



Baku City

№ 1499

20 September 2024

**Minister Yasmine Fouad and Minister Chris Bowen
Ministerial Pair for informal consultations on the NCQG**

Excellencies, dear Colleagues,

COP29 will be a litmus test for the Paris Agreement as well as global climate action and cooperation. The COP29's key priority is the agreement of a fair and ambitious New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance that is adequate to the urgency and scale of the problem and takes into account the needs and priorities of developing country Parties. But this is not just our priority. The COP29 Incoming Presidency has heard the voices of so many Parties and communities that are counting on all of us to take this step at COP29. The NCQG is a historic milestone, and we all must go the extra mile together to deliver this crucial agreement.

As we move forward, it is imperative that we make progress on both technical and political fronts. These efforts are mutually reinforcing and essential to achieving a successful outcome at COP29. Significant technical progress has been made in the NCQG deliberations over the past two years. We were pleased to see Parties advancing technical progress during the final technical expert dialogue and the third meeting under the Ad Hoc Work Programme (AHWP) on the NCQG, held from 9-12 September 2024 in Baku.

Undoubtedly, this work is the essential foundation for a successful outcome. While it continues under the skillful leadership of the AHWP co-chairs, discussions have demonstrated that some issues will require significant political direction.

In this context, the COP29 Incoming Presidency has also intensified high-level engagement through different steps and spaces, including the Heads of Delegation Retreat hosted in Azerbaijan on 26-27 July. The COP Presidency remains committed to continuing the provision of the necessary platforms with the aim of further enabling higher-level political engagements. During the upcoming UNGA and New York Climate Week, we will organize an informal Ministerial Dialogue on the NCQG. Furthermore, the Presidency will host an informal Heads of Delegation meeting on the NCQG, the mandated High-Level Ministerial Dialogue (HLMD) on the NCQG, and Pre-COP, respectively on 8, 9 and 10-11 October 2024.

Scope of the ministerial consultations

In the Letter to Parties and Constituencies in July, I mentioned the necessity of the NCQG Ministerial Pair to support the guided informal ministerial consultations on my behalf and help further advance this critical work ahead of COP29. I deeply appreciate your willingness and commitment to this task. This letter outlines the mandate and modalities for the aforesaid consultations.

You are kindly requested to engage with Parties and all groups of Parties through informal consultations on concrete issues related to the content and process at large. The consultations will aim at further understanding the priorities and perspectives to explore how to bring Parties together and to give further

direction to the negotiation process. The consultations also aim at creating among Ministers a solid understanding of the current status of the deliberations, priorities and perspectives and on where their political guidance is needed ahead of COP29.

To this end and for the time being, I kindly request you to lead consultations on the following basis:

1. What is your vision for the NCQG, its purpose and on scope?
2. How can the NCQG be structured to inspire the highest-level ambition and vision for climate action? How should the quantum be derived?
3. Given the priorities and views already expressed by sources and contributors, what are your proposals on how these options could come together?

Complementarity with the work under the Ad Hoc Work Programme

It is our intention that your work in the political sphere complements and builds on the work under the AHWP and does not result in a duplicative process. As such, ensuring active and close collaboration between the COP29 Incoming Presidency, the Ministerial Pair, and the co-chairs of the AHWP will be critical for timely information flow, sequencing, and content alignment among the political and technical dimensions of the goal.

Timeline, format, and next steps

We envisage that the Ministerial Pair will conduct a round of consultations with Parties and groups of Parties between now and the end of October within the objective described above.

Building on reports of the Ministerial Pair related to the outcomes of the first phase of consultations, the COP29 Incoming Presidency will provide further guidance for the way forward ahead of the start of COP29.

Additionally, we will provide the relevant role for the Ministerial Pairs in the run-up to and during Pre-COP, including the mandated HLMD on the NCQG.

For the sake of developing a collective view of the status of the discussions and informing the next steps, it will be crucial to preserve synchrony and maintain functional integrity in the process. Therefore, the COP29 Incoming Presidency will maintain regular communication and coordination with you on the relevant findings and consultation progress.

I am confident that by working all together we will achieve success this year: through hard work and strong commitment we will create favorable conditions for agreeing a fair and ambitious NCQG and delivering the COP29 vision to enhance ambition and enable action.

Yours truly,

Mukhtar Babayev
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