP30.



### Spaces for Children and Youth at the COP29

With the support of the COP29 PYCC, the Children and Youth Pavilion (CYP) in the Blue Zone was established for the third time in COP history. The CYP is a dedicated space during COPs where children and young people can curate their own events as well as acting as a hub for coordination and networking. Though the space is managed by youth-led organizations, Leyla's active contribution to the Steering Committee (SC) helped ensure alignment between the SC Members and on-the-ground implementation. This was made possible through direct support from the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), Hilton Foundation and the COP28 Youth Climate Champion.

The COP29 Presidency provided a space for children and youth within the Green Zone at COP29 called the COP29 Youth House. Facilitated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan, this pavilion hosted 27 youth sessions throughout COP29 to promote meaningful participation and engagement in climate discussions.

## Children and Youth Pavilion on the Spotlights

32208

Media articles  
Children and Youth

- Nearly 10% of all media coverage at COP29 focused on children and youth with 32,000 articles demonstrating the power of youth and their impact.

179

Media articles  
Pavilions and  
Spokespeople

- Over 179 media articles mentioned the Children & Youth Pavilion or our spokespeople, with highlights including BBC News, The Independent, the Official COP29 Daily Climate Show, POLITICO, and Agencia EFE.

## 3. Children and Youth at the Heart of Climate Crisis



### The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis

The Children's Climate Risk Index<sup>1</sup> is the first comprehensive analysis of climate risk from a child's perspective developed by UNICEF. It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks.

- The Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) reveals that in 2021:
- 600 million children are highly exposed to vector borne diseases;
  - 820 million children are highly exposed to heatwaves;
  - 920 million children are highly exposed to water scarcity;
  - 1 billion children are highly exposed to exceedingly high levels of air pollution



### Climate Change and Disrupted Education

In 2024, extreme weather events like heatwaves, cyclones, and flooding disrupted the education of at least 242 million children across 85 countries. At least 1 in 7 students had their schooling disrupted due to climate hazards in 2024.



### On the Move: Climate Change is Displacing Millions

43.1 million children in 44 countries were displaced internally due to weather-related disasters between 2016 and 2021, averaging approximately 20,000 child displacements per day. Using a disaster displacement risk model developed by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, the report projects weather-related disasters have the potential to displace almost 113.5 million children over the next 30 years.



### Heatwaves Steal Futures Before Birth

Exposure to heatwaves increases the risk of stillbirth by 46%, with each additional degree Fahrenheit raising the risk by 5%.



### Climate Fires, Rising Deaths: A Silent Emergency

Fire-sourced particulate matter exposure is associated with an increased risk of child mortality. Each 1 µg/m<sup>3</sup> increment of PM<sub>2.5</sub> emanating from fires was associated with a 2.3 per cent increase in the risk of child mortality. Wildfires are projected to become more frequent and intense, with a global increase of extreme fires from current levels to 14 per cent more by 2030, 30 per cent more by the end of 2050 and 50 per cent more by the end of the century.



### Floods Take More Than Homes – They Take Heartbeats

Flooding is responsible for more than 100,000 lost pregnancies a year in 33 countries in South and Central America, Asia, and Africa. Flooding increases the risk of waterborne diseases, which can lead to complications like anemia, preeclampsia, and eclampsia in pregnant individuals.



### From Disaster to Depression: Kids on the Climate Frontline

From Disaster to Depression: Kids on the Climate Frontline  
Exposure to natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and wildfires has been linked to increased rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression among children and adolescents. Prevalence rates for these mental health disorders in children and adolescents vary widely in the aftermath of such disasters, ranging from 2–83% for PTSD and 2–86% for depression.

### COP26 Glasgow, 2021

#### Glasgow Climate Pact (Decision –/CP.26/ Paragraph 55):

Recognizes the important role of non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities, youth, children, local and regional governments and other stakeholders, in contributing to progress towards the objective of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

### COP27 Sharm El Sheikh, 2022

#### Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (Decision –/ CP.27/Paragraph 55):

Recognizes the role of children and youth as agents of change in addressing and responding to climate change and encourages Parties to include children and youth in their processes for designing and implementing climate policy and action, and, as appropriate, to consider including young representatives and negotiators into their national delegations, recognizing the importance of intergenerational equity and maintaining the stability of the climate system for future generations.

### COP28 Dubai, 2023

#### UAE Consensus (Decision –CP/28 –/CMA.5/ Paragraph 4)

Also welcome the initiative of the Presidency of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement in appointing a youth climate champion, who has furthered the meaningful engagement of children and youth in climate action, including within the UNFCCC process.

### COP29 Baku, 2024

#### Baku Climate Unity Pact / New collective quantified goal on climate finance (Decision –/CMA.6/ Paragraph 26)

Urges Parties and other relevant actors to promote the inclusion and extension of benefits to vulnerable communities and groups in climate finance efforts, including women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, migrants and refugees, climate-vulnerable communities and people in vulnerable situations.

#### Baku Climate Unity Pact / Global goal on adaptation (Decision –/CMA.6/Paragraph 21)

Further decides that the final outcome of the United Arab Emirates–Belém work programme should include, where applicable: (...)

(d) Indicators that capture information pertaining to, inter alia, social inclusion, Indigenous Peoples, participatory processes, human rights, gender equality, migrants, children and young people, and persons with disabilities; (...)

(f) Indicators that reflect the unique vulnerabilities of children to climate change impacts across the thematic targets and, potentially, cross-cutting indicators related to education and the health of children and young people; (...)