

# Recent Highlights

- **COP 29: Key takeaways**

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP29), held in Baku, Azerbaijan closed last weekend, focused on climate finance, an agreement was reached that can be summarized:

- **Climate Finance Goal:** The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) was agreed, developed countries committed to raise \$300 billion annually for developing nations by 2035, tripling previous goal of \$100 billion and secure efforts of all actors to work together to scale up finance to developing countries, from public and private sources, to the amount of USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035.
- Governments reached a crucial agreement to establish carbon credit quality standards, setting the stage for a potential UN-backed carbon market. The agreement on the remaining sections of Article 6 **on carbon markets** means all elements of the Paris Agreement have been finalized nearly 10 years after it was signed.
- **Loss and Damage Fund:** A decision was made to fully operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund, benefiting developing countries
- **Health and Climate:** The conference emphasized integrating health into climate action, highlighting the need for equitable and sustainable health systems

The main points of contention regarding climate finance at COP29 included: -

- **Funding Amounts:** Developing countries demanded \$1.3 trillion annually, while developed countries committed to \$300 billion by 2035, leading to disappointment among developing nations.
- **Source of Funds:** There was disagreement over whether funds should come solely from developed countries or include private investments and contributions from developing nations like China
- **Debt Concerns:** Developing countries opposed finance models that increase debt, advocating for grants and concessional finance instead
- **Transparency and Access:** There were calls for clear definitions of climate finance and streamlined access to funds.