



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

Presidency Youth Climate Champion

Lessons, insights and achievements from 2024



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Intro



How do you even begin to describe the role of the Presidency Youth Climate Champion? It's a question that has not stopped running through my mind. Hopefully, this overview will give you a flavour.

I have to admit, this last year as the COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion – let's just call it PYCC – has been a whirlwind. It has been an inevitable challenge, both emotionally and physically, but the journey was infinitely easier with an amazing team behind all the hard work in 2024.

I firmly believe life is a learning journey and one of the most important lessons I've learned this past year has been the strength of teamwork, collaboration and sacrifice. Sacrifice might seem like a daunting word. But in this context, it's a reminder of what it means to truly commit to something bigger than yourself, to give up on moments of ease for the sake of a collective mission and put the needs of others before your own.

While it has been an intense year, I am immensely grateful to have been a part of this historic journey and advocate for the difference children and young people can make in tackling the climate crisis. We are changemakers, after all!

"The pages that follow are a testament to the collective effort of so many people who believe in the vision of a more sustainable, equitable and Greener World."

I hope the role of PYCC will inspire others to continue this work and demonstrate that sometimes the hardest challenges bring the most profound rewards.

LEYLA HASANOVA
COP29 PRESIDENCY YOUTH CLIMATE CHAMPION





GET TO KNOW THE PYCC:

Leyla Hasanova

Where do you live?

I was born, raised and still live in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

What was your job before the role of PYCC?

The role I'm returning to after PYCC for COP29 is Chairperson of the Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization (NAMYO). I used to be the Head of the Secretariat there and I've also served as the Coordinator for Diplomatic Programs at ADA University.

What did you study at college or university?

I hold a bachelor's degree in international studies and a master's degree in public administration from ADA University, which included an exchange programme at Kadir Has University in Türkiye.

When did you take on the duties of PYCC?

I started the position in late January 2024.

What's been your biggest challenge?

Definitely having to step out of my comfort zone to do something completely new. And proving to some that young people not only have thoughts about climate change but also can make decisions about it too.

Was there anything unexpected about the role?

Because the role of the PYCC was completely new, there was no manual. So I had to tell myself not to be afraid to try things out and make a few mistakes along the way. That's often a good way to learn.

What's your proudest moment?

Almost certainly the COP29 Climate Change Summer Camp. We brought together 75 people from across Azerbaijan and beyond to equip them with the tools to tell the climate story to youth around the world. And we organised it all in just six weeks!

What do you do to relax?

I read a lot. These are the moments when I can tune out everything and take time for myself. I've really enjoyed books like Climate Change Simplified by Alexa Ingram and Never Split The Difference by Chris Voss.

What's your go-to climate song?

Childish Gambino - Feels like summer; line "It feels like summer, but it doesn't feel the same", a good metaphor for the unexpected and unpredicted climate fluctuations that are becoming more common.

What's your favourite Pavilion within the COP29?

Children and Youth Pavilion, of course!

About the PYCC

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE PYCC?

For many years, young people have advocated for meaningful engagement in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process. Since being extended constituency status in 2009, and formalised in 2011, YOUNGO – as the official children and youth constituency in the UNFCCC process – among other youth groups, has consistently advanced these priorities. YOUNGO is a global network of youth-led organizations, groups and individuals working on climate change issues. This constituency provides a platform for children and young people to engage with and influence climate policy and negotiations under the UNFCCC process.

Parties to the UNFCCC process recognised the crucial role that young people can play in addressing and responding to climate change and its impacts. This led to a call by Parties for further enhancement of youth participation in climate change processes and in unleashing the potential of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) at COP27. This included meaningful youth participation and representation in climate decision-making at the local, national and international levels as well as the inclusion of youth in Party delegations to UNFCCC. Finally, COP Presidencies decided to appoint a COP Youth Envoy at COP27 and a Youth Climate Champion at COP28 (COP28 YCC).

The role of the Presidency Youth Climate Champion (PYCC) was formalised under the UAE Consensus (2023) – marking a significant milestone in the UNFCCC process. COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, was the pivotal moment as Leyla Hasanova was appointed by her country to be the first PYCC to be appointed to the formalised role.

The core mission of every PYCC 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. The aim is to embed children and youth perspectives within the COP Presidency leadership team to inform national and international climate discussions at the very highest levels.

Each incoming COP Presidency will appoint a new PYCC – passing the baton from one COP Presidency to the next – with the role lasting for two years. This continuity strengthens the PYCC role, while promoting sustained, meaningful inclusion of children and youth voices in climate action, especially within the UNFCCC process at all levels.

EVERY PYCC WILL FOCUS ON FOUR KEY AREAS:

- ① Enhancing the inclusion, participation and representation of children and youth in climate policy and action
- ② Empowering young people to usefully contribute to decision-making on climate through capacity-building and education
- ③ Elevating and amplifying the voices of children and youth on climate policy
- ④ Catalysing action by leveraging the COP to advance, resource and monitor youth-led climate action



Vision, Strategy and Key Priorities

Placing children and youth at the heart of climate action

ENHANCING MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION
THROUGH ADVOCACY

CATALYSING ACTION
WITH PROMOTION
AND NETWORKING

AMPLIFYING VOICES
BY OPENING UP ACCESS
TO NEW SPACES

**CAPACITY BUILDING
& EDUCATION**
VIA TRAINING AND
KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

COP29 PYCC Vision & Strategy

THE VISION: The ambition for COP29 PYCC was to facilitate children and youth inclusion in climate discussions at all levels – national, regional and international.

THE STRATEGY: Building on the foundations established by the COP28 YCC, create a dedicated workplan to guide her activities in 2024.

[View the PYCC 2024 workplan in full](#)

6 priority activities in 2024:

1. Supporting youth participation in climate action, including within the UNFCCC process
2. Championing children's participation in climate action
3. Advancing the meaningful engagement of youth and children in NDC 3.0
4. Bridging the climate finance gap for youth-led and child-sensitive action
5. Strengthening youth perspectives in Peace, Climate Security and Intergenerational Equity
6. Promoting climate education as a key catalyst for youth and children's leadership



The role of the PYCC has been pivotal in highlighting the disproportionate impacts of climate change on children, while also promoting every child's right to be meaningfully engaged in climate policy and decision-making and ensuring these processes are inclusive. The PYCC is uniquely positioned to help bridge the gap between climate policy and the lived experiences of children.

JONI PEGRAM

GLOBAL POLICY LEAD, CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT,
ENERGY & DRR, UNICEF



Key Achievements 1



Supporting youth participation in climate action

The role of the PYCC is a key component in promoting the meaningful inclusion of children and youth within and beyond the UNFCCC process. Throughout her engagements in 2024, Leyla's enablement activities pivoted between each priority area to ensure the consideration and involvement of young people in climate action continued on a positive trajectory.

AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES

- ⦿ Leyla supported the **"LCIPP Annual Youth Round Table"** to learn about regional perspectives and climatesolutions from Indigenous and local youth.
- ⦿ During SB60, Leyla convened **consultations with youth in Party delegations and in observer groups** to learn more about their expectations and concerns. This input was used to determine PYCC activities in the second half of the year. Leyla also held a **virtual consultation** with children and youth from nine observer constituencies in August 2024 to plan for COP29 in Baku.
- ⦿ Leyla used existing platforms – like KPMG's **"Leaders 2050" event at New York Climate Week** – to engage with young professionals.
- ⦿ Together with the COP28 and COP30 Presidency, Leyla raised awareness on the newly formalised role of PYCC – **hosting "The Future of Climate Action" event and linking the PYCC role to the recently adopted Pact for the Future.**
- ⦿ Responding to a direct request from young people for **more intergenerational spaces to engage**, Leyla partnered with COP28 and CIFF to host a **reception for young professionals**. By including those not directly involved in the formal climate process, this was an opportunity to learn how to link climate and sustainability to their respective fields.

CATALYSING YOUTH ACTION

- At the first Climate Action Week in Baku, Leyla led events dedicated to children and youth. **"Ideathon on Bridging the Gap: Youth and Green Jobs Market"** was a three-day long marathon, enabling young people from the region to maximize their potential through mentoring on key topics by experts. A further event, **"Sustainable Future: Youth-led Green Innovations"** aimed to use the creativity and enthusiasm of youth to address pressing environmental challenges by providing a platform to showcase innovative solutions and projects focused on sustainability and the environment.
- Leyla **launched a regional COP29 Youth Delegates Program** to build the capacity of twelve people from civil society and government institutions aged 18-35. In collaboration with the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform, the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Center for Asia and the Pacific and the Generation Nexus Eurasian Youth Network, supported by the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, the aim was for enhancing these young people's understanding and capacities on the **formulation and implementation of NAPs and NDCs**.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

FACILITATING SPACES FOR YOUTH VOICES AT 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, it relies on various partners to make it a reality. Leyla's **active contribution to the Steering Committee (SC)** helped ensure alignment between the SC Members and on-the-ground implementation. Key to this was **enabling volunteers to take part and gaining fee waivers for audio-visual equipment and adornments for the pavilion** – helping to make the space more child and youth-friendly. This was made possible through direct support from the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), Hilton Foundation and the COP28 Youth Climate Champion.

Leyla helped lead the **COP29 Youth-led Climate Forum, co-organized with YOUNGO** and with the support of the UNFCCC secretariat to create a space for children and youth to engage with policymakers. **Six sessions covering five thematic dialogues** and one headline event covered topics from the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance along with Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and health; NDCs; food security and sustainable agriculture; and climate mobility.

The Youth Stocktake (YST) is an initiative driven by YOUNGO to assess key milestones, identify gaps, and address challenges associated with youth inclusion in international processes. Engagement between the COP29 PYCC and YOUNGO's YST team began early in Leyla's tenure at the start of the year. YOUNGO and PYCC then co-hosted **"Analyses and recommendations of youth inclusion in UNFCCC processes: Reflecting on the Youth Stocktake"** with the COP28 YCC team at SB60 to focus on ways to improve youth inclusion in climate change policymaking. Leyla supported various consultations by YOUNGO on this process and also facilitated a technical discussion between the YST team and Azerbaijan transparency negotiators. Leyla also invited the YST team to present at a PYCC-led event during COP29, offering them **a new platform to raise awareness of the YST work** and launch their technical paper on **Tracking Youth Inclusion in UNFCCC Process**.

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.

The **19th Conference of Youth (COY19)** was held in Baku immediately prior to COP29, from 7 to 9 November, organized by YOUNGO in collaboration with the Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization (NAMYO) and supported by the PYCC. COY19 gathered **266 young delegates from 67 countries** (with the priority given to developing nations) to engage in capacity-building workshops, sessions, and conveying a call of young people to world leaders and policymakers on climate change.

In her role as PYCC, Leyla was able to offer **subsidised accommodation for over 100 delegates to enable their participation in YOUNGO's Conference of Youth (COY19) and COP29**. Prioritising Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), 75 delegates were able to join COY19 and a further 35 to attend COP29 as a result.



In 2024, the PYCC provided technical support to YOUNGO's Youth Stocktake initiative by organizing several technical meetings to align it with the UNFCCC process, particularly with the COP29 negotiation process. One of the crucial meetings organised by Leyla was the meeting with COP 29 Transparency negotiators. This resulted in YOUNGO's participation at the High Level Ministerial Roundtable on Global Climate Transparency, where we had the opportunity to intervene on the role of youth in the Enhanced Transparency Framework and their expectations for the Biennial Transparency Report.

ELIZABETH GULUGULU MACHACHE
YOUTH STOCKTAKE CO-AUTHOR

Achievements and Impacts 2



Championing children's participation in climate action

Emphasising children's rights and meaningful participation in climate processes is central to the role of the PYCC. Whether engaging children in key conversations or by advocating for policy adaptations, Leyla focused efforts on endorsing initiatives that would include the perspectives of children and future generations.

CHILDREN AT THE HEART OF DISCUSSIONS

- Leyla worked closely with key partners at COP29 to advocate for the inclusion of children's rights in key policies and strategies such as the NDCs as part of her NDC 3.0 campaign
- Leyla also led awareness-raising efforts on children's issues at the national level. During the **Baku Climate Action Week**, the COP29 Presidency and UNICEF Azerbaijan held a "**National High-level Event on Children and Climate Change**". Supported by the PYCC, this event explored specific local policy solutions. Soon after, Azerbaijan signed the **Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action at COP29**.
- Leyla was involved in the "**High-level Roundtable on Children, Youth and Climate Action**", showcasing activities on integrating human development areas like education, health and social protection into climate spaces. This event was held on **Human Development / Children and Youth / Health / Education Day at COP29**. It highlighted the disproportionate impacts of climate change on children and the critical role that they can play in shaping inclusive climate policies.

CHILD PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE FORA

- In recognition of the challenges that children face in navigating climate processes, Leyla directed efforts to enable them to **meaningfully participate in climate fora through advocacy and dialogue**. The “COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion: **Voices of Tomorrow – Children**” event at COP29 was **child-moderated and attended by children**. It aimed to engage and empower children to be climate champions at home, in school and in their community. Participants were encouraged to join conversations with UNICEF and COP29 representatives and to share their plans after COP29.
- Continued collaboration and sustained inclusion of children are essential to the work of the PYCC. Leyla and her team **collaborated closely with YOUNGO’s Child Rights working group, with close support from UNICEF and Save the Children** to ensure a better representation of children at the Youth-led Climate Forum. Specifically, through a **reserved quota of children participating** within the fora, and an open call for moderators and speakers to ensure children’s voices were heard and that they played an active role shaping the discussions.
- At the national level, Leyla was part of the “**Girls for Climate Action Camp**”, organised by UNFPA Azerbaijan. This brought together **25 young girls aged between 16 and 17 years old** from various parts of the country. Its aim was to enable and support attendees as community change-makers through a programme of climate education, gender empowerment and leadership training.



Achievements and Impacts ③



Advancing meaningful engagement in NDC 3.0

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement form the cornerstone of global efforts to tackle climate change. For these commitments to be implemented and effective, they must be inclusive. During Leyla's engagements at ECOSOC Youth Forum in April 2024, youth leaders reiterated a strong desire to contribute meaningfully to the full cycle of the NDC 3.0 process. This sentiment was further echoed in June 2024 during the [Expert Dialogue on Children and Climate Change](#), organized as part of the mandated dialogues following the conclusion of the first Global Stocktake.

CAPACITY-BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Following her engagement at ECOSOC, Leyla kicked off a campaign dedicated to building capacity and amplifying youth voices within the NDC 3.0 process with an event during the 60th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB60). The event "[Filling the Gaps: A Vision for the Meaningful Engagement of Children and Young People in NDC 3.0](#)," – organized in collaboration with YOUNGO's NDC working group, provided a space for Parties and non-Party stakeholders - particularly youth – to discuss existing efforts, good practices and their vision for more youth involvement.
- Leyla helped raise awareness about the implementation of the **Pact for the Future, including the Declaration on Future Generations** – collaborating with the UN Youth Office, hosting a session at the Children & Youth Pavilion at COP29 and linking the Declaration to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES

- Leyla hosted virtual **regional consultations with participants** from Africa, Europe and Middle East and Northern Africa; the Americas; and Asia and the Pacific. The focus was to foster peer learning, find more ways to be involved in NDC processes and inform Leyla's engagements later in the year. Having three separate regional consultations offered **greater convenience for participants and enabled intra-regional collaboration**. This activity was supported by the [ACE Hub](#).
- In partnership with UNICEF, Leyla co-hosted **"Delivering on the Global Stocktake for Every Child: Placing Children and Future Generations at the Heart of Climate Action"** at UNGA. Bringing together current and incoming COP Presidencies, Parties, children and young leaders, this event built on the Expert Dialogue on Children to **push for high-ambition, child-sensitive NDCs 3.0**.
- Alongside UNICEF, Azerbaijan held a training on NDCs as part of **"29 Climate Conversations: Road to COP29"**. This led to a policy submission to the Government of Azerbaijan, which contributed to Leyla's later advocacy efforts for meaningful youth engagement in the country's next NDC submission.
- The NDC 3.0 campaign concluded with an event at COP29 titled **"Meaningful Engagement of Children and Youth in the NDC 3.0 Process: An Inventory on Progress and Achievements"**. Hosted by Leyla, this event highlighted milestones from the campaign. It also showcased the youth-led initiatives or tools that Parties could use to meaningfully engage children and young people in the entire NDC process.



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. Leyla Hasanova, as the COP29 PYCC, played an indispensable role in the COP29 Presidency team and helped us ensure that we remained focused on the priorities and concerns of young people. From the Baku Finance Goal to our work on the next rounds of climate plans, Leyla helped us ensure that we ran an age-responsive COP and delivered for future generations. Her passion, diligence, and tireless advocacy demonstrated how much young people can add to the process and proved the value of the PYCC in its first year as a formal institution.

H.E. MUKHTAR BABAYEV
COP29 PRESIDENT



Achievements and Impacts 4



Bridging the climate finance gap

2024 was a crucial year for climate finance, with nations needing to agree a New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance (NCQG) to tackle adverse impacts in developing countries. Recognizing the growing demand from youth for greater access to funding and the necessity of prioritizing youth and children in finance discussions, Leyla made climate finance a key focus of her efforts.

- Supporting its existing work in this area, Leyla **convened discussions between YOUNGO and Azerbaijani negotiators**. This dialogue focused on enhancing understanding about YOUNGO's priorities on climate finance just ahead of SB60.
- Three youth dialogues, in collaboration with the Connect4Climate programme, allowed young climate leaders to **learn about the World Bank Group's role in the climate agenda**. The first dialogue was a capacity building session on **"The World Bank Group's Role in Advancing Climate Action"** including through the International Development Association (IDA) and the NCQG. The YOUNGO finance and markets working group was a key partner throughout, sharing insights from the Climate Finance Academy and climate finance-related priorities for COP29. There was also a dedicated session on Central Asia with participants of the COP29 Youth Delegates Program, which set the foundation for **understanding and discussing the region's climate finance landscape** ahead of COP29.
- During COP29, Leyla **co-hosted "Closing the Climate Finance Gap: Investing in Climate Action for Children" with UNICEF**. This was an opportunity to present the latest evidence on the disproportionate effects of climate change on children. It also helped highlight actionable ways of elevating child rights and wellbeing to overcome the climate finance gap for children.

Achievements and Impacts 5



Strengthening youth perspectives

Building on UN Security Council Resolution 2250 and the process to establish the Global Framework on Children, Youth, Peace and Climate Security (GFYPS), the focus on Youth, Peace and Security was initiated by the COP28 Presidency, UNFPA, the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security, and YOUNGO. In advance of launching the GFYPS at COP30, Leyla focused on building political momentum and spotlighting youth-led solutions to climate, peace and security issues across high-level fora.

KNOWLEDGE AND PLATFORMS

- ⦿ Leyla's involvement in youth capacity-building engagements on climate, peace and security included the **Generation Nexus workshop hosted by UNDP in Montenegro** in July 2024. This workshop brought together youth from Europe and Central Asia, where she emphasized the role of young people in peacebuilding and climate action.
- ⦿ Ahead of COP29, Leyla **participated in the Climate, Peace and Security Experts Academy in Nairobi hosted by UNDP**. This was an opportunity to highlight the importance of intergenerational dialogue and the crucial role of youth in advancing the climate, peace and security agenda. The Academy **equipped young leaders with the knowledge and skills to shape relevant policies**. These engagements have ensured that youth-led solutions remain central to addressing climate-related peace and security challenges.

ADVANCING THE GFYPS

- To help build political momentum for the GFYPS, Leyla co-hosted a roundtable on **“Youth, Peace and Climate Security”** on the sidelines of the UNGA Summit of the Future in September 2024. This solution-focused platform shone a light on **youth-led innovations and actions**. It brought together youth activists, civil society organizations and government representatives to share ideas and commitment. It was valuable for raising awareness about youth, peace and security among Member States and broadening the coalition of engaged partners.
- 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.



Throughout 2024, we also harnessed the power of convening, bringing together a diverse range of partners across key thematic areas to build community, align on strategy, and drive collective action. By fostering collaboration, sharing insights, and amplifying innovation, we are strengthening the sector’s ability to drive lasting impact. This was particularly true at and around major moments, including COP29. Here we supported the Children and Youth pavilion for the third year in a row, alongside the establishment of the UNFCCC’s Presidency Youth Climate Champion office to enhance and encourage the inclusive engagement of children and young people in climate decision-making and international policy processes.

THEO MITCHELL
 GLOBAL DIRECTOR, CLIMATE, CIFF

Achievements and Impacts 6

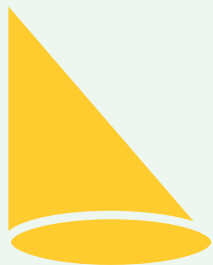


Promoting climate education

Education is essential to addressing climate change, equipping individuals – particularly children and youth – with the skills and knowledge to understand and tackle its impacts. Acknowledging its wide-ranging impact, Leyla focused on providing youth with access to more climate education, awareness and training.

As a part of Baku Climate Action Week, Leyla played a part in an event titled **"Role of Higher Education in Climate Transition: Towards an Azerbaijan University Network on Climate Change (AUNCC)."** Focusing on its crucial role in tackling the climate transition, this knowledge exchange debated what can be done locally and globally to increase the effectiveness of education systems.





SPOTLIGHT ON...

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 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.

With logistical support from the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, ADA University, NAMYO, UNDP Azerbaijan and UNICEF Azerbaijan, Leyla enabled educators to start a **ripple effect of climate awareness and leadership among youth globally.**



The summer camp hosted by Leyla and her team in Azerbaijan addressed a critical gap in climate-related dialogues – the absence of teachers. **By setting a specific target on training teachers, the Greening Education Partnership recognizes that investing in educators is key to advancing climate action.** The training brought together perspectives from around the world, fostering a community of young practitioners. Over four days, participants embarked on a journey to become teachers who not only understand the science of climate change but also possess the skills to apply active learning approaches and pedagogies that ignite agency, inspire solutions, and foster resilience.

PRAMOD KUMAR SHARMA
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION,
FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Significant engagements, 2024



Consulting, learning and advocating are crucial parts of the PYCC role. These are just some of the highlights from a busy year for Leyla as the COP29 PYCC.

Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement ("the secretariat") or the Parties it represents concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

1 12-13 February: World Governments Summit – Dubai, UAE

The first trip for the COP29 PYCC as part of the leadership team of the incoming COP29 Presidency. This included the launch of the COP Presidencies Troika to improve cooperation and continuity between current and future COP Presidencies, leading to increased climate action in support of [Troika: Mission 1.5](#).

2 26 February - 1 March: UN 6th Environmental Assembly – Nairobi, Kenya

The world's highest-level decision-making body relating to the environment. Leyla attended as part of the Azerbaijani delegation and met with grassroots youth NGOs who showcased their locally-driven climate action during a meeting co-organized by the Azerbaijani Embassy in Kenya and Ms. Charlene Ruto - Founder of SMACHS Foundation and First Daughter of Kenya.

3 16-20 April: ECOSOC Youth Forum – New York, USA

An annual gathering of young leaders that provides a platform for dialogue with Member States on accelerating implementation of the SDGs. With SDG13 (Climate Action) under focus by ECOSOC in 2024, this event provided a global space to share the PYCC vision and workplan. It also helped Leyla to build links and partnerships early in the year. And through bilateral meetings with UN agencies, philanthropies and youth organisations, it helped Leyla plan subsequent engagements, including those on youth engagement in NDCs and the Declaration on Future Generations.

4 3-14 June: 60th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies – Bonn, Germany

The conference provided a space to consult with youth delegates ahead of COP29 and launch the NDC 3.0 campaign.

5 24-27 June: London Climate Action Week – London, UK

Leyla attended as part of the Azerbaijani delegation and met with UK officials responsible for climate negotiations at COP, as well as other bilateral meetings and wider events.

6 3-5 September: NDCs 3.0 Regional Forum for Eastern Europe and Central Asia – Istanbul, Türkiye

This was an opportunity to participate in and advocate for the meaningful engagement of children and youth in NDC processes as part of the NDC 3.0 Campaign.

7 19-27 September: UNGA79 / Climate Week NYC – New York, USA

New York Climate Week took place at the same time as the high-level week of the UN General Assembly. These events – alongside the Summit of the Future – provided ideal platforms to amplify child and youth voices as well as build momentum towards a successful COP29.

8 10-12 September: Commonwealth Youth Climate Negotiations Training – London, UK

This education opportunity enabled Leyla to raise awareness about the role of the PYCC and engage in mock negotiations and capacity-building activities.

9 15-17 October 2024, Climate, Peace and Security Experts Academy – Bridging Generations to Strengthen Climate Policy and Finance for Peace. Nairobi, Kenya - UN Office at Nairobi (UNON)

The Academy brought together young professionals from various sectors, regions, and organizations, with a strong focus on strengthening the capacities of young professionals from highly climate-vulnerable, fragile, and/or conflict-affected settings. Leyla attended as the co-facilitator, fostered peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, and created a network for future practice on climate action, climate policy, and finance for peace.

Looking ahead



Youth are not just our future. They are our present. Collectively, we can be the catalysts of change, the amplifiers of urgent messages and the driving force behind climate action.

This new Presidency Youth Climate Champion role has made it possible for me to share the ideas of children and youth directly with policymakers. It has provided a new platform that contributes to informing global youth – not just on the impact of climate change but the initiatives they can get involved in to take climate action.

I believe that to unlock their potential and empower youth for meaningful engagement, we must prioritise climate education. In particular, focusing on capacity-building and training programmes. This is the foundation for bringing together different generations to collaborate and create momentum for the systemic change required to secure a 1.5°C future. Climate education can be transformative for children and youth around the world by equipping learners and leaders of all ages with the capabilities to understand and address the impacts of the climate crisis.



"I am convinced that youth can—and will—play a key role in developing the sustainable solutions we need to achieve our climate ambitions. If they have access to the right tools and are involved in decision-making."

At a time when all of us are experiencing the impacts of climate change in our daily lives, we recognise the dangers and the need for strong responses. I am confident that in solidarity, we can achieve a greener world.

Looking ahead, I would invite everyone to reflect on their own climate journey and call on you all to remain determined and to maintain momentum on climate action.

LEYLA HASANOVA
COP29 PRESIDENCY YOUTH CLIMATE CHAMPION



About the Host Country

Baku, Azerbaijan – the city of winds, where past and future meet, where old and new blend effortlessly. COP29 Host - Azerbaijan is a country rich in culture and history, along with customs and traditions that have evolved over years, combining traces from the East and West, while also keeping its own identity of Caucasus.

Vibrant and breathtaking landscapes, together with the soothing Caspian Sea on the side, make the capital, Baku, a place with something for everyone, while holding its title as *"the largest city on the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus region"*¹

Baku hosting COP29 indicated Azerbaijan's sincere dedication to international collaboration and partnership while also working towards meaningful climate solutions.

Beyond its climate ambitions, Azerbaijan offers not only a simple trip- it presents a magical journey to its visitors. From Old-City Icherisheher, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to modern Flame Towers architecture, Baku presents the national spirit and capability of balancing tradition with progress.

By bringing the world together for COP29, Azerbaijan showcased its role as a bridge between regions and cultures, uniting the world for a more sustainable, resilient, and greener future

¹ Azerbaijan Tourism Board, "Baku Visitor Map" Azerbaijan.Travel, www.azerbaijan.travel/trip-to-baku



In Baku we had to deliver some of the most complex and important mandates that would be critical to the future of the multilateral climate regime.

In the challenging final days of the negotiations, the COP29 PYCC was persistent in her commitment to making sure that the outcomes from the conference supported the needs and aspirations of children and youth. Not only did she put children and youth within the heart of our discussions, she also proved the importance and value of the role of the PYCC.

YALCHIN RAFIYEV
COP29 LEAD NEGOTIATOR

At COP29, everyone was welcome because everyone was needed, but bringing the world to Baku doesn't just happen.

Working side-by-side with Leyla Hasanova as PYCC, we prepared tirelessly to host as many non-state actors as possible, from youth to business leaders and beyond. Each and every one of the **70,000 attendees to COP29** enriched the conference and made sure that the priorities and perspectives of communities on the frontlines were front and centre of our deliberations.

NIGAR ARPADARAI
COP29 HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPION



Glossary

ACE:	Action for Climate Empowerment
CIFF:	Children's Investment Fund Foundation
COP:	Conference of the Parties
COP28 YCC:	COP28 Youth Climate Champion
COP29 PYCC:	COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion
COP29 YDP:	COP29 Youth Delegates Program
COY:	Conference of Youth
CYP:	Children and Youth Pavilion
ECOSOC:	United Nations Economic and Social Council
GST:	Global Stocktake
IDA:	International Development Association
NAMYO:	Non-Aligned Youth Movement Organisation
NCQG:	New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance
NDC:	Nationally Determined Contribution
PAVE:	Participation, Action, Voice, and Education
SB:	Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund
UNGA:	United Nations General Assembly
UNSSC:	United Nations System Staff College
YECAP:	Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform
YOUNGO:	Children and Youth Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
YST:	Youth Stocktake



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

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