

Knowledge in Action: Steering the Scientific Council of COP29

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The Scientific Council of COP29 Presidency

The Scientific Council of COP29 Presidency is a distinguished scientific advisory body that brings together leading scientists, universities, and think tanks from around the world. Its mission is to provide scientific guidance, support international collaboration, and contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Council plays a vital role in supporting the COP29 process by increasing access to scientific research and promoting meaningful academic and policy discussions on key climate issues.

Objectives of the Scientific Council of COP29 Presidency

- Uniting leading academic institutions, research organizations, and think-tanks worldwide to raise awareness and improve access to cutting-edge climate science
- Facilitating access to scientific research to support the COP29 process and ensure that science remains at the core of climate discussions
- Strengthening cross-border research projects by fostering regional cooperation, diversifying geostrategic approach, and sharing best practices and technological advancements
- Organizing capacity-building programs for various stakeholders and actors and enhancing cross-border cooperation
- Engaging students and young individuals in the action against climate change through education, outreach, and inclusivity

ADA University and Science behind COP29

Since its establishment, ADA University has stood as a model of environmental guardianship and academic excellence in Azerbaijan - the country's first green campus and hub for world-class education, innovation, and research. Designed as an eco-friendly learning environment, ADA University campus integrates green technologies, waste recycling systems, smart lighting, and renewable energy solutions since its first stones of foundation. Beyond infrastructure, ADA University has blended sustainability

COP29 and Green Vision for Azerbaijan

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into its institutional strategy, ensuring that future leaders are educated not only in their specialization but also in environmental responsibility and global citizenship.

This commitment to sustainability and innovation positioned ADA University at the forefront of global climate discussions, culminating in its selection as the Chair of the first-ever Scientific Council during Azerbaijan's COP29 Presidency. The Scientific Council of the COP29 Presidency played a pivotal role as an international advisory body that brought together leading scientists, universities, and think tanks from around the world. It ensured that climate policymaking is informed by scientific research and grounded policy recommendations, to strengthen international cooperation, and support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

As the chairing institution, ADA University coordinated the Scientific Council's research agenda, partnerships, and events - bridging scientific communities across continents and helping shape policy recommendations that placed evidence-based reasoning at climate decision-making. Through its academic units, ADA University has fostered global collaborations, strengthened its research capabilities, and encouraged young scholars to contribute to addressing climate challenges.



SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT, ADA UNIVERSITY HAS STOOD AS A MODEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL GUARDIANSHIP AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN AZERBAIJAN - THE COUNTRY'S FIRST GREEN CAMPUS AND HUB FOR WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION, INNOVATION, AND RESEARCH.



THROUGH ITS CHAIRMANSHIP, ADA UNIVERSITY PROUDLY FULFILLED THE MISSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL, STRENGTHENING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN SCIENCE AND POLICY, INSPIRING CROSS-BORDER PARTNERSHIPS, AND PROMOTING GLOBAL COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.

Throughout the year of 2024, ADA University coordinated more than 70 scientific and policy events, including high-level forum, conferences, expert roundtables, workshops, research initiatives and youth engagement activities. ADA University has also produced analytical reports, policy papers, and expert interviews that guided international discussions on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and climate finance.

Key highlights include:

- Organized a High-Level ADA University Policy Forum, with the participation of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Hosted COP29 Strategic Meeting with Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and COP29 President
- Produced over 15 research & policy papers, analytical briefs, expert interviews
- Lead extensive youth projects and engagement programs
- Co-organized COP29 Youth Simulation Conference in partnership with the British University in Egypt
- Summer camps promoting climate awareness
- Trainings and seminars in secondary and high schools
- The 18th Baku Summer Green Energy School, involving scholars, practitioners, and policymakers with special focus on Caspian energy and environmental issues
- ADA University professors and faculty members contributed to the scientific and policy discussions during COP29 in November 2024
- Engaged over 100 ADA University students in COP29 activities, holding positions or volunteering at this milestone event
- ADA University administrative staff provided organizational support for the World Leaders Climate Action Summit, a key event of the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP29), held in Baku, Azerbaijan on November 12–13, 2024.

A highlight of these efforts was the ADA University Policy Forum: “COP29 and Green Vision for Azerbaijan,” held with the participation of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, along with over 60 global experts, academics, and representatives from leading think tanks. Held in Baku and Lachin, the Forum became a milestone platform for exploring Azerbaijan’s green transition vision, showcasing how research and policy can work hand in hand to drive sustainable development. All these initiatives laid the scientific groundwork for the historic breakthroughs achieved at COP29 in November 2024, ensuring that decisions were informed by evidence, collaboration, and academic insight.



Beyond institutional initiatives and encouragement, ADA University students actively and voluntarily contribute to environmental sustainability through a variety of hands-on projects. They organize and participate in tree-planting campaigns, coast-cleaning, recycling projects, and other environmental awareness events. These activities not only enhance the local environment but also demonstrate students' commitment to addressing climate challenges both locally and internationally.

Through its chairmanship, ADA University proudly fulfilled the mission of the Scientific Council, strengthening the bridge between science and policy, inspiring cross-border partnerships, and promoting global cooperation in the fight against climate change. Building on the success of its COP29 chairmanship, ADA University continues to champion scientific dialogue and sustainability initiatives in 2025. It remains deeply engaged in advancing the intersection of research, education, and climate policy –ensuring that the momentum of COP29 transforms into lasting impact.