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To Whom it May Concern,

After careful consideration, North American Young Generation in Nuclear (NAYGN) has decided not to attend the **2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan.**

NAYGN is passionate about COP's mission to mitigate climate change; however, NAYGN cannot attend COP29 in good faith due to the extensive human rights violations happening in Azerbaijan. It is an unsafe environment for activists, journalists, Armenians, Shi'ia Muslims, and the LGBTQ+ community; identities which are reflected within NAYGN's diverse membership.

The decision to not attend is not made lightly, especially after the large focus on nuclear energy at COP28. Although Azerbaijan is advertising their renewable energy investments, Nagorno-Karabakh is stated as a key location for these investments – an ethnic and ancestral Armenian land. Investing in this land has added to the ethnic cleansing of the Indigenous Armenian population.

NAYGN will continue to advocate for nuclear energy within the clean energy community and inform the public on the extraordinary benefits of nuclear technology. We look forward to participating in COP30, and we hope that the United Nations will select more inclusive locations moving forward.

Diversity and Inclusion are at the core of NAYGN's mission and values. As an organization, we are committed to ensuring an equitable, authentic, and inclusive culture for our members and the nuclear industry. For any further questions related to our decision for COP29 or our Diversity and Inclusion policies and efforts, please contact president@NAYGN.org.

Sincerely,

Christy Fletcher | NAYGN President

Sarah Davis | NAYGN Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

