

Call for climate-friendly catering at COP29

5 June 2024

H.E. Mukhtar Babayev, Ms. Leyla Hasanova, and COP29 Sustainability Team,

We, the undersigned 250 organizations, write to request that the COP29 Presidency maintains—and builds on—the landmark progress made at COP28 by ensuring that this year’s climate change conference in Baku continues to serve climate-friendly and sustainable food.

Following requests from attendees, particularly youth, COP28 featured a more environmentally friendly menu, getting closer to 1.5 alignment including through serving two-thirds vegan and vegetarian food—a first for the climate COP.^{1 2}

These, and other sustainable catering policies at COP28, recognized the critical importance of food environments and choices to achieving climate progress. Globally, our food system accounts for around one-third of GHG emissions, enough to place the Paris Agreement’s temperature goals in jeopardy even if fossil fuels were phased out immediately.³

Because most of these emissions and other environmental impacts result from producing animal products, the IPCC and other climate experts stress that shifts to more plant-based diets are essential for climate change mitigation and adaptation.⁴ Addressing overconsumption of animal products is also necessary for reducing the incidence of communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as reducing pressures on resources (through, for example, fishing and feed crop production) that can undermine equitable access to food for the most vulnerable.⁵

As a result, climate-friendly COP catering is important for improving the climate footprint of the conference as well as highlighting the importance of the food system and providing credibility to the UNFCCC process as a whole—as was demonstrated at COP28 where widespread acclaim for the plant-forward menu in international media was a welcome contrast to the negative attention that had resulted from catering at some previous COPs.

¹ COP28 UAE, *COP28 to Offer 1.5°C-Aligned Menus Across More Than 90 Culinary Outlets*, <https://www.cop28.com/en/news/2023/11/COP28-to-offer-15C-aligned-menus-across-more-than-90-culinary-outlets>.

² COP28 UAE, *Food and Beverage*, <https://www.cop28.com/en/food-and-beverage>.

³ IPCC, *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change*, 12.4.3, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FullReport.pdf [IPCC AR6 WGIII].

⁴ *Id.* at 12.4.3; IPCC, *Climate Change and Land, an IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems*, 5.3.4, <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl>; UNEP, *Emissions Gap Report 2022: The Closing Window — Climate Crisis Calls for Rapid Transformation of Societies*, 6.1, <https://www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report-2022>.

⁵ See, e.g., IPCC, *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, TS.D.5.6; 5.13.3 (2022), https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FullReport.pdf; IPCC AR6 WGIII, T. 12.8.

In line with this, we request that the Presidency team works to ensure that COP29 provides a climate-friendly and inclusive food environment for attendees through affordable, nutritious, sustainably-sourced, and predominantly plant-based offerings.

We look forward to a successful COP29 that reflects ambition both through its policy outcomes and through the example the conference sets for all attendees.

Sincerely,

4GOOD

A Well-Fed World

Ace Recycles Limited

Action for Climate and Environmental Sustainability ~ ACES

Action Jeunesse pour le Développement

Africa for SDGs

African Leadership Academy Environmentalists

African network of Young leaders for Peace and sustainable development

African Youth Initiative on Climate Change

Agence conseil à communication de l'environnement

AgriBioconnect

Agriculture Moteur de Développement SARL

AgroExpert Farming

AGWO-FANM

Aleph Farms

Alliance for Youth in Climate Change Action-AYCCA

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Aminu Sambo Integrated Service

Animal Alliance Network

Annapurna Deaf Association

Appui Solidaire pour le Renforcement de l'Aide au Développement

Aquatic Life Institute

Associação Moçambicana de Desenvolvimento Sustentável - AMODES

Association des Acteurs du Domaine de l'Eau et l'Assainissement (3ADE)

Aucune

Aurae Opus Foundation

Belt and Road Initiative for Sustainable Development (BRISD)

Better Food Foundation

BIO Water SARL

Borderless Foundation

Brighter Green

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation

Bukavu's Earth Guardians Crew DRC

CAHED

California Nurses for Environmental Health and Justice

Caritas Uganda
Center for Climate Change Action and Advocacy
Chilis on Wheels
Climate and Environment Youth Initiative
Climate Clock
Climate Resilience and Adaptation Network (CRAN)
Climate Solution International
Cloudton Hamp Ventures Sustainability Group
Club Environnement de l'Université du Burundi
CNETZERO DRC
Coalition for Healthy School Food
Commonwealth Youth Climate Network Sierra Leone
Community Action for Sustainable Development Sierra Leone
Community Action Platform on Environment and Development
Connecting Climate Minds Sub Sahara and Youth and Women for Change in Eswatini
Connecting Villages for Sustainable Development Initiative
Consortium des Organisations de Jeunes de Saint-Louis
Countdown Circular Economy Solutions
CPEDD/Sud-Kivu
CréAFrik
CuteFela
Daayyaa Generation Network (DGN)
DANI Africa
Dastak Welfare and Development Organization
Dorcas Widows Initiative
Eat for the Earth
Eclectic Love
Eco-citizenship Instigation Brigade (EIB)
ECO-EDU
Ecocycle Development Foundation
Economics Students Association of Kenya
Elgossa Charity Organization for Rural Development (ECORD)
Emergence ONGD RDC
Enable the Disable Action (EDA)
Environnement
Escape Poverty Africa
Ethereal Inc.
Ethiopian Youth Council
Eurogroup for Animals
European Young Engineers
Faraja Rwanda
FarmAsyst Ghana
Farm Solution BD
Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations

FFA
Fidutam Chapter Mauritius
Foreign Investment Network
French-speaking youth climate network RCJF -Togo
Future for Future NGO
GanaFert Ltd
Gardula Peoples Development Association (GPDA)
GenGeo
German Climate Foundation
Germanwatch e.V.
Global Climate Change and Health Association of Kenya
Global Environmental and Climate Conservation Initiative
Global Strategic Institute for Sustainable Development GSISD
Global Youth & Sustainability Organisation
Global Youth Climate Connect
Global Youth Coalition
Goodwash Foundation for Health and Environmental Protection
Green Care Ghana
Green Climate Initiative Senegal
Green Girls Determined
Green Mauritania Youth Network
Green REV Institute
Green Rise Initiative
Green Thinkers Integrated Community Development Organization
Green Voices
Green World Youth
Green Youth Force
Greenstoration
Groupe d'action écologique pour le développement Intégral
Groupe d'Action pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable
Humane Society International
Humanitarian Foundation for Coordination and Environmental Security
HyaPak
IAAS
IDD (Change Before Climate Change)
Independent
Instituto Regenera
International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS)
International helping for the young
International Vegetarian Union
ISHR Morocco
Istidama Wattan Organization
It's Our Future
Jeunes volontaires pour l'environnement (Jve-Uac)

Jovem Caralisador
Justice Movement Uganda
Kaybest Farms Integrated Services Ltd
Klimadelegation
KOUAME TECH
KVS0 Kenya
Lens AfricaTV
Lilisphers
Lim Nguen Foundation
Luchiya
Madad for Development
M.L Jallow Ecovillage Project The Gambia
Mai Foundation
Mbita Environmental Network (MEN)
Mercy For Animals
MKAAJI MPYA asbl
Move UP Madagascar
My Ethiopia
Nature's Glory
NGO Earth and Sustainable Environment
Odyssey Global Media
One World Nexus
ONG HORIZON VERT
ONG Jeunesse Active de Guinée
Our Environment it's our Health
Pan African University, Institute for Water and Energy Science including Climate Change
PAN International - Physicians Association for Nutrition
PEP Africa
PHE Ethiopia Consortium
Plan-Earth Hub
Plant-Based Advocates
Plant Technology Alliance
Prince Uwagboe Foundation
ProVeg International
PunahBrahma
Pwani Climate Hub
Raslam Global ventures and Integrated Farms
RE-AD Resilience and Adaptation
Real Food Systems
Regroupement des jeunes engagés pour la défense de l'environnement
Rensi Consultancy and Green Solutions
REPLALEZ
Réseau Africain de Coopération et d'Appui au Développement (RACAD)
Réseau Béninois du Parlement Mondial de la Jeunesse pour l'Eau (RB/PMJE)

Réseau Climat Jeunesse Francophone (RCJF)
Reseau Des Associations Pour Les Developpement Communautaire
Réseau des Organisations des Jeunes Engagés dans le Changement Climatique, Conservation
de la Biodiversité, Zones Humides et Forêts
Réseaux climat jeunesse Francofone
Rethink Your Food
roscevac Gabon
Rural Urban Partnership For Africa (RUPFA)
Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS), Government of Andhra Pradesh, India
SAFCEI
SaveUp for Success Foundation
Seeding Sovereignty
SHE Foundation
Shishu Ullash Organization (International Global Youth platform)
SicaAfrica
Sichuan Fengyin Advertising and Media Co.Ltd
SIDS Youth AIMS Hub (SYAH)
Sinergia Animal
Smart Impact for Sustainable Development Network (SMINET), Nigeria
Société Civile Environnementale et Agro-rurale du Congo
Sol Alchemist
Somaliland Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Somewhat Greener
Stray Dog Institute
Superposition Bhilai Chapter
Suraksha India
Sustainable Tea with Shreya
Sustainability Week IOF Pokhara
Sustainable Cities
Symbiosis
TAPP Coalition
The Ahimsa Project
The Buraaq Association
The Climate Studio
The Dream Factory
The Gender Initiative
The Humane Society of the United States
The Mawoudit Foundation
The National Organization of Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development
The Raven Corps
The Save Movement
"THE" Society - Together for Health and Education, Youth Parliament Pakistan
The Vegetarian Society of Denmark
The World We Once Knew

Tukuze Afrika Foundation
Twende Shuleni Initiative
Udaan Youth Club (UYC)
Union des Jeunes pour le Development Durable
Union of International Youth Urbanology (UIIU)
University Students for the United Nations Federation
United Youth Initiative for Africa
UN SDSN Youth (Europe)
Uomatronix
Veg Foundation
VGreeno
VNDO
WAGGGS
Wasarec
Waste2Hope and KSF AGRO FARM
We Can Cox's Bazar
Women of Tomorrow Development Organization Uganda
Woodland Conservancy
World Animal Protection
World Friends for Africa Burkina Faso
World YMCA
WWF International
Yachaywasi News
Yale University
YEEPE ong
YLE Foundation (Youth Love Egypt)
You-lean Chad Ambassador Network
Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) e.V.
YOUNGO Animal Rights
Youth Association for Education and Environmental Protection
Youth Climate Save Canada
Youth for Better Basco
Youth for Green Expertise
Youth For Oceans
Youth Go Green
Youth initiative cen sad Sénégal
Youth Initiative for Climate Action (YICA) Sierra Leone
Youth Organization for Green India
Youths for Ecosystem Restoration
Zero Waste Project