



## Thematic Committee on Green & Sustainable Europe

# Position Paper for the UNFCCC COP29

**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
Twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties - COP29  
11 - 22 November 2024, Baku - Republic of Azerbaijan**

Author: Marios Arampatzis, Co-chair,  
YRN Committee on Green & Sustainable Europe

### Abstract

This year's events have made clear the urgency of the escalating climate crisis, with once more record-breaking temperatures and devastating economic impacts becoming the new normality rather than "just a phase". Severe weather events are no longer just environmental concerns; they pose profound human and economic threats, costing billions in damages while disrupting lives, ecosystems and markets worldwide. The need for immediate and effective action is now clearer than ever.

Under the Paris Agreement, the international community strong commitments (e.g. 1.5°C). However, the current plans to combat climate change are inadequate, pushing us closer to an irreversible tipping point.

**In this context, the YRN's Thematic Committee on Green & Sustainable Europe highlights the following 7 key messages in the lead up to COP29:**

1. Reaching the goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C is crucial in order to minimise climate-related losses and damages to people and nature. Meeting this goal is also essential for the continued provision of critical ecosystem services from natural systems that represent nature's contributions to people, such as climate regulation, carbon storage and adaptation. However, this requires – first and foremost – the rapid and equitable phase out of fossil fuels and fossil fuel subsidies without any further delay, and the accelerated and equitable deployment of sustainable clean energy systems worldwide. That is why we urge all Parties to support the time-bound phase out of all fossil fuels, including oil and gas, within a framework that ensures a just transition.

The IPCC 6th Assessment Report estimates that limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires global GHG emissions to be reduced by 43% by 2030 from 2019 levels and reach global net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050. Yet the latest UNFCCC synthesis report, taking into account the implementation of all the NDCs submitted under the Paris Climate Accords as of September 2022, estimates that GHG emissions will reduce by only 0.3% below the 2019 level by 2030 (UNFCCC 2022). This underlines the major ambition gap that needs to be urgently bridged.

2. The Committee urges Parties to reflect their highest possible ambition while developing future Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including, as well, more concrete and ambitious nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches, taking into consideration UN Environment Assembly resolution 5/5, for mitigation and adaptation while ensuring relevant social and environmental safeguards. The committee encourages Parties to also include these nature-based solutions within their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
3. Moreover, delivering on finance is key to achieving climate objectives. There is widespread consensus that the funding needed to meet the adaptation and mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement is far greater than existing funds pledged. We therefore call for a rapid increase in adaptation finance to achieve a balance between mitigation and adaptation financing as called for in Article 9.4 of the Paris Agreement, noting that adaptation finance flows to developing countries are 5-10 times below estimated needs. We call for an ambitious scaling up of global climate financing and funding to support meaningful action across the entire processes of mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage, including through the scaled-up implementation of high-integrity nature-based solutions -for which the investments must triple according to the UNEP State of Finance for Nature report-, with an increased proportion made directly available to local communities.
4. Noting that the COPs of all the three Rio Conventions are being convened in 2024, we urge the COP Presidencies of the UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD (Azerbaijan, Colombia and Saudi Arabia) to jointly identify and promote concrete actions to strengthen collaboration, build synergies and effectively address the interlinked challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. Concrete opportunities exist to significantly strengthen operational linkages across the three Rio Conventions, especially at the regional and national levels. These include, for example, exploring and mandating joint work programmes, common reporting frameworks, and establishing clear alignment and coordination of

the key national strategies under each of these processes, i.e. between the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) of the UNCBD, the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets of the UNCCD, and the NDCs of the UNFCCC.

5. We urge all Parties, as set out in paragraph 161 of the COP28 UAE Consensus, to ensure the meaningful inclusion of local and other subnational governments in setting ambitious NDCs and NAPs. Leverage local and other subnational governments' role in climate policy development and implementation through their inclusion in international climate processes and mechanisms such as the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and inclusion of local indicators and inclusion in the negotiation of the Loss and Damage Fund operational guidelines.
6. This Committee calls upon all Parties to the Paris Agreement to promote and implement inclusive, just and equitable climate policies and actions that incorporate the core priorities, concerns, needs and rights of the most vulnerable, particularly of women, youth and children, and to ensure their full and participation in all UNFCCC processes and meaningful integration in both international and domestic climate policy development and implementation across all levels.
7. Finally, the Committee encourages all other stakeholders, including within the private sector and civil society, to do their utmost to effectively and ambitiously address the interlinked climate and biodiversity crises, and to support an equitable and just transition; to establish, implement and transparently disclose ambitious corporate sustainable strategies and policies that are GHG emissions neutral, socially just, and directly contribute to the 1.5°C goal.
  - On this topic, with the exception of some good examples of corporate leadership, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) points out that corporate climate actions still tend to be underpinned by public relations rather than focus on delivering tangible and lasting contributions to net-zero and nature-positive outcomes. This makes frequent the phenomenon of greenwashing, and raises the risks of delaying and undermining genuine efforts, which the world can no longer afford.

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

YRN - Youth Regional Network

AER - Assembly of European Regions

UN - United Nations

UNFCCC - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

COP - Conference of the Parties

IPCC - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

GHG - Greenhouse Gas

NDC - National Determined Contribution

NAP - National Adaptation Plan

NBSAP - National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

LDN - Land Degradation Neutrality targets

UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme

UNCBD - United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

UNCCD - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UAE - United Arab Emirates

## References

- IPCC 6th Assessment Report - <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>
- UNFCCC synthesis report - <https://unfccc.int/ndc-synthesis-report-2023>
- UN Environment Assembly resolution 5/5  
<https://www.unep.org/resources/resolutions-treaties-and-decisions/UN-Environment-Assembly-5-2>
- UNEP State of Finance for Nature report -  
<https://www.unep.org/resources/state-finance-nature-2023>
- COP28 UAE Consensus & UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience -  
<https://www.cop28.com/en/the-uae-consensus-negotiations-outcome>