

CLIMATE COP29 REPORT



ABOUT THE SIKH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP (SHRG)

The Sikh Human Rights Group is an NGO with UN ECOSOC status promoting pluralism, environment, diversity, human rights and responsibilities. It is based on Sikh philosophy. With an emphasis on pluralism, SHRG champions good intentions and diverse approaches that can be found within different civilisations, cultures and peoples. If you would like to exchange ideas and information with the Sikh Human Rights Group please email us at info@shrg.ngo.

For more information, visit:

<https://shrg.ngo/>

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Alicia Fuentes.

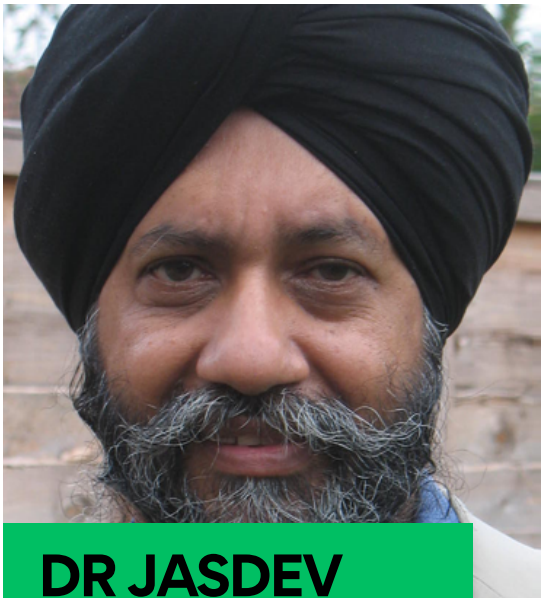
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DIRECTOR'S NOTE



**DR JASDEV
SINGH RAI**

Founding Director
Sikh Human Rights Group

Another COP, another year and Climate change still a major issue. As NGOS descended on COP 29 at BAKU, Azerbaijan, they had expectations. As they left, this was another year of frustrations. Nevertheless there were some positive steps. States did commit to increasing the overall finances to tackle climate change and provide money to small Islands as well as developing countries to build resilience and start on mitigation.

The common feature that struck Sikh Human Rights Group at Baku, was that civil society has invested a lot on developed and near developed countries to take climate change seriously and introduce policies to mitigate and even reverse the damage. This is understandable. We are in a unique era in world history. Almost all power and decision making is in the hands of States. In fact they are in the hands of powerful States. Small States are

dependent on rich States for investments, loans and grants, either directly or through multilateral institutions such as IMF and World Bank. The global economy has made it difficult for any small State to remain in isolation. Their populations expect to see development. Development costs money. Development also means incremental encroachment on nature and depletion of natural resources.

The other major decision makers are large transnational corporations. They decide where to invest depending on returns and favourable conditions for 'investment'. They are not in the business of charity. They are always on the look out for new opportunities to find minerals, oil, alternative energy, recreation investments, construction projects among others. Globalisation gives them access to the remotest sites and even the most protectionist States

Communities have few opportunities of independent action. Communities have become dependent on States taking action, on development, on the nature of development and in the age of climate change, to take the big decisions on protection of human species for the future.

Hence the one spectacle obvious at Baku and the two previous COPs that SHRG attended, was that civil society through its NGOs and experts, concentrate on lobbying States, lobbying powerful States on behalf of smaller and underdeveloped States and on behalf of vulnerable people.

Efforts are made to make States commit to targets to reduce the impact of climate change and reverse it. Efforts are made to push rich States to put in more money in overall drive to meet the challenge of climate change. Intense lobbying goes on to insert articles in mission

statements and declarations by the States to bind them to take dramatic but constructive actions to reduce climate change. However, despite all the lobbying, progress is slow and commitments even less.

There are also experts such as the International Panel on Climate Change, who bring stark realities to the gathered world at COP. Many other NGOs and Universities bring their messages of the disasters that are taking place and predict imminent catastrophes.



It occurred to us, why not shift the balance a bit. There is nothing stopping civil society acting independently to take on climate change. Civil society organisations can encourage cultural change in people and lead on actions that are within its ability without antagonising States, Corporates or the law.

Instead of just concentrating on changing States or giving out information about predictable dangers, civil society organisations can motivate people to take action in their daily lives. Civil society NGOs can mobilise change at the grassroots, in community institutions, at homes etc.

We started a motivation and mobilisation network. This network hopes to bring inspiring stories from around the world. This network will bring examples from their own communities and from around the world of action taken by people themselves to take small and big steps to combat climate change.

One example is the Nishan-e-Sikhi project at Khadur Sahib, India. The project has planted some 750,000 trees, 300 jungles and started organic farming. The project is inspired by Sikh belief system. It has been operating for over twenty years without dependence on the State. It is an inspirational project that is expression of and evidence of motivation and mobilisation.

At COP 30, Sikh Human Rights Group hopes to promote motivation and mobilisation further, creating a large network of NGOs and other civil society representatives to encourage people to take shared ownership of climate change.



HARPREET'S REFLECTIONS



HARPREET KAUR

Climate Campaign

This year, with Guru Ji's kirpa, we were profoundly blessed to have the support of both the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Southall (SGSSS) Gurdwara Committee and Sikh Human Rights Group (SHRG) in sending two young Sikh ambassadors to UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

In order to prepare well for this seva, in the month prior Nishan-e-Sikhi in Khadur Sahib, near Amritsar, Punjab; a place where Guru Angad Dev Ji's legacy of community empowerment and sustainable living continues to inspire. There, I witnessed Sikhi in action:

- Organic farming initiatives that preserve both the land and farmers' livelihoods
- Reforestation efforts using native medicinal and fruit trees, reflecting the Guru's vision of sarbat da bhala (well-being for all).
- An exemplary school nurturing the next generation to carry forward this mission, a living example of Guru Nanak's teachings on education and sustainability.

This experience deepened my understanding of how climate action must be rooted in faith, community, and grassroots change, the importance of making connections that are personal to communities, aligning with Sikhi's call for justice, seva, and systemic transformation.

Arriving in Baku on 18th November, we were warmly welcomed, but what stood out most was the rare sight of Sikhs at COP29, only two other dastaar-wearing individuals in the entire conference. This reinforced the importance of amplifying Sikh voices and learning in global climate discourse.

As a doctor, my focus was twofold: looking at the impact of climate change on health, as well as Showcasing SHRG's work, including Sukhmeet's leadership in aligning gurdwaras with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the week that we were present, we networked our way around the pavilions, the exhibits as well as the negotiations.

Key Engagements & Reflections

-UK Pavilion (NHS England): strengthening the voices of clinicians in climate change mitigation. Reconnecting with colleagues, I emphasised the role of community motivation in healthcare sustainability, drawing from Sikhi's holistic view of health

-Faith Pavilion: A session on "Hope Instead of Optimism" resonated deeply, Sikhi teaches us chardi kala (eternal optimism), but also action. Climate despair is not an option.

-LSHTM Side Event: Highlighted how marginalised communities, such as women and children, need to be at the forefront of climate solutions, echoing Guru Nanak's stand for the oppressed.

-SHRG's Session (Sukhmeet's Presentation): A powerful moment where Sikh values of sarbat da bhala met global policy, inspiring discussions with CANSEA's regional director on 40 years of climate advocacy.

-COP29, like every COP, was alive with protests, reminders that policy alone is not enough. Witnessing these actions, I reflected on Sikhi's history of resistance against injustice.

The closing sessions, legal battles for climate accountability, ATACH Day at the WHO Pavilion, reinforced that justice is a marathon, not a sprint. As Sikhs, we know this well; our Gurus taught us to fight tirelessly for justice.

Though negotiations extended beyond my departure on 22nd November, the real work begins now: bringing COP29's lessons back to our gurdwaras, schools, and farms.

Let this be a wake-up call: Sikhi is not just prayers—it is action. The Guru Granth Sahib declares, ਪਵਣੁ ਗੁਰੂ ਪਾਣੀ ਪਿਤਾ ਮਾਤਾ ਧਰਤਿ ਮਹਤੁ॥ (Water is Guru, Air is Father). If we claim to revere them, we must fight for them.

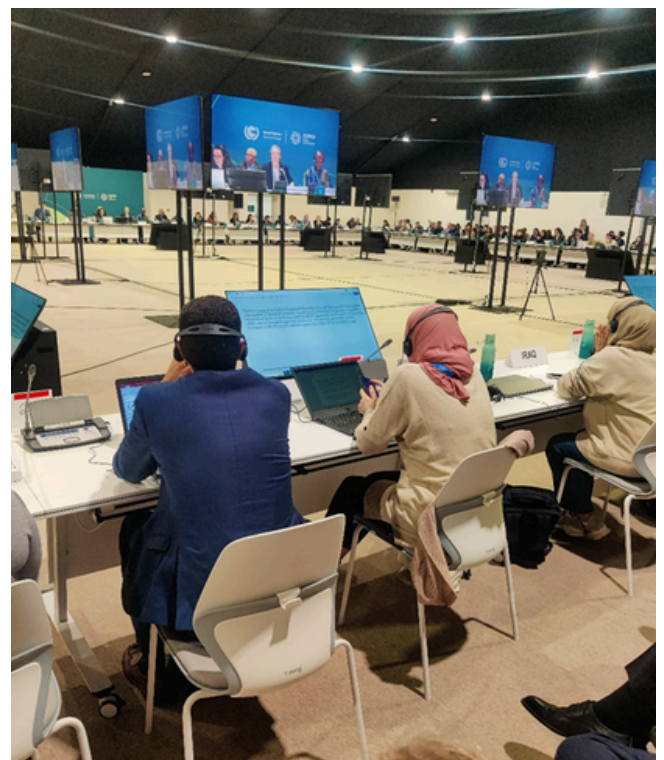
Next steps?

-Gurdwaras as Eco-Hubs (Solar energy, zero-waste langar)

-Sikh Youth in Climate Leadership

-Global Sikh Advocacy at COP30

With Guru's grace, we will rise to this challenge.



JAGROOP'S REFLECTIONS



JAGROOP SINGH

Climate Science Officer,
Nishan-e-Sikhi

Nishan-E-Sikhi Kaar Sewa Khadur Sahib's Participation at COP29 Azerbaijan: A Step Towards Global Environmental Leadership

Under the guidance of Baba Sewa Singh Kaar Sewa Khadur Sahib, Nishan-E-Sikhi Kaar Sewa Khadur Sahib, a renowned institution dedicated to environmental protection and sustainable development, recently participated in the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) held in Azerbaijan. This global event brought together international organizations, civil society, and business leaders to discuss climate change mitigation strategies and sustainable development goals.

Engagement with Global Organizations

During COP29, representatives from Nishan-E-Sikhi engaged with global organizations, showcasing their environmental efforts and commitment to climate justice. Dr. Jasdev Singh Rai from SHRG London organized a side event titled "Agroecology for Climate Justice: Stories from the Global South," where Baba Gurpreet Singh shared success stories of Nishan-E-Sikhi's projects and the challenges faced in agroecological practices, particularly in Northern India and Punjab.

Showcasing Environmental Milestones

Nishan-E-Sikhi presented its milestones in environment protection and climate change actions at a booth shared with SHRG London. This showcase highlighted their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and demonstrated their dedication to sustainable development.

Future Directions

Nishan-E-Sikhi's participation in COP29 marks a significant step towards global environmental leadership. The institution's commitment to sustainable development and climate justice can inspire other organizations to follow suit. As the world continues to grapple with the challenges of climate change, institutions like Nishan-E-Sikhi Kaar Sewa Khadur Sahib will play a crucial role in shaping a more sustainable future.

Baba Sewa Singh Kaar Sewa Khadur Sahib's vision and leadership have been instrumental in guiding Nishan-E-Sikhi's environmental initiatives. The institution's participation in COP29 reflects its commitment to Baba Sewa Singh's ideals of environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

BETHAN'S REFLECTIONS



**BETHAN
WALTERS**

Human Rights & Comms Officer
Sikh Human Rights Group

Agricultural policies often overlook the gendered impacts on women, particularly in developing countries, despite their significant role in food production and subsistence farming. Women typically have less access to critical resources like land, agricultural inputs (fertilisers, seeds), financial services, and climate-smart technologies that could help them adapt to climate change. These gendered barriers limit their ability to improve climate resilience and productivity.

For example, women are frequently excluded from training programs for climate-smart agriculture (CSA), which could equip them with sustainable farming practices. Factors like illiteracy, social norms, and lack of childcare support further limit their participation in such initiatives. Additionally, many CSA programs fail to incorporate gender-responsive policies, which would address the unique needs and constraints women face in agriculture, such as secure land rights, equitable access to financial services, and labor-saving technologies. If agricultural policies were to

address these gender disparities, significant gains could be made in productivity and poverty reduction. Closing the gender gap in access to agricultural inputs, for instance, could increase crop yields and boost economic growth, as demonstrated in countries like Rwanda and Malawi [UN Women](#)

Critical Role in Agriculture: Women constitute approximately 33% of India's agricultural workforce, with an even larger share in certain regions where they are primarily engaged in subsistence and small-scale farming. Despite their significant contributions, they face pronounced barriers, including limited land ownership, restricted access to finance, and minimal access to climate-resilient technology. This affects productivity, resilience to climate change, and food security.

Land Ownership Disparities: Only about 12-14% of India's agricultural land is owned by women, limiting their decision-making power and ability to secure loans or government support for farming. This disparity constrains their access to government-led schemes for climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and agricultural subsidies, as most programs require land titles.

Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Access: In India, CSA programs often bypass female farmers, who face hurdles like low literacy rates, lack of mobility, and social norms limiting participation. Additionally, government training programs on climate resilience rarely offer childcare support, which restricts women's involvement, especially those who are primary caregivers. Addressing these gender-specific needs could enhance women's engagement with CSA practices, which are critical for adapting to India's rapidly changing climate.

Financial and Resource Gaps: Women in India have less access to inputs such as high-quality seeds, fertilisers, and modern equipment. This gender gap in resources, along with limited access to financial services, results in lower crop yields and reduced capacity to withstand climate impacts. Closing this gap could significantly enhance agricultural productivity and household income, improving both economic growth and food security.

Previous COPs



COP events have increasingly emphasised gender-responsive climate policies, particularly with agriculture and food security. Key initiatives include the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan (GAP), which identifies agriculture as a crucial sector where gender impacts are underaddressed. The GAP, developed under the Lima Work Programme on Gender, has urged countries to integrate gender perspectives across climate strategies. For instance, many women are involved in subsistence farming, but without equal access to resources like land, financing, and technology, their resilience against climate change remains limited. This gap has significant implications for food security, especially as climate-smart agriculture becomes essential for adapting to environmental changes.

At COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference highlighted gender as a central theme. Sessions and dialogues, such as the Gender Day, explored how climate policies in agriculture can better support women by providing equitable access to climate-smart agricultural training and resources. Organisations like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN) are actively working to bridge these gaps. WOCAN, in particular, has developed initiatives to enhance women's roles in agricultural decision-making and climate resilience, and the African Development Bank has integrated gender-sensitive approaches in its agricultural financing projects.

Further, UN Women has advocated for feminist approaches to climate justice through the Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice. These efforts are complemented by civil society groups like the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Gender Just Climate Solutions (GJCS) initiative, which empower local women farmers to adapt to climate change through grassroots innovations.

For a comprehensive view of these discussions and updates on gender-responsive agricultural policies, can explore these resources:

UNFCCC

[ps://unfccc.int/topics/gender/workstream](https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/workstream)

UNFCCC

[r-action-plan](#)) or learn about the discussions held at [COP26](#). These pages include further documentation on gender integration in climate policies and a list of active organisations and recent commitments to this cause.

Gender Action Plan (GAP) and India: The UNFCCC's GAP has underscored the need for gender-responsive policies globally, and India's National Action Plan on Climate Change has started incorporating gender considerations, though the focus on rural women remains limited. COP events continue to highlight India's agricultural sector, emphasizing how climate policies could more effectively support rural women.

UN Initiatives Supporting Indian Women Farmers: Organizations like UN Women and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are working in India to provide training, financing, and access to climate-resilient practices. For example, the Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission targets rural women farmers, aiming to build resilience through collective farming, financial literacy, and agricultural training. However, wider policy adoption is needed for substantial change.



AT COP29

1. Attend Gender and Climate Sessions: Many sessions at COP29 will likely cover gender-responsive climate policies. Look for events led by the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan (GAP), UN Women, and other key stakeholders involved in gender and climate justice. These sessions provide insights into ongoing gender policies, funding opportunities, and partnerships aimed at empowering women in climate-vulnerable sectors like agriculture. Participating in these can help understand how human rights frameworks integrate into gender and climate policies.

2. Engage with the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP): This platform focuses on indigenous knowledge systems and could be a valuable space to advocate for a gendered lens in agricultural policies. Bringing attention to Sikh farmers' needs, indigenous practices, and gender equity could open discussions on sustainable agricultural practices and adaptation strategies.

3. Join Side Events on Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security: Side events organised by UN agencies, such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), or by coalitions like Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), focus on climate-smart agriculture, food security, and inclusive policy design. These sessions address gaps in access to technology, financing, and training for women in agriculture—key topics to advocate for inclusive rights-based approaches.

4. Network with Organizations Focusing on Gender Equality in Agriculture: Engage with organisations such as the African Development Bank's Gender and Women Empowerment Division, the UNDP, and the Gender Just Climate Solutions (GJCS) initiative. These groups are often active at COP events and may have resources, toolkits, and frameworks that could align with the Sikh Human Rights Group's goals.

5. Monitor Negotiations on Financial Mechanisms for Adaptation and Mitigation: Financial discussions at COPs often include mechanisms to fund gender-responsive projects, which are vital for addressing inequalities in resource access. Advocate for funding structures that specifically include female farmers, particularly from minority and indigenous communities, ensuring equitable support for climate resilience.

6. Participate in the Virtual Gender Marketplace and Related Networking Opportunities: Events like the Virtual Gender Market Place provide networking space with other advocates, experts, and policymakers focused on gender and climate action. This could be an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of Sikh farmers' needs in gender-specific climate resilience efforts.

By attending these sessions and engaging in targeted discussions, can help ensure that the intersection of human rights, gender equality, and sustainable agriculture remains central to climate conversations at COP29. To stay updated on events and agendas, the UNFCCC COP29 site and the official agenda will be invaluable.



COUNTRIES NGOS

Several countries and NGOs are advocating for a greater role of civil society in climate action at the UN, emphasising the need for collaboration with on-the-ground organisations rather than relying solely on state-driven approaches.

Key countries that actively support civil society engagement include small island developing states like Fiji and the Marshall Islands, which frequently emphasise the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities and the importance of local input in crafting solutions. Countries within the EU and Latin American groups, like Costa Rica, also push for broadening civil society's role, urging a more inclusive approach that values community-driven climate strategies alongside government initiatives.

Among NGOs, platforms like Together First, an initiative supported by the UNA-UK and Plataforma CIPÓ, advocate for deeper integration of civil society voices in UN climate processes.

They highlight barriers to civil society participation, such as logistical and financial obstacles, and propose solutions like dedicated funds to support CSO participation and simplified accreditation processes.

Organisations such as Climate Action Network and 350.org echo similar calls, advocating for sustained civil society engagement to ensure accountability in climate commitments, as well as direct, ground-level insights for shaping practical and inclusive climate policies.

These advocates argue that classifying climate change as a disaster would strengthen the need for urgent, coordinated efforts involving local actors who understand community-specific impacts. This approach could enable the UN to respond more effectively, especially in climate-vulnerable regions, by prioritising civil society's unique capacity for direct impact and resilience-building at the grassroots level.



SHRG APPROACH



The issues with relying primarily on state engagement at the UN in addressing climate change stem from the inherent limitations of government-led processes, which often overlook the nuanced, grassroots realities of climate impacts. Governments, especially those less affected or facing competing priorities, may lack the incentive to rapidly implement climate-responsive policies. Here's an argument could present to the UN to prioritise working with civil society, local communities, and grassroots organisations alongside states and treat climate change as an immediate disaster response that needs direct, community-based intervention.

1. Limited Reach of State-Only Engagement

- **Top-Down Limitations:** When climate policies are crafted and implemented primarily by state actors, they often fail to reflect the specific needs of vulnerable populations, such as women, small farmers, indigenous communities, and low-income urban residents. These groups face climate impacts daily, and their voices are critical for shaping effective and immediate responses.

- **Delays in Policy Implementation:** State-level policies are often delayed by bureaucratic processes or political disagreements, slowing down urgent action. By engaging with civil society, the UN can leverage existing networks that are more agile and experienced in local implementation, bypassing some of these delays.

2. Why Treat Climate Change as a Disaster?

- **Global and Local Impacts Are Immediate:** The impacts of climate change—extreme weather, droughts, floods, food insecurity, and health crises—are disasters in themselves, affecting millions of lives directly. Treating climate change with the urgency of disaster response would justify the rapid mobilisation of resources and direct support to vulnerable communities, similar to the approach used for natural disasters.

- **Local Knowledge is Key:** Just as local knowledge is central to effective disaster response, it's equally critical in climate adaptation. Local communities understand their unique environmental and social challenges and are well-positioned to implement practical solutions. The UN's direct collaboration with these communities can accelerate interventions and improve outcomes.

3. Empowering Civil Society for Effective and Equitable Solutions

- **Amplifying Marginalized Voices:** Civil society organisations (CSOs) are often closer to marginalised populations and can provide a platform for voices that are rarely represented in government-led dialogues. For example, indigenous communities' traditional knowledge on sustainable land use is invaluable for building resilience but is often ignored in state-led discussions. Engaging CSOs gives these groups a stake in decision-making and solution-building.

- **Expanding Reach and Resources:** CSOs operate in communities worldwide, with well-established networks and expertise that state actors might lack. By integrating CSOs into climate action strategies, the UN can maximise its reach and ensure resources and education are effectively delivered where they are most needed.

4. Building Accountability and Transparency Through Civil Society Partnerships

- **Increased Accountability:** Civil society often acts as a watchdog, holding governments accountable for their climate commitments. Involving CSOs in planning and implementation introduces transparency and helps ensure that climate policies are effectively monitored and adjusted in response to local needs.

- **Real-time Feedback Mechanisms:** CSOs can provide real-time feedback on the effectiveness of climate policies, which can inform faster adaptations and refinements. This iterative, responsive approach is essential in the context of an evolving climate crisis and is more feasible with direct civil society engagement than solely through state-driven initiatives.

Recommendations for UN Action



- 1. Formalise Civil Society's Role in Decision-Making:** Encourage the UN to establish frameworks for civil society participation that position CSOs as equal partners in climate policy development and implementation, rather than as peripheral stakeholders. This can be done through formal consultative panels and dedicated funding streams for CSO-led initiatives.
- 2. Adopt a Disaster Response Framework for Climate Action:** Advocate for the UN to adopt a framework that treats climate change as a disaster requiring immediate, coordinated action. This would justify fast-tracked support and emergency funding similar to disaster relief, addressing the urgency that state-led processes often lack.
- 3. Focus on Capacity Building for Local Adaptation:** Encourage the UN to allocate resources directly to CSOs, indigenous organisations, and community leaders who are already involved in climate adaptation efforts. This will support grassroots resilience-building and enable communities to respond to climate impacts more effectively.
- 4. Promote Gender and Social Equity in Climate Finance:** Push for climate finance mechanisms that prioritise marginalised groups by providing grants and resources directly to women's groups, indigenous cooperatives, and small-scale farmers through CSOs.

COP 29 focus on Finance COP



Negotiations will concentrate on financing, as COP29 has been termed by many as the "Finance COP." This is the last major conference before the 2025 deadline for countries to submit new nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that extend to 2035, reflecting increased climate ambition to align with the 1.5°C goal.

In the second week, discussions will shift more intensively toward solidifying a new climate finance target—known as the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)—which seeks to address the significant funding gap between current resources and the estimated \$600 billion needed annually through 2030 to support climate adaptation and mitigation in developing countries. Developed nations previously committed to \$100 billion annually, a target first met in 2022, but current discussions at COP29 will aim for a more ambitious and responsive goal in line with climate adaptation needs.

Additional key discussions will address transparency frameworks and strategies for technology action to support climate resilience, with events focusing on youth, marginalised communities, and technological solutions for energy and emissions. The event has also attracted scrutiny due to Azerbaijan's own reliance on fossil fuels and its human rights record, raising concerns about the nation's commitment to sustainable practices as host.

Comments and thoughts of our post COP29 session at the Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Southall.

Engaging with Global Platforms Through a Nuanced Gender Perspective

We have come to realise that women's leadership is often framed through Western experiences of past marginalisation. The Sikh perspective, however, is grounded in respect, dignity, and non-discrimination, promoting the right to be valued in one's own path. Rather than focusing on sameness with men, it calls for recognition of difference without disadvantage.

From Policy to Practice

SHRG applies this perspective through tangible projects. Our work includes advocacy on menstrual health, removal of tampon taxes, and development of climate-conscious products. We also support education in schools to address the decline in intergenerational guidance. Additionally, SHRG continues to speak out against gender foeticide, which contradicts Sikh ethics.

Next Steps and Collaboration

SHRG aims to bring this nuanced gender approach to global platforms like CSW, HRC, and COP. As the UN increasingly promotes gender perspectives, we welcome collaboration with other organisations working through cultural and religious frameworks to ensure inclusive representation at the international level.

Gender Equality

Gender equality refers to the principle of providing equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities to all genders, without discrimination. It's about ensuring that people, regardless of gender, have the same access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making. In essence, gender equality aims to remove barriers so that people of any gender can fully participate in every aspect of society—be it education, work, politics, or family life. Achieving gender equality typically requires structural changes, like updating laws or policies, that help eliminate discrimination and reduce disparities between genders.

Gender Perspective

Gender perspective is an analytical approach that considers how different gender identities experience issues, policies, and opportunities. It involves examining how a policy, action, or situation may impact people of different genders differently. Incorporating a gender perspective requires understanding the roles, behaviors, and power dynamics traditionally associated with each gender and ensuring that policies or programs are equitable and responsive to these differences. A gender perspective doesn't just aim for equality on the surface but looks deeper to account for historical biases and contextual needs, ensuring more meaningful, inclusive outcomes.

Key Difference

Gender perspective is a tool or method for analyzing and designing policies, programs, and initiatives to ensure they support the goal of non discrimination effectively by being responsive to gender-specific needs and dynamics. In practice, employing a gender perspective is essential to achieving gender dignity, respect and remove obstacles to a fair, non judgemental and non discriminatory environment and society because it reveals where inequalities exist and helps tailor approaches that address unique gendered experiences and barriers.

Sikh Human Rights Group's proposal at COP 29

At **COP 27** in Sharma -El-Sheik , Sikh Human Rights Group assessed that almost the entire focus of UN climate change actions were around States and multinational institutions and companies. Climate change affects ordinary people. Along with policies and laws that States need to enact, actions that States and multinational Corporations need to take, civil society also needs to be motivated and mobilised.

COP 28 at Dubai, SHRG proposed more action in motivating civils society. WE talked to Brazil, Jordan UAE and several other states to make climate motivation and mobilisation a component of COP. We introduced this in our speech at the side event. We also put on posters in our stand.

Finally at Baku, Azerbaijan, **COP 29**, we introduced leaflets both in print and on digital platforms. We had long conversations with Brazilian delegates as Brazil was scheduled to host COP 30. Attached are the leaflets. We suggested to Brazil that civil society initiatives should be given prominence too at COP.

CLIMATE MOBILISATION

CLIMATE MOTIVATION

“

Our planet is trying to tell us something. But we don't seem to be listening.

The truth is ... almost ten years since the Paris Agreement was adopted, the target of limiting long-term global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is hanging by a thread.

We are playing Russian roulette with our planet.

United Nations Secretary General June 2024



“

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require “rapid and far-reaching” transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities”. “Limiting warming to 1.5°C is possible within the laws of chemistry and physics but doing so would require unprecedented changes.”

Science can provide the evidential basis for action. But it cannot fill the vacuum created by policy inaction.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2024



Now is the time to mobilise, now is the time to act, now is the time to deliver. This is our moment of truth.

António Guterres, UN Secretary General

Is the world really listening to the science and data that we already have? How can they be better leveraged to not only inform multilateral environmental agreements but action on the ground?

Jim Skea, IPCC Chair

“

Climate crunch time is here.

Some parts of the world are burning. Some parts are drowning and people everywhere are struggling to cope and in many cases to survive – particularly and always the poorest and most vulnerable.

The future of our planet is at stake. We are in the midst of a climate emergency, and the window to act is closing fast.

Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



We need global mobilisation on a scale and pace never seen before - starting right now, before the next round of climate pledges.

Inger Andersen, UNEP

States, Government, Industry, International Institutions and Scientists can only do so much. The complexities of politics, development, finance, profits, institutional restraints complicate pledges and ambitions. It is time to motivate and mobilise people, civil society, communities, cultures, civilisations and non State actors to join the effort to save the living planet.

Contact: info@climatemotivation.org
www.climatemotivation.org

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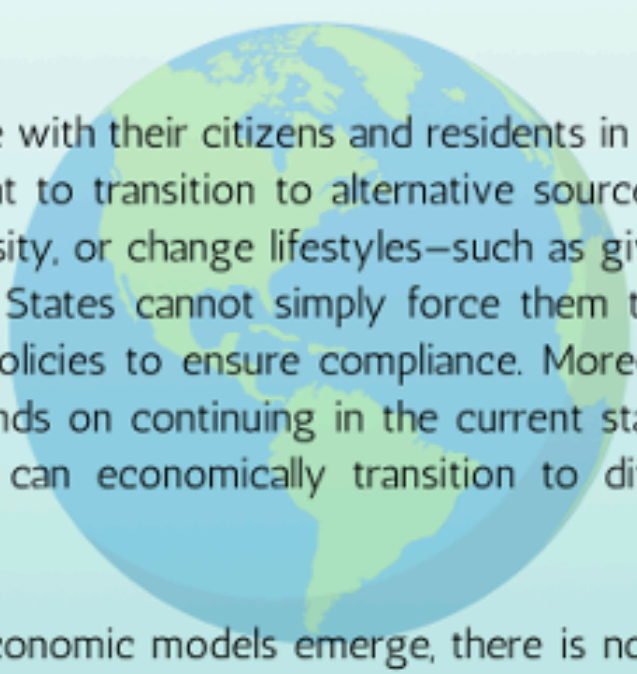
CLIMATE MOTIVATION CLIMATE MOBILISATION *A Call to Action*



Join the movement, write at:
info@climatemotivation.org

Climate Motivation

There is now considerable concern that the battle to reverse climate change is entering a critical phase, if not being lost. Several measures are being taken, numerous targets are still being decided, and multiple commitments are yet to start. The broad categories under which action is being taken are Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance, Loss and Damage. The decisions at COP remain between States. They are about mobilising Governments and are referenced to economics and technology, with some legal actions and policies such as the transition from fossil fuels to alternatives. However, for climate change to be reversed, the cooperation of people is vital. People need to play a significant role in tackling climate issues. State initiatives, laws, and policies alone do not seem to be sufficient.



States act and engage with their citizens and residents in mind. If people cannot afford or do not want to transition to alternative sources of energy, maintain and improve biodiversity, or change lifestyles—such as giving up plastics, luxury living, or travel—then States cannot simply force them to do so or introduce draconian laws and policies to ensure compliance. Moreover, the economy of many countries depends on continuing in the current state and moving in the slow lane until they can economically transition to different resources and development streams.

Even as alternative economic models emerge, there is no certainty that people will co-operate fully. People are driven by various factors, including necessities, such as lacking the financial means to transition, needing to live close to relatives while working at quite a distance, the need to drive even short distances because of street crime in an area, housing costs, dependency on plastics, the need for deforestation to expand human dwellings, the demand for cheap imported gadgets, and many other reasons.

Nevertheless, people or civil society can act if motivated sufficiently. People can actively seek to transition away from fossil fuels, adjust lifestyles to use reusable and recyclable products, and reduce energy consumption. The driver for this is motivation.

Current Motivations

How to motivate people to be more proactive in addressing climate change, reduce Carbon and Nitrous content in the air, embrace biodiversity, save the planet and future generations. Financial inducements and financial investments are the most common suggestions. For instance there have been incentives to trade in diesel and petrol cars for cleaner electric or hybrid cars. But not every country can afford it nor can everyone in developed countries afford a new hybrid car even if some money is given as incentive to replace old cars. There have been policies to subsidise solar panels, but the take up isn't high and States can only give a percentage of the costs. Again it is only some developed States that have the money to do so. The developing countries do not have the financial muscle to transition from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources. Many countries are dependent on selling oil and gas to maintain a reasonable standard of life for their citizens. Even with financial subsidies, there are many people who have enough money not to be seduced by the money available, which is usually a small amount to them. States can commit at the international level to investing into alternative energy, recycling, reducing plastics and banning polluting industries, vehicles, ships etc, but the transition process is too slow to meet the crises. Moreover there is considerable resistance from industry that is still dependent on polluting manufacturing processes. This is particularly so in some developed countries and many developing countries. The economic route makes sense but isn't going to keep pace with the speed at which the environment, climate and biodiversity is deteriorating. There is also the food chain which is highly reliant on meat. Modern human society has made meat a significant part of its diet. But meat comes from animals that produce considerable methane into the environment. Efforts at introducing meat alternatives and promoting vegan diet haven't caught on that much. Lab produced meat is still in its infancy. Cattle and other animals that form part of regular human diet, require large tracts of land and deforestation. The accompanying motivation is the doomsday messaging. There is enough news, literature, warnings and conferences about the impending crises if we as humans do not take action. Floods, heatwaves, hurricanes, migrations, disease, earthquakes, wars, water crises, rising sea levels, melting ice are only some of the natural and manmade disasters that are being attributed to climate change.

This is having a double edged effect. Many are alarmed and taking action. But others are down beat and feel there is nothing they can do, so might as well enjoy the remaining years of humanity. Some are quite depressed and have decided not to have children.

Yet there are also many people that have faith in technology to save the human race and the planet. There is a lot of innovation to mitigate climate change and find way to adept to it. But wise voices caution that technology may not be the savvier people, governments and industry is depending on. The side effects and consequences of technology are not known sufficiently to rely on it. It could make matters worse. Moreover technological breakthroughs may not be as soon as we want them.

New Motivators

There are many other routes to motivate people and raise their confidence in managing this crises. People are inspired by religion, culture, values, worldviews, peers, leaders, community trends and many other aspects of human life that make humans what they are. These are not economically or technologically driven. They appeal to emotions and human need for society and collective action.

We need to look at other ways of motivation. We need to encourage all forms of motivations that inspire people to take action and work for speedier transitions towards a lifestyle that addresses the climate crises and reverses the damage that has already been done.

Human society has been on this earth for thousands of years. Humans have always had concepts and practices about relationship with nature which required restrain, recycling, care and nurturing biodiversity.

The movement for motivation and mobilisation can bring the wisdoms and new ideas back into human culture for people to take the climate crises seriously in their own way. We need human motivation and mobilisation.

**CLIMATE MOTIVATION IS THE KEY TO CIVIL SOCIETY
OWNERSHIP OF THE CLIMATE CRISES AND MOBILISATION OF
PUBLIC ACTION**

