

Presidency



Mukhtar Babayev
COP29 President-Designate

H.E. Mukhtar Babayev is the COP29 President-Designate. Mr. Babayev was appointed to this position in January 2024, having led Azerbaijan's delegation to five previous COPs. He has served as Azerbaijan's Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources since 2018 where he has led national efforts to address historic ecological damage, improve Azerbaijan's environment, and drive climate-positive growth. In 2010, Mr. Babayev was elected to the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, where he served as a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources, Energy and Ecology. Before entering politics, Mr. Babayev worked at the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR), where in his role as Vice-President for Ecology he developed and oversaw the company's sustainability and environmental efforts.

In his role as COP29 President-Designate, H.E. Mukhtar Babayev will develop and advance the Presidency's Plan, bring the Parties together, ensure that Parties fulfill their previous promises, and push for greater ambition so that the world can meet the goals and ambitions of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Yalchin Rafiyev
COP29 Lead Negotiator



Yalchin Rafiyev is the Lead Negotiator for COP29 Azerbaijan. Mr. Rafiyev serves as Deputy Foreign Minister and has worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for almost two decades. He has served in multiple roles to advance multilateral diplomacy, including as Third and Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the UN Office in Vienna and the First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the UN Office in Geneva.

In his role as Lead Negotiator, Mr. Rafiyev will work with the 198 Parties to the UNFCCC to build consensus and refine potential landing zones for the negotiations based on a shared vision of success, all within a fair and transparent process.



Elnur Soltanov
Chief Executive Officer of COP29

Elnur Soltanov is the Chief Executive Officer of COP29 Azerbaijan. Mr. Soltanov was appointed Deputy Minister of Energy in 2018. He has served as Dean at the School of Public and International Affairs and Director of the Caspian Energy and Environment Center.

In his role as CEO, Mr. Soltanov will coordinate the Presidency's activities and the delivery of its agenda. Mr. Soltanov will also represent the Presidency at multilateral forums to advance climate action.

Narmin Jarchalova
Chair of COP29 Azerbaijan
Operating Company and
Chief Operating Officer for COP29



Narmin Jarchalova is the Chief Operating Officer for COP29 Azerbaijan. Ms. Jarchalova has worked for the Heydar Aliyev Foundation as the environmental protection and climate action initiative champion. She previously held various positions within the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan and served as the project manager for the Azerbaijan pavilion at COP28.

In her role as COO, Ms. Jarchalova will ensure the effective and sustainable delivery of the COP29 event and provide the enabling environment for global delegates to convene and agree on the next steps for global climate action.



Nigar Arpadarai
Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29

Nigar Arpadarai is the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29 Azerbaijan. Ms. Arpadarai is a member of Azerbaijan's National Assembly where she serves on the Committee on International and Interparliamentary Relations and Committee on Family, Women and Children.

In her role as UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, Ms. Arpadarai will contribute to stronger and more ambitious climate action by strengthening the engagement of non-State actors in supporting the parties to deliver on climate goals. She will also work with the private sector to ensure that they have the awareness, capacity and tools to make sustainability central to their operations and activities.

Leyla Hasanova
Youth Climate Champion for COP29



Leyla Hasanova is the Youth Climate Champion for COP29 Azerbaijan. Ms. Hasanova is the Chairperson of the Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization, and has previously worked as Head of the Secretariat of the Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization and Program Coordinator at the Institute for Development and Diplomacy at ADA University.

In her role as Youth Climate Champion, Ms. Hasanova will amplify the voices of youth-led and youth-focused organizations to ensure that they are mainstreamed into climate diplomacy and the COP process. She will also work with YOUNGO, the official children and youth constituency of the UNFCCC, to empower children and youth and promote youth participation in climate action.