



Baku City

№ 1970

8 October 2024

**Minister Mr. Tore Onshuus Sandvik and Minister Dr. Dion Travers George
Ministerial Pair for informal consultations on mitigation**

Dear Excellencies,

The upcoming COP29 will be a critical juncture for global climate action, support and collaboration. Enhancement of mitigation ambition for deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C pathways is urgently needed, in this critical decade and beyond.

The UAE consensus recognised the need for deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with pathways consistent with 1.5°C and called on parties to contribute to the global efforts in a nationally determined manner, taking into account the Paris Agreement and their different national circumstances, pathways, and approaches.

The outcome from the global stocktake at COP 28 on mitigation sets out a pathway for increased ambition and implementation. The GST underpinned by science highlights the need for enhanced support and investment for mitigation, particularly for developing countries.

At COP29, we need an outcome on mitigation that will send strong political message on mitigation ambition and implementation reflecting that COP29 will promote the delivery of ambitious new nationally determined contributions in 2025. Parties will need to build consensus on messages drawing upon relevant work, including the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme. The Heads of Delegation (HoDs) Retreat in Shamakhi in July demonstrated that to achieve outcome on mitigation substantial informal political engagement is required. I anticipate that the informal ministerial consultations will offer a valuable opportunity for open and candid exchanges of perspectives in the lead-up to COP29.

In my Letter to Parties and Constituencies in July, I outlined the intention to appoint Ministerial Pairs to address key issues on the COP29 agenda. Following our bilateral consultations, I am pleased to announce your appointment as the mitigation Ministerial Pair. I deeply appreciate your commitment and readiness to undertake this important role. This letter details the mandate and modalities for your consultations.

Scope of the ministerial consultations

In this role, you are kindly asked to steer the informal Ministerial consultations on my behalf to achieve consensus on this vital workstream related to mitigation as we approach COP29.

Considering this, I kindly ask you to engage with Parties and all negotiating groups of to conduct informal consultations on concrete issues related to the content on mitigation and linkages to the process at large. We anticipate that the Ministerial Pair's consultations will foster a comprehensive understanding among Ministers and their delegations regarding the priorities, perspectives, and areas in need of political guidance in the lead up to and during COP29.

With this goal in mind, I kindly ask you to lead consultations centred around the following guiding questions:

- What elements of an implementable outcomes do you expect to be part of an overall package on mitigation at COP29?

- How can we harness the results from relevant work to shape the mitigation outcome at COP 29?

Timeline, format, and next steps

I envision that the consultations led by the Ministerial Pair will occur both before and during COP29. The Ministerial Pair will organize meetings with individual Parties and negotiation groups to explore their views, understand why there are differences and how they might be bridged, and identify common ground on mitigation outcomes for this year's COP. Through these consultations, the mitigation package for Baku should come clearly into focus.

The activities of the Ministerial Pair should encompass mitigation-related workstreams and tracks, including the mandated annual High-Level Ministerial Round Table (HLMRT) on pre-2030 Ambition, scheduled for November 18. Prior to COP29, there will be several key opportunities for the Ministerial Pair to advance discussions on mitigation, including the Pre-COP on October 10-11, 2024. Ministers are encouraged to engage between pre-COP and COP.

To develop a better shared understanding on the progress of discussions and to coordinate next steps effectively, the Incoming Presidency will actively collaborate with the mitigation Ministerial Pair, including a balanced and harmonised work with the other Ministerial Pairs. From time to time, the Presidency will convene all Ministerial Pairs, and it also intends to have on-going discussions amongst HODs.

I am confident that through our collaborative efforts and strong commitment, we will achieve a consensus on mitigation related workstreams at COP29.

Yours truly,

Mukhtar Babayev
Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources
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COP29 President-designate



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