
Urgent need for inclusion and diversity in COP29 organisational committee

15th January 2024 | Geneva, Switzerland: SHE Changes Climate takes note of the appointment of the Ecology Minister, Mukhtar Babayev as the President-Designate to oversee the COP29 climate conference later this year in Baku. Following this appointment, a COP29 Organisational Committee has been established, and features 28 men but no women.

These nominations mean that the gender gap in global climate leadership has widened (only 5 women in 29 years of COP have served as presidents). This is a regressive step in the journey towards gender parity in climate; but there is still time for change.

Our movement has, since inception, strongly advocated for women in all their diversity as active participants in climate decision-making. Given the progress made at COP28 in Dubai, we were confident that a woman with a commendable record in climate diplomacy and no ties to the fossil fuel industry would be appointed to lead COP29. Though be that as it may, we once again ask for a firewall between the fossil fuel industry and the COP Presidency as environmental integrity remains a concern for us and many civil society organisations. We further ask for equal representation in the governance of this year's climate talks, because climate change affects the whole world, not half of it.

Thus, we are inviting Azerbaijan to [endorse the inclusion and diversity principles](#) and include as many women as possible on the COP29 Organisational Committee. The UAE set the pace last year: the COP28 Committee consisted of 63% women.

SHE Changes Climate stands ready to support the women that will be appointed. We will also do everything possible to ensure that the progress made in Dubai is being consolidated. With the world nearing the 1.5 degree temperature increase, it is paramount that we move on the urgent fossil fuel phase out in this decade.

There is no time to slide back on previous commitments.

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