



For immediate release

**Ministers call on greater progress at COP29 in Baku
Keep warming to 1.5°C to avert disastrous global loss and damage
from ice melt**

Baku, Azerbaijan, Nov. 20: As the climate negotiations enter their end phase, members of the [Ambition on Melting Ice High-level Group \(AMI\) on Sea-level Rise and Mountain Water Resources](#) called on all countries to make greater progress at COP29, given sharpening risks of irreversible impacts from cryosphere loss.

The statement from AMI ministers said that the latest cryosphere science underscores the need for transformative climate action by 2030 to avert “destabilization, disruption and displacement at global scales” – all because of growing loss of the planet’s vital ice stores.

“Latest science points to feedbacks from polar and mountain regions from our current emissions trajectory that will have extreme and irreversible economic, social and environmental consequences throughout the planet,” said the joint statement, decriing the lack of progress.

“As a scientist, these impacts terrify me, said Dr. James Kirkham, AMI Chief Scientist. “But what terrifies me more is that the pace of global action to address these threats remains light-years away from what the science unanimously says we must do to minimize the global damage that continues to grow hour by hour.”

“Ice stores in our mountains are our fundamental life support system,” said Secretary Deepak Kharel, Government of Nepal. “On one side of the earth, ice is melting from the high altitudes. On the other side of the earth, countries are sinking into the ocean...in coming days, we need to work together to solve this.”

The AMI statement noted that science makes clear that the only way to avert and slow these global impacts from cryosphere loss is to implement rapid carbon emissions cuts, fully consistent with the lower 1.5°C Paris Agreement goal. Countries are due to update their climate targets or “Nationally Determined Contributions” (NDCs) early in 2025.

“1.5°C is not [just] an option. We have to do it...but the window is very nearly closing,” stated Minister Céline Caron-Dagioni of Monaco.

Ambassador Julio Cordano, AMI Co-chair and Head of Delegation for Chile said that, “With the new scientific information that we have available, we need to increase ambition and mitigation in order to contain the ripple effects that loss of cryosphere will have in many economic and social domains.”

The [State of the Cryosphere 2024](#) report, published last week at COP29, warns that current climate commitments, leading the world to well over 2°C of warming, would bring disastrous and irreversible consequences for billions of people from global ice loss. Over 50 leading cryosphere scientists contributed to the annual report on the status of the world’s ice stores, coordinated by the [International Cryosphere Climate Initiative](#) (ICCI), which serves as the AMI Secretariat.

AMI, led by Chile and Iceland, was founded at COP27 to raise awareness of the risks and widespread damage caused by the loss of the Earth's ice and snow stores in every country on Earth.

The group combines polar and mountain countries with downstream and low-lying nations bearing the brunt of sea-level rise, or suffering impacts such as loss of water supplies, droughts and floods through melting mountain glaciers. Palau and Germany both joined AMI earlier at COP29, bringing its membership up to 25 nations and underscoring the widespread nature of these impacts.

Palau is enormously vulnerable to sea-level rise of even 1 meter, which some high-end IPCC AR6 estimates show being breached by 2070 should today's high emissions continue. Germany has suffered repeatedly from extreme floods caused in part by rapid snow melt in the Alps, alongside drought conditions at other times, exacerbated by low snowpack and disappearing glacier ice.

Despite the difficult negotiations in Baku, "I'm optimistic," said Benjamin Karmorh of Liberia at the press conference. "It may be slow, but we have to continue to echo that this earth is in a crisis, and we have to work together to solve it."

"We call on all countries to address the crisis in the cryosphere to avert destabilization, disruption and displacement at global scales, considering the long-term irreversible damage their countries will see from cryosphere loss without fully 1.5°C-consistent NDCs," said the ministers' statement.

They stress that it is still possible to stay below the 1.5°C limit with little or no overshoot, but only if NDCs are brought into line with that limit, and if countries take the urgently necessary measures between now and 2030.

"Otherwise, global cryosphere will continue to thaw and melt, with irreversible and widespread global losses as a result. A planet with less or no cryosphere is a very different planet from that known by humanity throughout its existence", the Statement concludes.

ENDS

Participating in the press conference were:

- Minister of Urban Planning, the Environment and Public Works Céline Caron-Dagioni of Monaco
- Secretary Deepak Kharal, Government of Nepal
- AMI Co-chair Ambassador Julio Cordano, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of Delegation for Chile
- AMI Co-chair Helga Bardadottir, Ministry of Environment , Energy and Climate, Head of Delegation for Iceland
- Benjamin S. Karmorh, UNFCCC Focal Point for Liberia.

Access Online:

https://unfccc-events.azureedge.net/COP29_105845/agenda? gl=1*9vn0nk* gcl_aw*R0NMLjE3MzE1Njc4NTguQ2p3S0NBaUF1ZEc1QmhBUkVpd0FXTWxTakV1d1BOVmNGaldvN1VUdm15TFJTU3hHa0tzWnNJZmNLUeI0TmF0RFAtrERJMDIwbWdXYI9Sb0NYamNRQXZEX0J3RQ..* ga*MTY3MjM3NjM5NS4xNzA4NDIzNDEz* ga 7ZZWT14N79*MTczMjEzMzg1NC42OS4xLjE3MzIxMz5NTQuMC4wLjA

Contacts:

Amy Imdieke, amy@iccinet.org (in Baku), +1-507-321-3255 (WhatsApp)
Irene Quaile-Kerskin, irene@iccinet.org (in Bonn), +49-177-841-2930

Full Ministerial Statement (also online at www.ambitionmeltingice.org):

**AMI COP29 Ministerial Statement:
Growing Cryosphere Loss Means Urgent Need
for 1.5°C-consistent NDCs**

Since its founding at COP27, the AMI High-level Group (AMI) on Sea-level Rise and Mountain Water Resources has raised the risks and widespread damage caused by cryosphere loss, not just in polar and mountains regions but touching every country on Earth; and has urged rapid course-correction towards a safer 1.5°C trajectory.

In just the two years since, new cryosphere science has sharpened the need for transformative climate action by 2030 even further.

Latest science points to feedbacks from polar and mountain regions from our current emissions trajectory that will have extreme and irreversible economic, social and environmental consequences throughout the planet.

Research also makes clear that the only way to slow and avert these global, irreversible economic, social and environmental impacts from cryosphere loss is the necessary task of deep, rapid and sustained greenhouse gas (GHG) emission cuts congruent with the 1.5°C Paris limit.

Staying below this limit with little or no overshoot remains within reach, but only with fully 1.5°C-consistent NDCs in 2025; and course-correction towards 1.5°C of pre-2030 action.

We call on all countries to address the crisis in the cryosphere to avert destabilization, disruption and displacement at global scales, considering the long-term irreversible damage their countries will see from cryosphere loss without fully 1.5°C-consistent NDCs.

Otherwise, global cryosphere will continue to thaw and melt, with irreversible and widespread global losses as a result. A planet with less or no cryosphere is a very different planet from that known by humanity throughout its existence.

We further call on the COP29 Presidency, COP28-30 Troika and Parties explicitly to recognize the irreversible impacts from cryosphere loss that will occur with each rise above today's GHG levels and every fraction of a degree of further warming, let alone overshoot of the 1.5°C limit. We call on all COP29 Parties to include that call in the relevant COP29 decisions.