

Speech by Ms. Bahar Muradova, Chair of the State Committee for Family, Women, and Children Affairs, on the topic 'Youth Leadership in Climate Resilience and Peacebuilding'

ICESCO

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ICESCO Pavilion, Blue Zone

Dear ladies and gentlemen! Honorable Director-General of ICESCO **Mr. Salim M. Al Malik** and the deputy minister of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye **Mr. Adil Chalishkan**, esteemed guests, dear youth.

I would like to greet each of you for your participation and great contribution to this High-Level Side Event.

It is an honor to speak at the ICESCO Pavilion within the framework of COP29, which brings together stakeholders from around the world. I wish success to its work in advancing effective actions on climate resilience and sustainability.

In recent years, worldwide recognition of the close relationship between human rights and the environment has drawn attention to the fact that this problem is not only an environmental one, but also a social, economic and security issue.

Every day, millions of people around the world feel the effects of conflict affected climate change in their lives.

As active citizens, young people contribute to peacebuilding by offering their own solutions. By participating in climate resilience and environmental initiatives, they also promote the principles of sustainable development.

In the fight against climate change, it is important to protect the rights of young people and to consider their specific needs in existing policies and programs.

Globally, recent data shows that more than 1 billion young people live in areas vulnerable to climate-related disasters. The work done to promote education and awareness among young people emphasizes the importance for them not only to adapt, but also to be active in the processes.

I would like to particularly emphasize that, alongside ecological problems, climate change and resource scarcity create tensions among people, ultimately deepening conflicts.

The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office notes that in many conflict-affected countries, young people make up more than half of the population. In this regard, involving them in peacebuilding efforts can help prevent violence and promote sustainable development.

At the same time, young people should actively use social media to raise awareness about climate change and peace and stimulate discussions in these areas. Digital platforms allow youth to reach a broader audience and share their ideas.

Youth leadership should not be limited to individual initiatives. Listening to their voices, embracing their ideas, and involving them in decision-making processes means preparing for a more sustainable and fair future.

The environmental situation is a key component of the country's long-term development strategy. Extensive efforts are being made to address environmental issues in Azerbaijan.

A number of important state programs, socio-economic development strategies, and large-scale action plans for the efficient use of resources are being implemented.

Extensive restoration and reconstruction efforts, landmine clearance, and the rebuilding of territories based on a unified concept such as 'smart city' and 'smart village' are being carried out in the liberated areas.

Young people, working together with local communities, implement projects in the fields of nature conservation and waste management, create startups.

Modern youth, by participating in various international climate events and conferences, represent their country's climate policy and collaborate with global youth. I am sure that, this encourages their knowledge exchange and networking.

To ensure climate resilience and peacebuilding, young ambassadors should have to create different virtual platforms such as 'Let's Unite for Peace,' where they could continuously discuss and keep these topics in the attention.

Let us acknowledge that our youth, with their energy, creativity, and determination, are the architects of a strong and harmonious world.

As we move forward, let us continue to support their mission, because a sustainable future is in our hands- in the determined hands and open hearts of our youth, along with the unwavering support of organizations like ICESCO.

Thank you for your attention!