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Ressort: Politik

COP 29 ? How Sincere Are We?

The Netherlands, 30.09.2024 [ENA]

This year, from November 11 to 22, 2024, an international event of great importance, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP 29, will be held in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The proposal to host the event in Baku was put forward at the COP 28 conference, held in 2023 in the UAE. Information about this upcoming event in Baku can be found at <https://cop29.az/en>.

COP 29 is a historic gathering aimed at accelerating climate action and achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, adopted in December 2015 at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The document was signed by heads of state, government leaders, and foreign and environment ministers on behalf of 171 countries. For context, the Secretariat of the UNFCCC is located in Bonn, Germany. Every year, government representatives from around the world gather at COP to collaborate on efforts to prevent and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The first COP meeting was held in 1995 in Berlin.

The term "COP" stands for "Conference of the Parties," and the number 29 indicates that this is the 29th meeting in the series.

The goal of the COP meetings, as required by the Paris Agreement, is to limit global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and keep the temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, similar to pre-industrial levels. In essence, COP aims for participating countries to contribute to environmental protection. However, are all 171 countries that signed this document genuinely committed? Personally, I have some doubts. It is no secret that nothing harms the environment more than wars. Yet, wars seem to never cease in the world. I am not an environmentalist, nor do I have extensive knowledge of ecology.

I just want to express my view that neither animals, nor factories, industries, or cars—nothing, in short—can harm the environment as much as wars do. Various measures are being considered to protect the environment, such as creating green zones, transitioning to green energy, etc. These are all commendable and praiseworthy initiatives. But if we are truly sincere in this direction, we must (also) put an end to wars, which are the greatest destroyers of the environment.

Without hesitation, it can be said that if wars were stopped, there would be much less need to worry about the environment.

**Redaktioneller Programmdienst:
European News Agency**

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16
D-85055 Ingolstadt
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661
Email: contact@european-news-agency.com
Internet: european-news-agency.com

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Are we sincere in our concern for the environment? In that case, I believe an international event called "Call for Peace" is necessary, and of course, the decisions made at such an event should be respected. Otherwise, even if we hold COP 109, it will not be effective.

Bericht online lesen: https://connct.en-a.eu/politik/cop_29__how_sincere_are_we-89920/

Redaktion und Verantwortlichkeit:
V.i.S.d.P. und gem. § 6 MDSStV: Vugar Abbasov

**Redaktioneller Programmdienst:
European News Agency**

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16
D-85055 Ingolstadt
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661
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