

**Statement by HRH Princess Dana Firas  
Special Envoy of the Climate Heritage Network  
To the  
2nd High Level Ministerial for Culture Based Climate Action at  
COP29  
Baku, Azerbaijan  
15 November 2024**

Your Excellencies Ministers, Distinguished guests,

On behalf of the Climate Heritage Network, it gives me great pleasure to be here today, to celebrate this important milestone in our collective efforts to integrate culture and heritage into climate action. It is incredibly gratifying to have been present at the beginnings of this journey and to be here today to witness the growth and power of this movement – a testament to the incredible commitment and tireless efforts of so many of you present in this room.

Thank you, Sheikh Salem al-Qassimi and Minister Menezes, for your leadership and support over the past year and to Minister Karimli and the COP29 Presidency, we are grateful that you are carrying the mantle and taking us further towards the full integration of culture and heritage in the climate agenda.

Last year, COP28 delivered the most significant outcome for culture in COP history. Successes included the launch of the **Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action**, an advocacy block of national governments and knowledge partners, under the leadership of Brazil

and the UAE, and the robust inclusion of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge in the **Global Goal on Adaptation**.

The culture advances at COP28 were supported by an unprecedented mobilization of global civil society that saw over 1,500 organizations and leaders sign the Global Call to Put Cultural Heritage, Arts and Creative Industries at the Heart of Climate Action. The movement continues to grow with cultural voices from across the globe uniting in an urgent call for climate negotiators to take the necessary steps to enable culture to contribute fully to climate solutions.

This year, our goal is to have a **cultural workshop request** included in the final decisions taken at COP29, a request by the COP that the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies hold one or more workshops to consider issues related to culture and heritage before their 62nd session in Bonn in 2025. The outcome of these workshops would then form the basis for a broader consideration of culture at COP30.

To succeed we need your support, engagement and advocacy to amplify the message and to sustain political momentum.

We know culture has enormous potential to accelerate and scale-up systemic transitions to limit temperature rise and achieve sustainable development. Yet culture receives little attention compared to other enabling conditions such as finance and technological innovation. This culture gap seriously undermines the effectiveness of climate action.

With global efforts to tackle climate change not yet on course to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement, the world can no longer afford this omission.

Your Excellencies,

We need your leadership, your voices and your continued engagement to address the “culture gap” and guide more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2025. Your support of the culture workshop request is urgently needed, today, here at COP29 in order to pave the way towards the adoption of a **Joint Work on Culture and Climate Action Decision (JWD)** at COP30.

Together we will achieve transformative and meaningful action and realize a just, equitable, inclusive and diverse climate resilient future.

Thank you very much.