

# Virtual Conversations & Reflections: My Role as a CISDL Delegate at COP29

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*A Blog written by Adv. Zunaida Moosa Wadiwala*

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## Introduction

As an Associate Fellow at the [Centre for International Sustainable Development Law \(CISDL\)](#), I am very grateful to have received accredited registration as a UN Virtual-Only Participant. Because [COP29](#) was hosted in Baku, Azerbaijan between 11 to 22 November 2024 being an online delegate turned out to be perfect for me, as it coincided with one of the busiest periods at South African universities. My LLB students were in the midst of their final exams, and I found myself juggling lectures and the demanding task of marking exam scripts—all within very tight deadlines. Despite these challenges, being able to participate virtually in COP29 was incredibly significant (& very exciting!). It offered me a unique opportunity to engage in global discussions on climate change without leaving my home country, South Africa. The virtual format not only allowed me to stay connected to this critical global event despite my local commitments, but it also highlighted the power of technology in bridging geographical distances. Using the COP29 platform, I could connect with fellow delegates from around the world, schedule events according to my time zone and witness firsthand how international cooperation on climate action is unfolding— all from the comfort of my own workspace. This accessibility underscored the truly global nature of COP29, demonstrating that climate solutions are not bound by borders, and that every voice—no matter where it's from—has a place in shaping our collective future. And my fomo (fear of missing out) was reduced because I still enjoyed the overall atmosphere. Writing this blog is a great opportunity to share my insights, experiences, and my key takeaways as a virtual delegate.



## About COP29/CMP19/CMA6

Crucial for several reasons, COP29 aimed to accelerate (and dare I say unite?) global climate action by taking decisions, including the standards and rules agreed to at the Baku opening, to implement commitments of the Paris Agreement. From amongst the climate discussions expected at COP, the focus this year was on improving financial support for developing countries and COP29 has been hailed the 'Finance COP,' a New Collective Qualified Goal (NCQG), to be negotiated and which would reflect needs and priorities of developing countries, enhanced transparency and accountability, and after nearly a decade, operationalizing Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement regarding carbon markets. Related topics on the agenda included revision of NDCs with a due date of 10 February 2025 and a Just Transition away from fossil fuels.



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## Personal Motivation

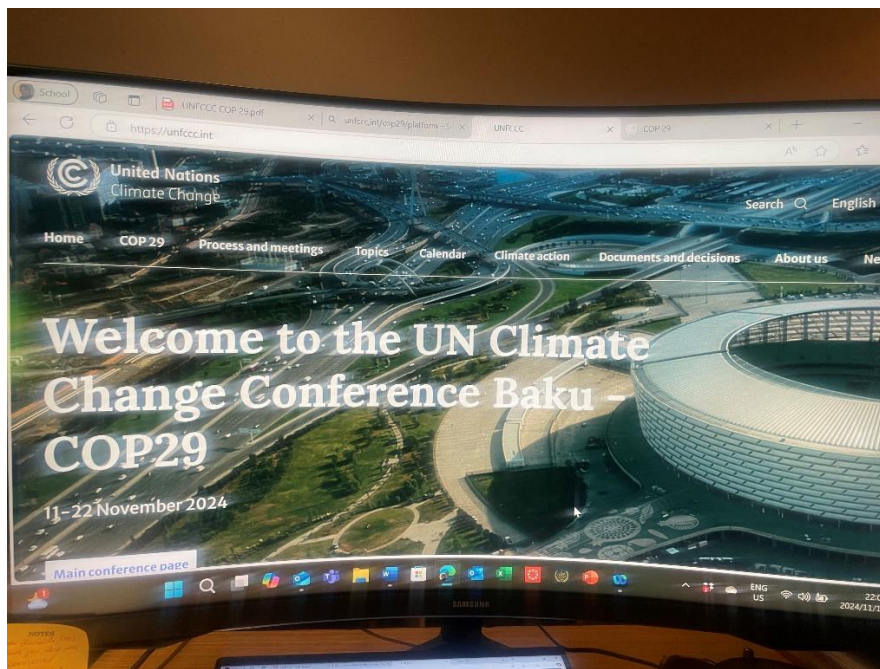
As a lawyer, university lecturer, and researcher specializing in climate litigation, my motivation for attending COP29 was driven by my dedication to advancing climate justice

and promoting effective legal frameworks for sustainable development. My [research](#) and [publications](#) on [climate litigation](#) have deepened my understanding of how law can be a tool for [driving climate action](#), particularly in holding governments and corporations accountable for their role in the climate crisis.

In my role as an [Associate Fellow at the CISDL](#) and as a [Rapporteur for the Sabin Center](#), I actively engage in efforts to [shape international climate governance](#) and [support legal mechanisms that uphold environmental justice](#). Attending COP29 offered a unique opportunity to connect with fellow experts, exchange insights, and gain firsthand knowledge of ongoing efforts in climate governance and legal advocacy. Through this experience, I hope to contribute to the global conversation on climate litigation and continue advocating for the integration of human rights and climate action within international law.



## Section 1: The COP29 Online Experience



**General Highlights:** As an online participant, I was struck by the sense of determination that permeated COP29, with both negotiators and attendees alike focused on achieving progress on the agenda. It was clear that everyone was committed to making meaningful outcomes. The picture below, shared by a delegate in Baku via a WhatsApp group, captures this spirit. It serves as a testament to how interconnected our world has become, where, in an instant, we can witness events across continents and share in the emotions they evoke.



**Accessibility and Engagement:** The virtual format worked well and it was fast and easy to access sessions, (depending on your online badge type) after I had tailor-made a schedule of side events that were of interest to me (and a reminder on my phone from the official COP29 Platform App which was extremely handy) using MS Teams (and registered participants were given options to download a background, I chose the one pictured below). However, engagement within the sessions was completely limited as the chat function was disabled and there was no way to pose any questions to the panellists (At the beginning of one Side Event the microphone connected to Teams was muted and I raised my hand which sent the signal to the organisers and they promptly unmuted).



As an online participant I particularly missed visiting the Green Zone this year, but all was not lost as the [UN COP29 Flickr account](#) had an updated and daily set of photos available. It was also disappointing that there was no online access to any of the pavilions and to the country pavilions in the Blue Zone and there were many sessions I had interest in but had to miss, such as the one pictured below. It was also unfortunate that there was no recording of the Side Events which would have been nifty considering that some were held simultaneously, some clashed with work commitments, and some were just impossible to catch. The online delegates were however privy to the “On Demand” feature where certain plenary sessions like the opening of COP29, followed by the openings of CMP19 and CMA6, were always available.

2024 UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE  
(UNFCCC COP 29) | Forest Pavilion Side Event

## Solving the Forest Finance Puzzle in the Paris Agreement Era

2:00 – 5:00 pm Baku time, Thursday | 14 November 2024  
Venues: Main Stage, Forest Pavilion within  
the SDGs Pavilion, Blue Zone (C4, Zone E)

What are the key components of scaling forest finance?  
Join us for an interactive session as we piece together the forest finance puzzle to help close the great finance gap to safeguard the future of forests, people, and planet!

Hear from our expert:

**Tejas Rao**  
Senior Manager,  
Center for International Sustainable  
Development Law

ADB NATIONAL FORESTRY AND GRASSLAND ADMINISTRATION, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ISFC



## Section 2: Side Events I attended and My Key Takeaways

This section discusses some of the side events I attended, providing a very brief a summary and my personal insights.

1. **Side Event Title: Global Climate Cases: Advancing Climate Justice through the International Rule of Law.** (16 November 2024)
2. **Hosted by:** International Development Law Organization (IDLO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), the Government of Vanuatu, the University of Oslo, and the World's Youth for Climate Justice
3. **Primary Focus:** The potential of global climate cases to drive meaningful climate action at local levels; challenges and opportunities for justice seekers in upholding their rights, such as barriers in standing; and the role of international decisions in promoting climate justice.
4. **Panellists:** Notable speakers included Hon. Justice Jawad Hassan (Lahore High Court, Pakistan), Prof. Christina Voigt (University of Oslo), Irmina Padlo (IDLO), Benjamin Schacter (OHCHR) and Cristelle Pratt (OACPS).
5. **Summary of Key Points:** In 2024, climate change cases reached the international judiciary level, with the European Court of Human Rights issuing its first judgment on state obligations to protect human rights from climate impacts, and advisory opinions being issued by three international courts. These cases, led by frontline communities, particularly Small Island Developing States, youth, and women, have the potential to reshape international climate law, influencing future climate negotiations, loss and damage discussions, and climate justice efforts globally. See further the [Official Concept Note](#).
6. **Major Takeaways:** (i) In reflecting on the significance of the [ITLOS advisory opinion](#) issued on 21 May 2024, Prof. Voigt emphasised how it has created harmony between international courts and the obligations set out in the Paris Agreement.

Firstly with the key takeaway from the opinion being that GHG emissions from all sources constitute marine pollution of the sea under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), placing an obligation on State Parties to reduce emissions, Prof. Voigt pointed out the gravity of this ruling, leaving us with a rhetorical question: ‘Has it sunk in yet?’ – a reminder of just how profound this decision is in shaping climate governance. Secondly, with the Tribunal further having classified the nature of this obligation on States as one of ‘due diligence,’ particularly in the context of UNCLOS and transboundary obligations. Lastly, the Tribunal used the Paris Agreement Article 2(1)(a) temperature goal as the standard for all other international treaty laws.

(ii) The European Court of Human Rights in the [Klimaseniorinnen judgment](#) of the 9 April 2024 posited climate change as a threat to human rights, particularly Articles 6 (right to recognition as a person before the law) and 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR). Irmina Padlo accentuated that climate justice is not only an environmental issue, but a crisis of justice, people and law, asserting that human rights and access to justice must be integral to any lasting solution.

(iii) Acknowledging the astronomical size of the climate problem, and that it has unequal impacts with people in vulnerable situations facing higher threats thereby creating another human rights dimension, Benjamin Schacter defined climate litigation as a challenging way to address the climate crisis. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) offer creative approaches to addressing the climate crisis, with the hope that their rulings will guide other courts. However, conscious of the fact that not everyone affected by climate change can have access to courts, litigation as an effective remedy is limited. However, loss and damage funding, the creation of a new mechanism based on transitional justice to address human rights and access to justice can help inform this process. (with the example of the articulation of transboundary rights in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) given).

7. **My Personal Reflections:** From this event I was deeply moved by the innovative and inclusive approach the judiciary is adopting in climate cases. In sharing an incident from his court, Justice Jawad spoke about Amal Sukhari, (not Amal Clooney he joked), a three-year-old child in climate proceedings, and how (Justice Jawad classified Amal as a ‘PARTY’ to the proceeding) and why he granted *locus standi* in a climate case truly resonated with me. At first the idea of a child being granted legal standing seemed unconventional, (for surly a minor would be excluded), but the application of the Doctrine of Intergenerational Justice and its grounding in both the Holy Qur’an (Islam holds the planting of trees as an act of charity for birds, animals and current and future generations to benefit, and Islam also places a duty on mankind as a representative on earth to give attention to environmental issues) and legal precedent (from a Singaporean judge who, to stop the cutting of trees relied on the Doctrine of Intergenerational Justice) made it clear why this was such a powerful and necessary step. This moment reminded me of how crucial it is to ensure that future generations have a voice in the decisions we make today, especially when it comes to something as urgent as climate change. It also reinforced for me that



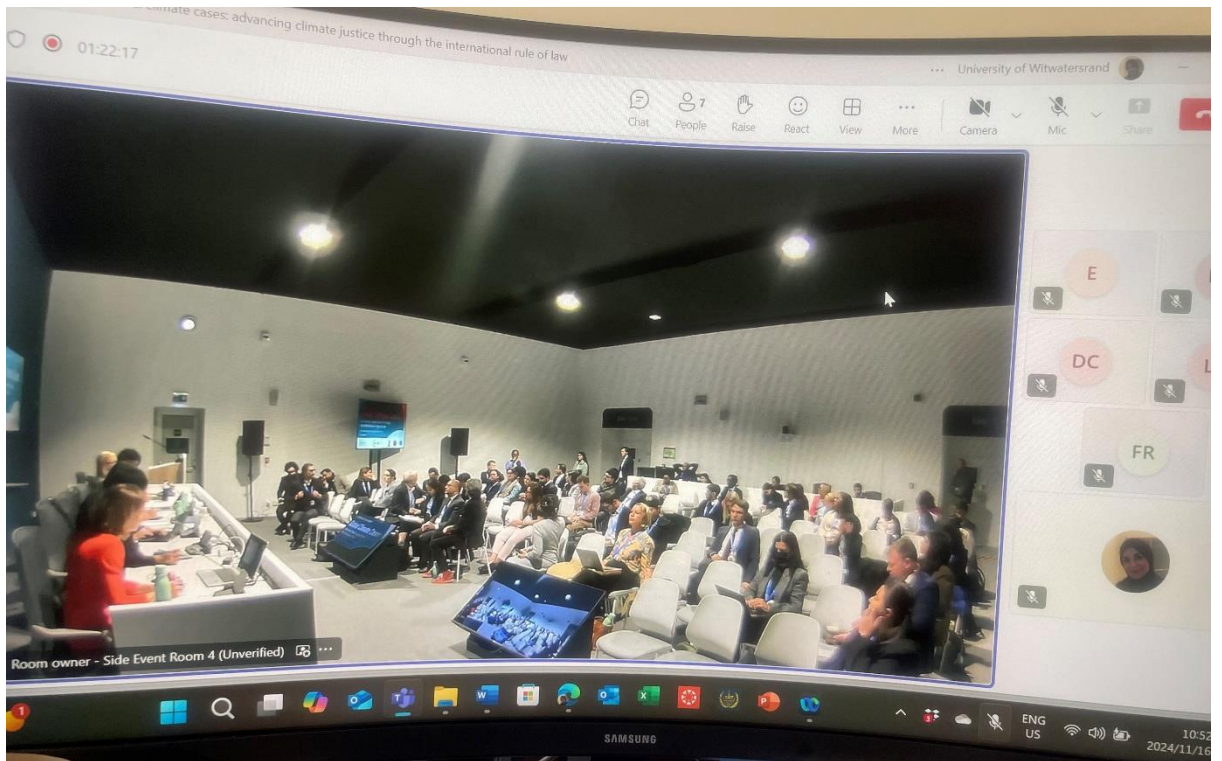
climate justice is not just about policy or law—it's about making sure that the most vulnerable, including our children, are considered and protected in the fight for a sustainable future.



Also sharing from personal experiences, Cristelle Pratt emphasised the key priorities that guided OACPS in its participation in the ICJ proceedings, and central in this is the view that climate justice is not an abstract concept because it is unequivocally seen in the lives of members who are affected by climate change. Cristelle Pratt's reflections deeply resonated with me, particularly her emphasis on how climate justice is not an abstract concept but a real, lived experience for those directly impacted by climate change. Her perspective reinforced the urgency of integrating the voices of those affected into global discussions and decision-making processes. It made me realize that climate justice is not just a theoretical or academic issue; it's about the people whose lives are already being altered by the climate crisis. This insight has further strengthened my belief that any meaningful climate action must prioritize those on the frontlines, ensuring that their experiences and needs are central to shaping policies and solutions.

8. **Potential for Action:** By applying these initiatives, I believe a contribution to a more robust climate justice framework, and one that integrates human rights and innovative legal approaches, and international cooperation can be effectively initiated in my jurisdiction, South Africa. Some key steps that could be taken are firstly advocating for climate litigation. This event highlights the increasing role of the judiciary in addressing climate change, and by bringing new causes of action to litigation, made more possible now that South Africa has just passed its first Climate Change Act, there are possibilities to explore legal avenues for protecting rights against climate-induced (or related) harms. The *Klimaseniorinnen* ruling that **climate change is a threat to human rights** is a key point to leverage into South African climate litigation, emphasising that vulnerable populations deserve legal protection from the impacts of climate litigation. Secondly, by supporting youth and grassroots

movements and the access to justice. As emerged from the discussions, many initiatives focused on the power of grassroots and youth-led movements (a three-year-old as a party to legal proceedings!) Applying this idea and collaborating with and supporting youth climate organisations in South Africa can help create a strong foundation for change from the ground up. Changing the narrative of climate litigation from a challenging and limited remedy due to unequal access to courts to a powerful tool for securing justice by seeking accessible legal pathways for marginalized communities to pursue climate-related cases would require pushing for funding mechanisms and a loss and damage fund similar to international proposals, thereby supporting those experiencing the harms of climate change. Thirdly, in the promotion of international legal frameworks and leveraging judicial innovation in climate justice, as seen in the ECtHR, ITLOS Singapore and Pakistan. Climate litigation in South Africa has already pushed for government departments to align national climate policies with international climate commitments in matters of environmental impact assessments and environmental authorisations. However, this now serves as an impetus for litigation in line with international human rights and climate justice. And even in recognizing the rights of children to participate in climate litigation, reinforcing the idea that the future generations rights to a healthy environment as enshrined in the Bill of rights in the South African Constitution are protected by national laws and reinforced by precedent. Fourth, in raising awareness on International Climate Justice and Loss and Damage. This event has highlighted the significance of addressing loss and damage related to climate change in vulnerable communities, particularly in regions most impacted. Lastly, and this is something I have given a considerable amount of thought to in my LLM dissertation, is the exploring transnationalism in climate litigation. Viewed from a different perspective after this event, however, is the possibility of building transnational partnerships for climate action, helping to amplify local efforts and to bring in global expertise and resources to judiciaries conceptions of global climate litigation.



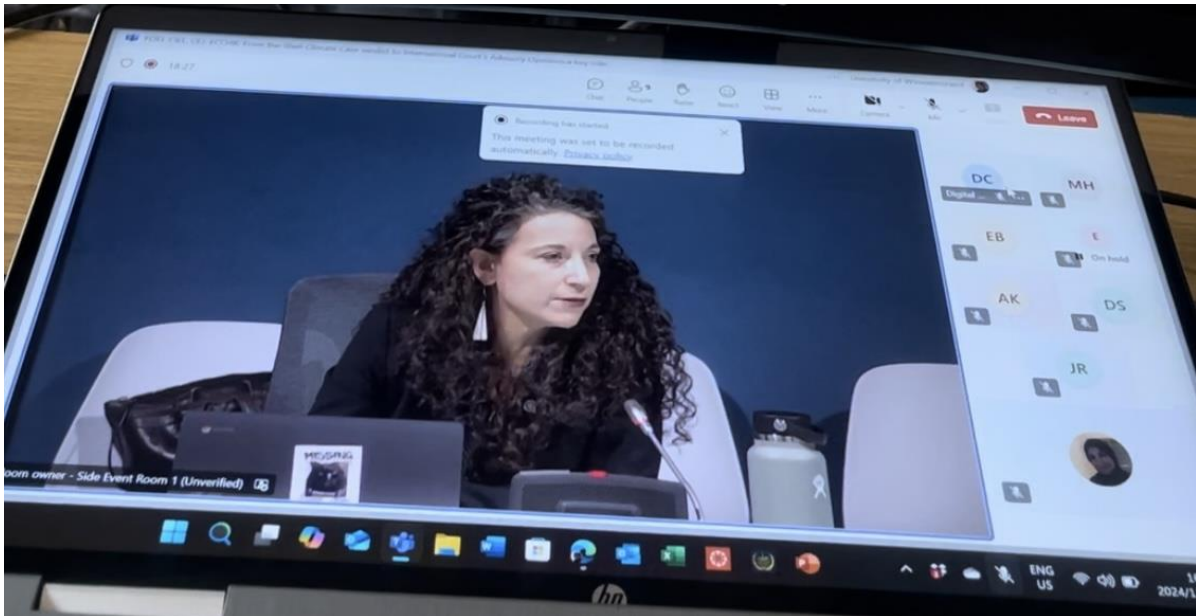
1. **Side Event Title: From the Shell Carbon Case Verdict to International Advisory Opinions: A Key Role for Courts.** (21 November 2024).
2. **Hosted by:** Friends of the Earth Indonesia (FOEI), Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) and the European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR).
3. **Primary Focus:** An overview of leading and ground-breaking climate litigation and its far-reaching impacts for those most affected by climate change, as well as the obligations of States and corporations.
4. **Panellists:** this event consisted of four extremely dynamic speakers, viz Nikki Reisch of CIEL, a representative of FOEI, Nina de Pater representing Milieudefensie (Friends of the Earth Netherlands) and Jule Schnakenberg, interim director of World Youth for Climate Justice.
5. **Summary of Key Points:** This discussion centred around very recent, landmark global climate litigation and the upcoming ICJ advisory opinion on climate change and human rights (ICJ AO), and it was fascinating hearing perspectives from the members of the different organizations such as FOEI, Milieudefensie and World Youth for Climate Justice sharing insights that as a lawyer, I would not be able to obtain from studying judgments.

“Climate litigation across the board is a reinforcement of the legal parameters of what conduct is acceptable. A reminder that States and corporations have to bring their conduct in line with what science and justice requires.” -Nikki Reisch (CIEL)

6. **Major Takeaways:** (i) Nikki Reisch kicked off the event with a powerful introduction on the rising tide of global climate litigation, sharing a snapshot of different types of climate litigation from around the world. She Emphasised how plaintiffs (from communities to entire countries) are employing various legal systems and theories to hold governments and companies accountable, urging more ambitious climate action. Many suits push governments and companies to be more ambitious, to do more on climate under a variety of legal duties based on human rights and constitutional duties, or under tort law, under long-standing European law and under their obligations within the Convention that Parties have come here to Baku to talk about. This surge in climate litigation, shows no sign of abating, because as the crisis escalates and as action to resolve it lies so far behind, turning to courts for justice and accountability and really demanding clarification of what the law requires is only natural ( and that that’s what people have always done when facing harms and not getting remedies). States and companies will eventually be held accountable by long-standing laws. Nikki highlighted landmark cases from 2024, viz the significance of *Klimaseniorinnen*, emphasising incontestably that this is the first time that an international court has recognised that the climate crisis is a human rights crisis, and that when States take inadequate action to tackle the drivers of climate change and to reduce GHG emissions rapidly and in line with science, they violate their human rights obligations. Furthermore, this decision sends a signal to national courts around the world, and it is important not only to Switzerland, but also to all 146 members of the council of Europe, that they are equally bound by the same underlying legal obligations in the ECHR.

“We are living in a historic time because people are pursuing really remarkable cases, and they are winning in many instances. These cases highlight that just a few of the recent wins, just in 2024 alone, are really the markers of progress around climate litigation and accountability.”

- Nikki Reisch (CIEL)



Cases from the UK and Norway highlighting that cases across the board reinforce invalidating permits for oil and gas fields on the grounds that they fail to see the inevitable climate impacts were also discussed. The discussion concluded with significance of the AOs (with **three** international courts having been asked not just by communities but by countries themselves) to clarify what international law requires of States in the face of an escalating climate emergency and mounting climate harm, indicative of a truly historic moment for climate litigation and accountability because of the impact that these courts can have on cutting through the political inertia (at COP29) and reminding States no-one is above the law.

(ii) The next speaker, a representative of FOEI, focused on the [Pari Island climate case against Holcim](#) by the highlighting that Holcim, a carbon major has staggering high emissions (and has released more than 7-billion CO<sub>2</sub>-eq ppm between 1950 to 2021). The consequences of which ensure that this case deals with many different aspects of climate justice including adaptation and loss and damage.

(iii) The third speaker, Nina de Pater from Milieudefensie grappled with the history of [Milieudefensie v Royal Dutch Shell](#) (of 2021) and last week's (12 November 2024) appeal decision in [Royal Dutch Shell v Milieudefensie](#), foregrounding that although the Appeal Court was unable to decide on one specific reduction percentage, there is a lot in this appeal decision that is a 'ruling' and is thus a 'breakthrough,' (and despite having hoped for a reduction obligation, this case is still a big success).

“There can be no doubt that protection from dangerous climate change is a human right.”

- The Hague Court of Appeal, 2024.

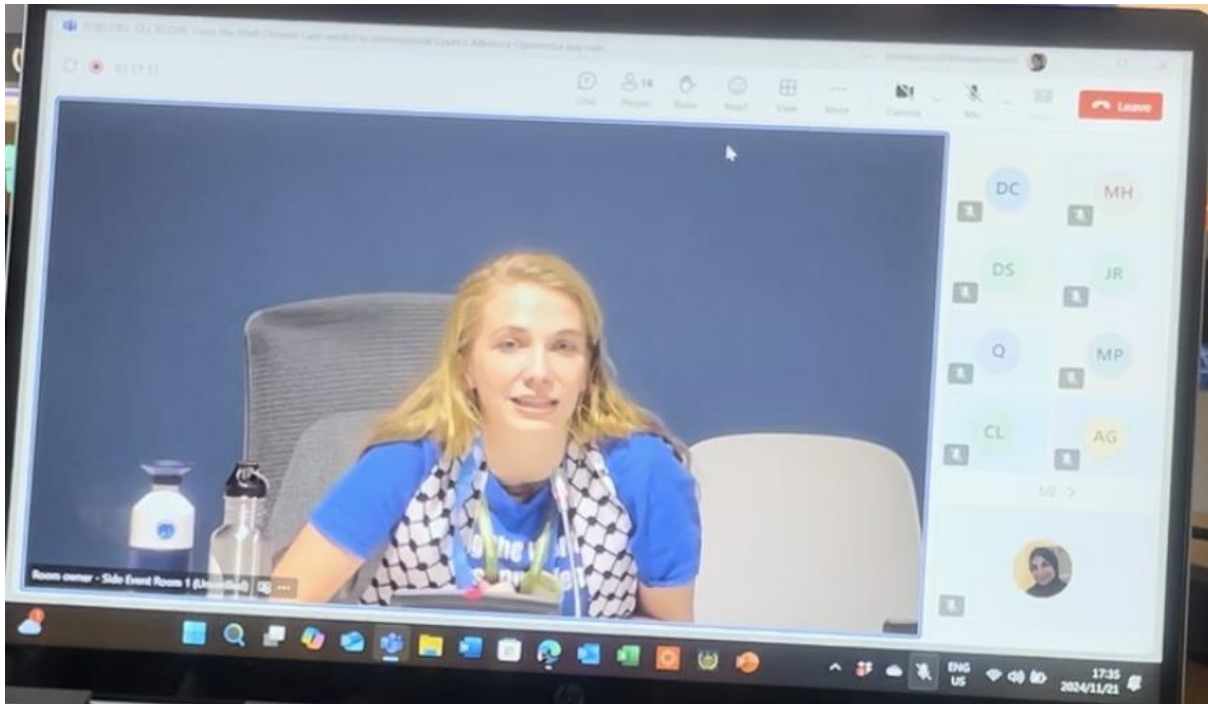
Nina stressed that Shell causes dangerous climate change with its enormous emissions, which are more than several countries including the US, Russia, China and India. She articulated three important takeaways from the appeal decision, first that The Hague Court of Appeal has laid down that Shell and other companies have a responsibility, which is a ‘duty of care,’ of their own, to respect human rights and to prevent dangerous climate change, (providing a counter-argument to companies that aver that they do not have this obligation towards basic human rights because those are based on conventions between States). Second that Shell is obligated to reduce its emissions throughout the entire value-chain, not just from production but also from burning fossil fuels that Shell sells, (scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions). And third that Shell’s plans for new oil and gas projects are most likely at odds with the Paris Agreement goals, (with the Judge *in casu* confirming that the carbon locking effect has to be taken into account, exacerbating the problem in that once drilling for oil commences, it is bound to continue for a very long time, implying that the fossil fuel industry is keeping itself alive).

(iv) The final speaker, Jule Schnakenberg, interim executive director of the World Youth for Climate Justice provided a very personal and in-depth origin to the pending ICJ AO (expected 2 December 2024).

“An Advisory Opinion is not, strictly speaking, a litigation, but this is about legal clarity, accountability, and remedies, which goes hand-in-hand with the incredible work others are doing.”

-Jule Schnakenberg (World Youth for Climate Justice).

The World Youth for Climate Justice was inspired by the Pacific Youth who initiated and championed the ICJ AO on climate change and human rights, and this movement started in 2019 in a classroom at the University of the South Pacific, when students were given an assignment to come up with a legal tool to fight climate change, and reading about the potential to take a non-contentious case to the ICJ, the students managed, at incredible speed and with a very high degree of community involvement (they rallied over 1500 civil society organisations behind them), and they then reached out to the government of Vanuatu, who together with other Pacific States have ever since championed this case.



- 7. My Personal Reflections:** I feel that each speaker in this session offered valuable insights, and there are many directions I could explore. However, I will restrict my reflections to just a few key points.

The first, drawing from Nikki's comments that climate litigation is not about making new laws, but about applying long-standing, existing legal obligations in the context of a rapidly escalating emergency, (and indeed, I can concur as in the six landmark climate cases I have analysed in my own studies, I found a common reliance by the judges on the 'Precautionary Principle' across various jurisdictions). In this factual context where the science is undisputed, the causes and the consequences of climate change are known, and what is necessary to prevent and avoid future harm is known, and further, countries that bear the largest cumulative responsibilities for the crisis around the world is also known, then in that context, it is no longer just morally unacceptable, but legally impermissible to continue business as usual and not pay up for the climate reparations that are overdue for the mounting climate harm. It seems that this is the realisation for the many people from around the world who have sacrificed and attended COP29 in-person, which has deepened the conviction that it's time for governments and corporations to be held accountable for the climate harm they've caused and to provide the overdue reparations for those suffering from its impacts.

Reflecting on the ripple effects of fundamental rights in global climate litigation, I am struck by the powerful message these cases send to jurisdictions around the world. The idea that fundamental rights, as enshrined in many national constitutions, can serve as the foundation for climate action creates a strong legal framework for holding governments accountable. This reinforces the idea that if countries do not align their climate actions with what science dictates and what justice demands, they could face legal consequences. This is reflected in the growing global movement toward legal accountability for climate

inaction, and how this is not just a moral or political issue, but one that increasingly carries legal weight. For me, this insight highlights the potential for climate litigation to be a powerful tool in urging governments and corporations to take the necessary steps to protect the environment and, ultimately, human rights.

8. **Potential for Action:** I drew inspiration from the people that came together and initiated climate litigation, and with the collective efforts of more than 17 000 individuals together with organisations such as Greenpeace and ActionAid in *Milieudefensie*; NGOs in *Pari Island*, and youth movements enabling countries in the ICJ AO, offer great potential for action and strategies that could be implemented in South Africa and indeed across Africa. These include mobilising mass participation for climate litigation, leveraging youth movements for advocacy, strengthening legal frameworks in countries that do not yet have climate legislation, or by using environmental and human rights provisions in existing legislation to support communities seeking justice, implementing public education and awareness campaigns, and supplementing all of these by establishing local climate justice funds to create a powerful and coordinated push movement for climate justice and advocate for a sustainable climate future.

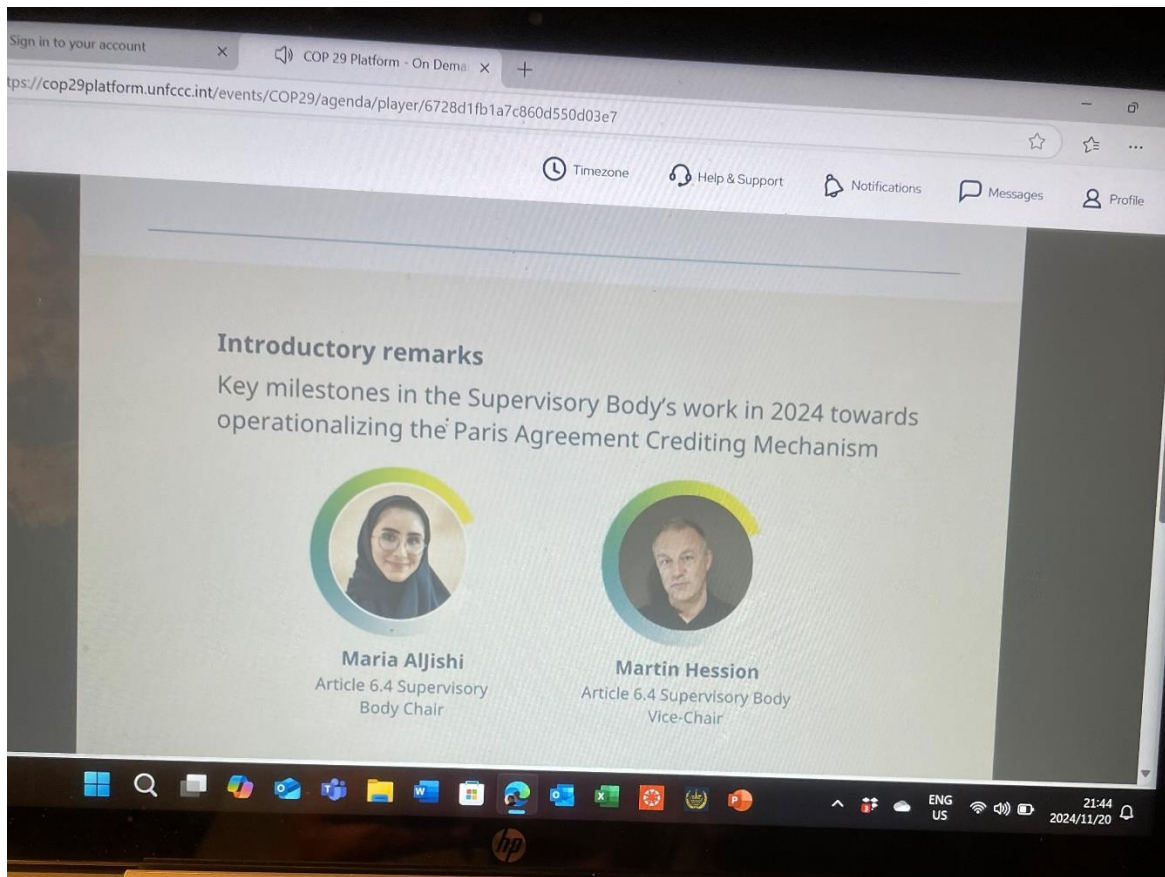
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### Additional Events I Attended:

I took advantage of the opportunity to attend as many side events as possible, plenaries and other discussions that I could accommodate. Aside from the opening ceremony, I attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting of the COP/CMP/CMA which shared the report by the chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), confirming that a draft session regarding Article 6 (for CMA6) was recommended and that CMP and COP work could not be completed. This was an interesting insight to gauge the progress on overall negotiations.

I also attended the UNFCCC's 'Advancing integrity in Carbon Markets with the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism' session, which basically concerned the scope of work of the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body.





Also interesting was the Resilience Hub's 'Driving Innovative Approaches to Incentivise Climate Resilience Investment,' where amongst others supporting and empowering local communities were discussed. Then there was the Nordic Cooperation Seminar, and I was interested in this as the focus was 'Water – the Key in Climate' on the crucial role water resilience plays in the fight against climate change, particularly because South Africa is a water scarce country, and I had hoped for comparative lessons upon which to draw.

Although law is my profession, art and calligraphy are my hobbies, and I was really excited to join the 'EarthSavers Movement (ESM): Launching the SDGs and Climate ResiliArt Olympics' session organised by NGOs. I 'met' a lawyer from New Zealand who for the past ten years in the UNFCCC has been pushing for climate justice through art, and she was able to lobby for the Zero Carbon Act in New Zealand after COP16. By using the elaborate power of art in lobbying and persuading, this legislation was then promulgated in 2019. The session highlighted that climate artists celebrate beauty and challenge the status quo, but when artists and lawyers collaborate, they create a formidable interest. The session was also a call for the mobilisation of artists for the climate movement and for action to support culture, heritage and art moving towards COP30, where in Brazil there will be a creative explosion of technoarts caring for the world.

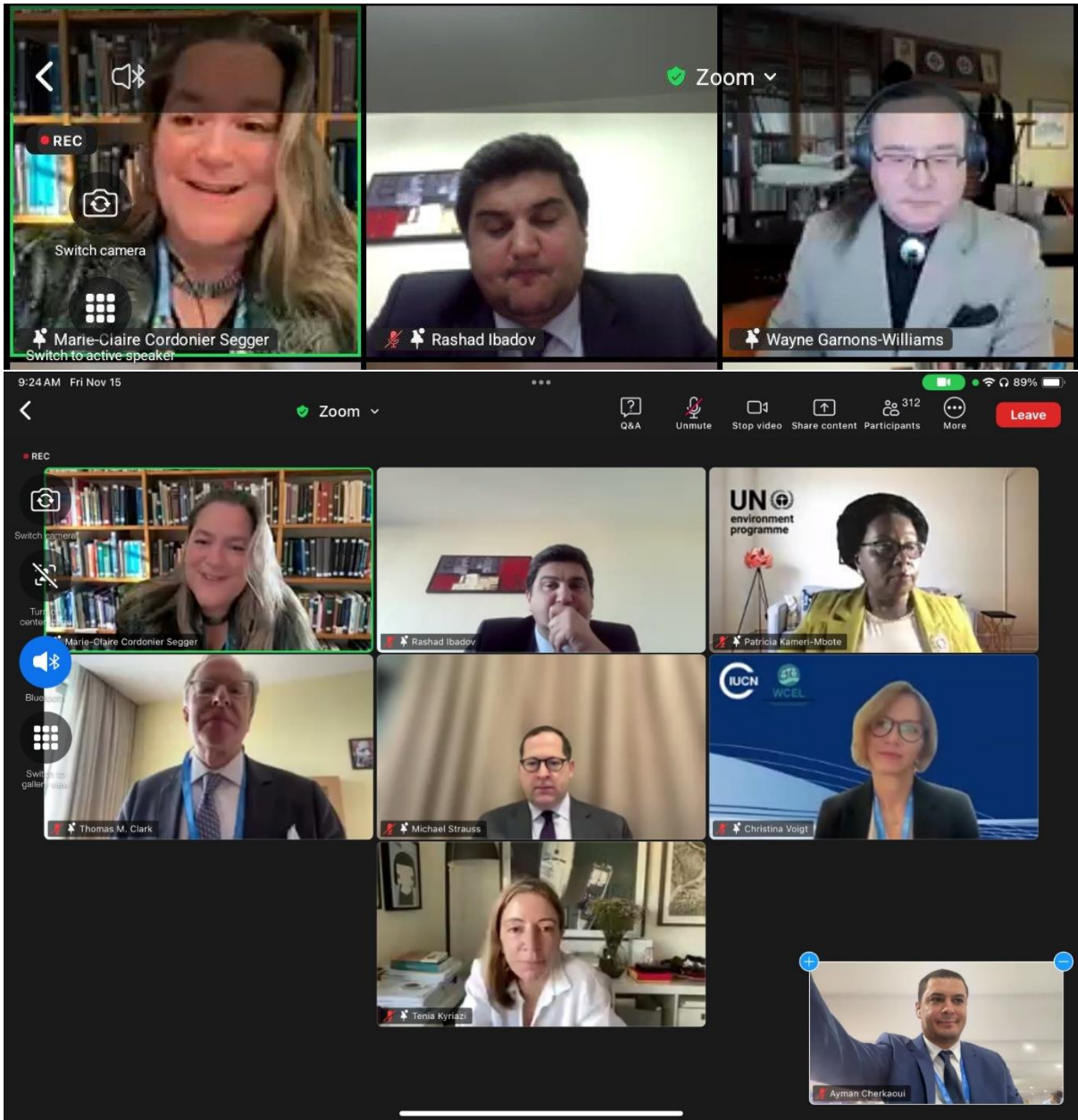
Traditional wisdom often advises, "Do not do anything that will harm yourself or others." This principle emphasizes the importance of actions that promote well-being, respect, and harmony in both personal and communal life. It encourages individuals to make choices that contribute positively to their own health, happiness, and to the greater good of society.

The final event I would like to mention was a session where the focus was on a Just Transition (JT) and the coherence between policies and finance, with clearly identified bankable projects. The first speaker, from the International Labour Organization (ILO) advocated that at policy level, a JT Action Plan or Map is needed in order to understand challenges for the transition from fossil fuels to renewables, and to oversee its effects on labour markets, it is imperative to shape policies and investments together. She emphasised further that the focus must be on gender and on skills in the NDCs, so that policy must turn into action. She called for a scaling and building up of capacity to policy, infrastructure and delivery across all sectors, with gender-smart climate investment supporting green JT. The second speaker called for a tailor-made package from ILO and other partners to focus on JT with three instances of how countries can firstly establish social protection measures to bolster climate resilience for example in Malawi. Secondly, that countries requiring support for creating green skills and jobs for this JT are not restricted to any one field, for example Antigua and Barbuda. She concluded with support through the ILO to countries who are increasingly looking for support for their NDC partnership.

## Climate Law and Governance Day and the Climate Law and Governance Specialisation Course

Although not part of COP, the [CISDL Climate Law and Governance Day](#) and the [Climate Law and Governance Specialisation Course 2024](#) are annual events which deserve a notable mention in this blogpost for their significant contributions. I thoroughly enjoyed attending these events and wanted to share some of the pictures of the esteemed members of the CISDL.









**Markus W Gehring** 🇪🇺 @mw... · 2024/11/15 ...

The international obligations to mitigate climate change are largely due diligence obligations following strict standards but varying from country to country. The law [#UNCLOS](#) and [@UNFCCC](#) are highly complementary says [@ITLOS\\_TIDM](#)'s Justice Kathy-Ann Brown [@CLGInitiative](#) [#CLGD24](#)



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**Zunaida Moosa-Wadiwala** 🌹 · 2024/11/15 ...

Such helpful information pertaining to the synergies between UNCLOS and the Paris Agreement. I am always in awe of Justice Kathy-Anne Brown.



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## Conclusion

**My Final Thoughts:** I hope you enjoyed the virtual COP29 experience with me, sharing in the rich and personal insights in my unique perspective as a virtual delegate. Significant in that I was able to partake in discussions of interest and benefit to me, and to fulfil my role as an online representative of the CISDL, underscoring the ongoing importance of global cooperation on climate issues. For me, this COP felt like the ‘all hands-on deck’ approach was a reality, and although COP29 went into overtime, meetings ended early this morning (24 November 2024) with Baku claiming a historic day in that three major achievements were reached by the COP29 Presidency, ([#BakuBreakthrough](#)). Closing with a new finance goal to help protect people and economies against climate disasters, the [‘Baku to Belem roadmap’](#) texts, [the press release from the LDC Chair](#), provide excellent insights.

I conclude with the words of Mary Robinson, [‘COP29 in Baku has ended with a disappointing deal. But it is a deal the world can build on in 2025.’](#)

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