

Under2 Coalition at COP29

Government briefing | Baku, Azerbaijan, 14 November 2024

Security Briefing – COP29:

Entry via land or sea borders

You can only enter Azerbaijan via air travel without restrictions. Entry via a land or sea border is restricted. Once in Azerbaijan you can exit via air or sea routes. If you want to leave Azerbaijan by road, you need permission from the authorities.

Azerbaijan-Armenia border

The border with Armenia remains closed. The FCDO also advises against all travel to within 5km of the rest of the border with Armenia. Note that this does not include the border of Azerbaijan's Nakhchivan exclave with Armenia.

Borders with Iran and Georgia

The land borders between Iran and Azerbaijan, and Georgia and Azerbaijan are temporarily closed.

Azerbaijan-Russia border

The land border between Azerbaijan and Russia (Dagestan) is closed. The FCDO continues to advise against all travel to Russia. For further details, see [FCDO's travel advice for Russia](#).

Healthcare facilities in Azerbaijan

Medical facilities outside Baku are very limited. Carry a comprehensive first aid kit for any trips out of Baku. Even in Baku, serious illness or injury may require evacuation to Turkey or Western Europe. Make sure you have appropriate travel health insurance.

FCDO has a [list of medical providers in Azerbaijan](#) where some staff will speak English.

1. Regional Security Assessment:

Crime

Crime levels in Baku are generally low. Be alert to possible bag-snatching or mugging, particularly if you are carrying large amounts of cash or valuables. The risk is higher after dark in the centre of town. Avoid displaying large sums of money or expensive-looking valuables and do not walk alone at night.

Take extra care to guard against card skimming when paying with a credit card or withdrawing money from ATMs.

LGBT+ travellers

While same-sex sexual activity is not illegal, LGBT+ people in Azerbaijan tend to keep a low profile. Showing affection in public is frowned upon, especially outside of Baku and among the older generation.

FCDO advises against all travel to:

- Nagorno-Karabakh
- the districts ('rayons') of Zengilan, Jabrayil, Qubadli, Lachin and Kelbajar on the Azerbaijan-Armenia border
- western areas of the rayons of Khojavand, Fuzuli and Aghdam

2. Baku Security Guidelines: [Solace Global Security Risk report for COP 29](#)

This year, the threats linked to the conference are likely to be exacerbated by other international developments. Activist groups of different ideological persuasions have increasingly collaborated to jointly cause larger disruptions, and there is a growing interplay and communication between various activist movements. The government's crackdown on forms of dissent, as well as the dependent and partly subservient operations of local NGOs, make it unlikely that the COP29 proceedings will be affected by large-scale, organised forms of civil unrest in Baku. A realistic possibility, however, remains of local and international activist groups carrying out symbolic demonstrations or targeted disruptions. As there is significant information-sharing between environmentalist groups at an international scale, there is a remote possibility that direct action could involve targeted sabotage, imitating the recent case in France, targeting local rail and metro facilities.

Alternatively, protesters may stage symbolic actions in high-visibility parts of Baku, including in the area outside of the conference venue – the Baku Olympic Stadium complex. Such protests may be similar to those which occurred in Dubai on the occasion of COP28 in 2023

Protests in Baku may be driven by multiple overlapping issues. Outside of environmentalist causes, protesters are likely to seek to highlight the domestic human rights violations and "greenwashing" carried out by the Azeri government before COP29, including the arbitrary detention of dozens of local journalists and activists. Likewise, it is a realistic possibility that international activists will use the conference as an opportunity to protest against the large-scale displacement of ethnic Armenians from the Nagorno-Karabakh region since 2023.

What are the Potential Terrorism Threats Surrounding COP29?

The terrorism risk level in Azerbaijan is LOW, and there have been no recent major terrorist attacks in Baku. Nevertheless, it is likely that Azerbaijan remains a possible target for regional violent extremist organisations (VEOs), and especially Sunni Islamist groups. Multiple factors contribute to this risk. These include: the country's majority Shia population, the continuing presence of radical grassroots religious movements, the return of foreign fighters who joined the Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria, the growing global threat of online-driven self-radicalisation, and the relative permeability of the Azeri-Russian border.

This last factor is particularly relevant, as there are multiple militant VEOs currently operating in the Russian Caucasus, and these likely maintain some presence across the border, in northern regions of Azerbaijan. In late August, local media reported that a local public official was killed by unspecified "Salafis" in the Qusar district of north Azerbaijan. Authorities responded by increasing counterterrorism operations in the area, leading to clashes with local groups.

Safety and Security Protocols:

UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) is responsible for health, safety and security inside the Blue Zone.

The Government of Azerbaijan authorities are in charge outside the Blue Zone.



Accredited

Non Accredited

3. **Venue:(for detail click the link)**

Medical Services: First aid and emergency medical services will be provided to all COP29 visitors at the conference venue.

4. **Code of Conduct**

UN Climate Change is committed to enabling events at which everyone can participate in an inclusive, respectful, healthy and safe environment and be treated with fairness and dignity. With your registration and accreditation, you agreed to follow the Code of Conduct. Please consult the Code of Conduct [online](#).

If you witness or are a victim of an alleged Code of Conduct violations, please report the incident through: The information desk. Contacting any UN DSS officer either directly or by calling the number which will be published in the Information for Participants. The dedicated UNFCCC e-mail address SpeakUp@UNFCCC.int, which is monitored by secretariat staff throughout the COP.

5. **Things to know:**

5.a) Card Payment

- Automated teller machines (ATMs) are available at the conference venue and will be operational during the pre-session week and throughout the Conference.

5.b) Transport:

- 14 Transport hubs throughout the city serviced by various means of transportation
- Dedicated lanes only accessible for Conference Shuttles or with a special permit
- An App with metro routes and schedules
- Free Metro and Conference Shuttle services for all registered participants, including Airport Express busses from the airport to the main hotel areas.

5.c) Accessibility and Inclusivity

Non-smoking policy

Smoking indoors is strictly prohibited, including the use of vapers and electronic cigarettes. Designated outdoor smoking areas are available at various locations throughout conference venue.

[Meditation rooms](#)

Meditation rooms will be available at the conference venue. Directions can be found on the wayfinding signage and map displayed within the venue.

[Observer Handbook](#) – PDF downloadable

5.d) Visa

E-visas are normally single entry and allow a 30-day visit within a 90-day period of validity. You must print out the e-visa and bring it with your passport to show on arrival. Officials will check that your passport is valid for 3 months after the visa expiry date. This means your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after the date you arrive in Azerbaijan.

Registering with the authorities

If you're staying in Azerbaijan for longer than 15 days, you must [register with the State Migration Service](#) online or in person. If you do not register you will have to pay a fine to the [State Migration Service](#) before you are able to leave the country. Hotels often provide this service for their guests, but you must do it yourself if you are staying in an apartment or private residence.

6. Resources:

📌 The general info sessions (including all aspects of digital, legal, wellbeing, physical, and media safety):

- * October 4th - 1:00pm UTC - English (interpretation to French)
- * October 9th - 10:00pm UTC - Spanish (interpretation to Portuguese & English)
- * October 10th - 10:00am UTC - English (interpretation to Spanish)

📌 Focus sessions for Wellbeing and Digital Safety:

- * October 29th - 1:00pm UTC - Spanish (interpretation to English & Portuguese)
- * November 4th - 8:00am UTC - English

📌 Times and registration here: <https://bit.ly/cop29safety> !!

📌 All information can also be found in the COP29 Safety Guide at <https://ycmsafety.com/cop29>

UNFCCC Information Counter

The UNFCCC Information Counter will be centrally located in the Conference Venue to answer questions and distribute items such as the "COP 29 Welcome Gift".

UNFCCC Information Counter open hours:

Monday, 4 November to Sunday, 10 November: 09:00 – 17:00 hrs

Monday, 11 November to Friday, 22 November: 08:00 – 18:00 hrs

(except Sunday, 17 November – conference premises closed all day)