

Baku, 12 November 2024

A note on the side-event: ***NDCs for Climate Justice: Using the First Global Stocktake (GST) for Greater Transparency and Ambition.***

On Day 1 of COP29, CIDSE Secretariat and its member organisations, Misereor, from Germany and Fastenaktion, from Switzerland opened our participation at this challenging international gathering, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP29) with an [official side event](#) on how to ensure NDCs are equitable, ambitious and socially just.



From left to right: Sarah Nasrawi/ Dutch National Youth Council, Dean Bhebe/Powershift Africa, Jessica Hernandez/Landes, Josianne Gauthier/CIDSE, Celia Wicher/ BUND. Credit. CIDSE

Last year, the Global Stocktake evaluated collective progress on climate action **at the global level**. Current climate actions are not nearly enough to keep global warming below 1.5°C degrees and avoid the worst of these impacts, and countries must step up their efforts to get on track but doing so requires cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions down 42% by 2030 and 56% by 2035, relative to 2023. Current policies will achieve less than a 1% reduction by 2030 and 2035. Also, the Emissions Gap Report issues a clear warning that current **policies and national climate commitments** fall well short of what's needed to address climate change. But we can use the time we

have left wisely. The year ahead presents a prime opportunity to shift the trajectory: Countries will put forward their next set of climate commitments, or nationally determined contributions (NDCs), by early 2025, detailing their sector-specific targets, climate actions and support over the next decade. Most notably, it called for a "transition away from fossil fuels".

During our side event, we heard from a variety of speakers which, together, formed an integral and holistic view beyond the NDCs and transparency technicalities, helping us to look deeper at the ethical and systemic dimensions of climate justice.

As we begin this COP in Baku, we are prepared to challenge ourselves and our assumptions about what climate justice truly means.

The Global Stocktake has reported on what's been done, but *are we willing to face the truth that it might never be enough for the most vulnerable among us?* Those whose lands have already been submerged, whose crops have already failed, whose homes are destroyed today—not tomorrow. Finance is key. Every action we hope to see come out of the COP negotiations depends on a positive outcome in the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), which will determine the ambition, scale and accessibility of climate finance. Without a just and ambitious NCQG outcome, all our commitments and policies will lack the financial backbone needed to turn them into reality. The NCQG must deliver not only adequate funds (quantity) but also (quality) fair and grant-based public finance support to those communities most impacted by climate change in poor countries.

We benefited from the expertise of Ceecee Holz from Equity Reference Project and ClimateWorks Foundation on what fair share looks like when speaking of mitigation efforts and climate finance for new NDCs. In sequence, we heard from the voice of youth through Sarah Nasrawi, who also reminded us of what participation really means and to make sure we bring into the room those who can't be with us in this space through the three pillars of climate justice, particularly procedural justice. With Jessica Hernandez, from Landesa, we heard from Indigenous voices protecting their land, the rights of women, and the role of Indigenous communities in preserving biodiversity and therefore climate justice. Celia Wicher, from Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND), emphasised that transparency on inclusive participation not only ensures a smoother process but also a fairer outcome. Finally, Dean Bhebe from Powershift Africa reminded us of the underlying power dynamics of colonialism, debt, and the extractive economic model which are at the root of climate and social and economic injustice, and that still persists. All of these issues are interconnected and show us the systemic nature of climate justice and the need to address justice and participation in defining climate action. The key words that carried us through this opening side event and that will guide us throughout the COP: urgency, ambition, responsibility - possibility, equity, accountability, justice, and collective action.

Want to know more about CIDSE's side-events and presence at COP29? Check our Engagement Page for regular updates [here!](#)