

AT COP31, BE ON THE SIDE THAT LEADS,  
**NOT THE SIDE THAT WATCHES!**

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***Future Leaders Are Trained Here!***

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## What is the United Nations (UN)?

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization established to maintain global peace, enhance cooperation between nations, defend human rights, and develop collective solutions to global challenges. Founded on October 24, 1945, following World War II, its primary objective is to prevent future conflicts and ensure reconciliation through diplomacy.

### Core Objectives of the UN:

- Preserving international peace and security
- Upholding human rights
- Combating poverty
- Generating solutions for climate change and environmental issues
- Supporting education, health, and development
- Facilitating economic and social cooperation among nations
- Preventing wars through diplomatic means

## Core Objectives of the United Nations





1. **General Assembly:** The principal organ where all member states are represented; each nation holds one vote.
2. **Security Council:** Responsible for maintaining global peace and security. It consists of 15 members, including 5 permanent members (US, Russia, China, France, UK) with "veto power".
3. **Secretariat:** The administrative executive organ of the UN.
4. **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** Works on global economic, health, educational, and social development.
5. **International Court of Justice:** Resolves legal disputes between states.
6. **Trusteeship Council:** Established to oversee the independence processes of colonial territories; currently inactive.



## Main Organs of the UN



# 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (17 Global Goals)



# ***What is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)***

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), translated into Turkish as Birleşmiş Milletler İklim Değişikliği Çerçeve Sözleşmesi, is the principal international agreement established to combat climate change. Adopted in 1992, the Convention aims to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations resulting from human activities at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Within this framework, the Convention seeks to promote collective action among countries, enhance environmental policy development, and strengthen global cooperation in addressing climate change.

Within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), two major agreements were subsequently adopted. The first of these was the Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997. The Kyoto Protocol introduced legally binding obligations, particularly for developed countries, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Its implementation periods covered the years 2008–2012 and 2013–2020.

The second significant agreement was the Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015. The primary objective of the Paris Agreement is to limit the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and, if possible, to restrict it to 1.5°C. The Agreement is widely regarded as one of the most significant global initiatives uniting all countries around a common objective in the fight against climate change.

# The Fundamental Principles of the UNFCCC and Its Role in Global Climate Policies

Adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 1994, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) constitutes the fundamental international treaty established to combat climate change. The primary objective of the Convention is to protect the climate system by bringing greenhouse gas emissions under control.

The UNFCCC distinguishes the responsibilities of developed and developing nations in accordance with the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities." Within this framework, while industrialized nations are expected to take the lead in emission reduction, it is aimed to provide financial and technological support to developing countries.

Furthermore, the Convention supports the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by countries, the development of climate policies, and efforts toward climate change adaptation. Major international climate agreements, such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, have also been formulated on the basis of the UNFCCC.



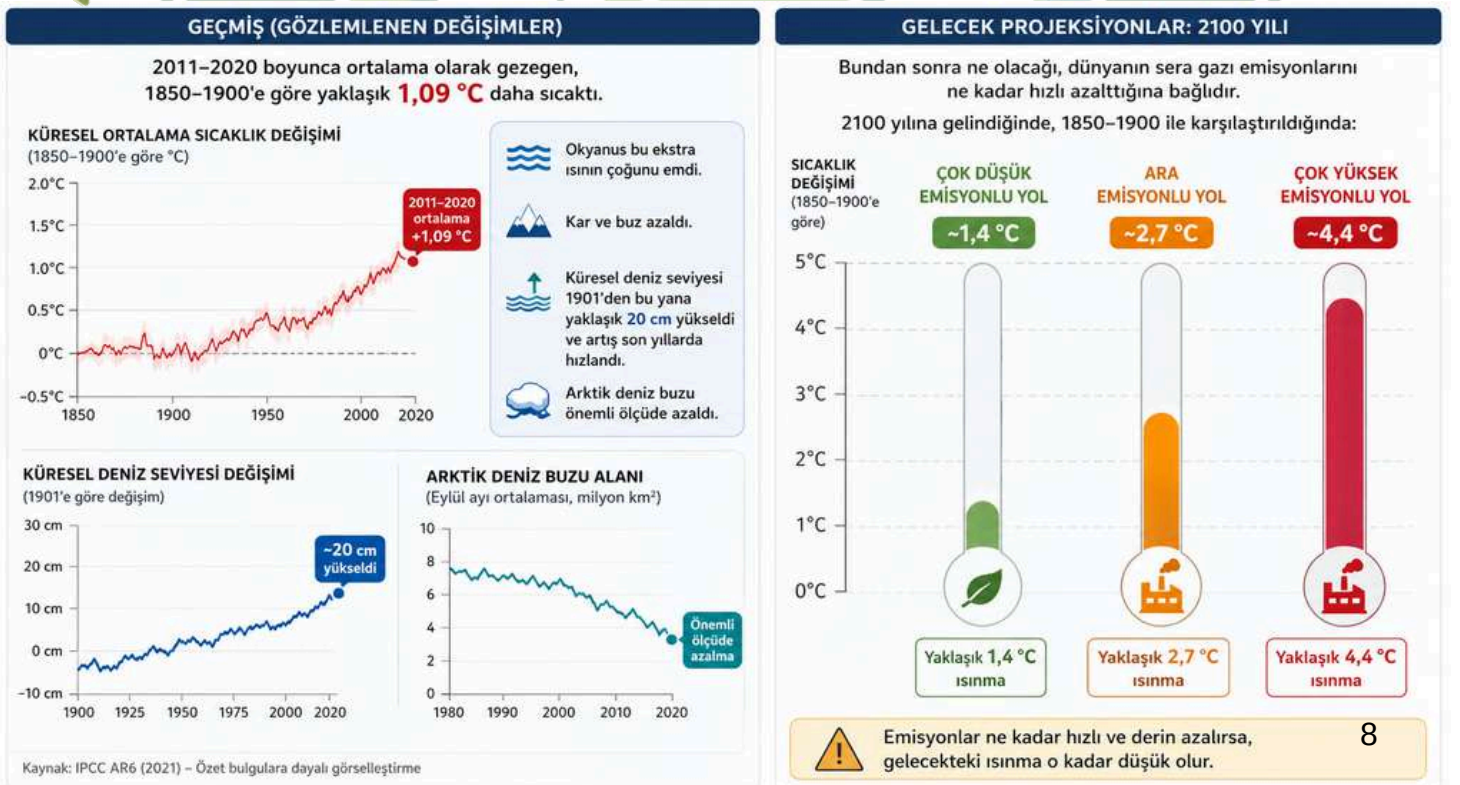
# Climate Change and the International Climate Regime

Climate change has emerged as a result of the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, primarily driven by industrialization, deforestation, and certain agricultural activities. This increase has led to a rise in the Earth's average temperature. There is a direct relationship between greenhouse gas concentrations and global temperature increase.

According to reports published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the principal cause of climate change is human activity. The use of fossil fuels and changes in land use have accelerated this process. In recent years, the average global temperature has increased by approximately 1.1°C compared to the pre-industrial era.

Glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising, and the frequency of extreme weather events is increasing. Future temperature increases will largely depend on the extent to which greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

If emissions are not significantly reduced, the rise in global temperatures could exceed 4°C by the year 2100. Sea levels are also expected to continue rising. Scientific studies demonstrate that, in order to limit the impacts of climate change, greenhouse gas emissions must be rapidly reduced, carbon sinks must be protected, and adaptation measures must be strengthened.



# Brief History of COPs

- 1992: The Earth Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the foundational agreement for combating climate change, was adopted.
- 1995: The first COP1 was held in Berlin, Germany. Countries began to meet regularly to discuss climate policies.
- 1997: At COP3, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted. This agreement was the first major international treaty to establish greenhouse gas reduction targets for developed countries.
- 2015: At COP21, the Paris Agreement was adopted. The agreement aimed to keep the increase in global temperature below 2°C and, if possible, limit it to 1.5°C.
- Present Day (2020s): COP meetings are held annually. Countries conduct negotiations on emission reductions, climate finance, and adaptation policies. One of the most important agenda items is the achievement of net-zero emission targets.



# KYOTO PROTOCOL

Adopted in 1997 and entering into force in 2005, the Kyoto Protocol transformed the principles of the Convention into legally binding commitments for developed countries. Together with a second commitment period (2013–2020) established through the Doha Amendment, the Protocol set quantified emission reduction targets for 36 industrialized countries and the European Union, collectively amounting to approximately 5 percent below 1990 emission levels during the 2008–2012 period. The Protocol also reaffirmed the principle that those most responsible for emissions should take the lead in addressing climate change.

Its design combined legal obligations with flexibility. Through emissions trading, Joint Implementation (JI), and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), it created market-based incentives that enabled countries to achieve their targets in a cost-effective manner while encouraging low-carbon investments in developing countries. These mechanisms introduced carbon pricing and established global systems for measurement and verification. The Kyoto Protocol also pioneered stringent transparency and compliance provisions, including detailed monitoring, standardized reporting, independent expert review, and a Compliance Committee composed of enforcement and facilitative branches. Although it was limited to developed countries and was eventually superseded by the universal framework of the Paris Agreement, it established the accounting systems, methodologies, and institutional experience that continue to constitute an integral part of international climate governance.





# Paris Agreement



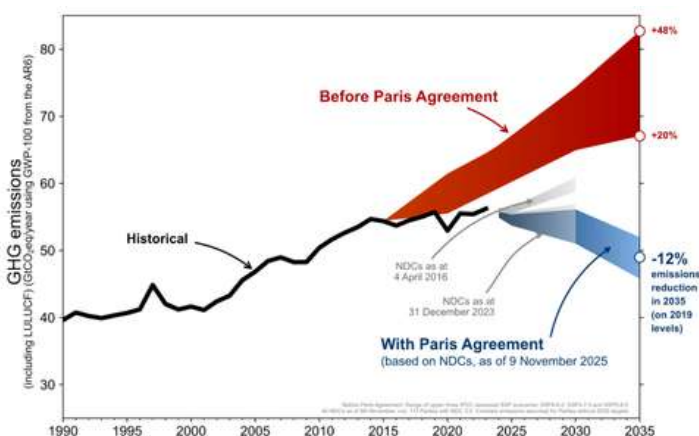
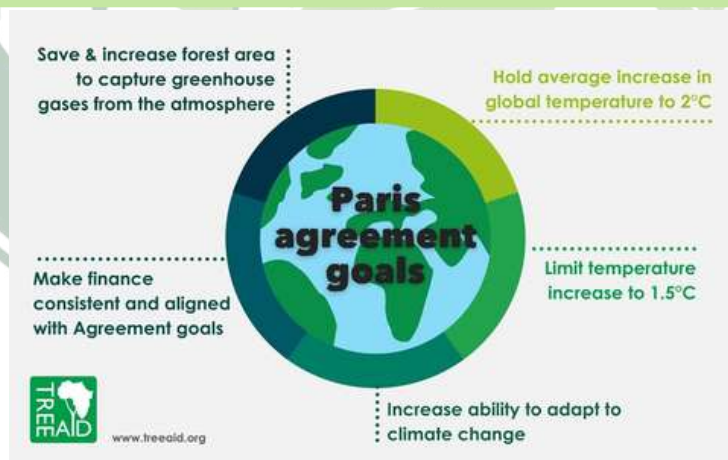
The 2015 Paris Agreement brought all countries together in a joint effort to combat climate change and adapt to its impacts. It aims to keep the increase in global average temperature well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. Unlike Kyoto, it applies to all Parties and requires each to define and communicate its own nationally determined contribution (NDC) and to update it every five years, representing its highest possible level of ambition.

The Paris Agreement provides a comprehensive framework linking mitigation, adaptation, and support. It established a long-term temperature goal, called for achieving a balance between global emissions and removals in the second half of the century, and recognized the vital importance of forests and other carbon sinks. It also strengthened adaptation through a global goal to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability, and in 2023 Parties operationalized new financing arrangements, including the Loss and Damage Response Fund (FRLD), hosted on an interim basis by the World Bank, which complements the Warsaw International Mechanism.

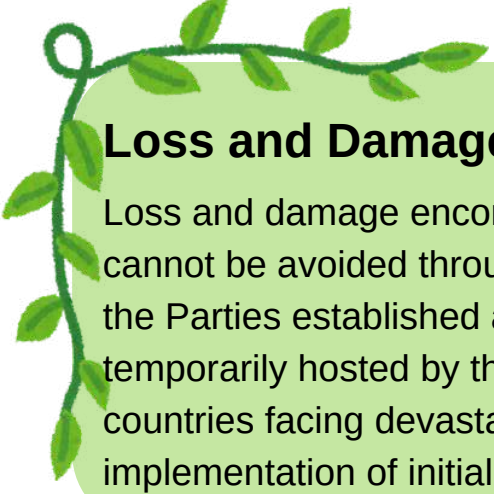
The architecture of the Agreement includes a robust transparency framework for action and support, a mechanism to facilitate adaptation, and a global stocktake conducted every five years to assess collective progress. The first global stocktake concluded in 2023 at COP28/CMA5 (“UAE Consensus”), calling on Parties to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, triple global renewable energy capacity, and double the rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030. Developed countries reaffirmed their obligations to provide finance, technology, and capacity-building, while developing countries were encouraged to act according to their capabilities. The Agreement’s five-year cycle of commitments, review, and enhancement is designed to continuously raise global ambition.

# “What are the objectives of the Paris Agreement?”

- **Limiting Global Temperature Rise:** To maintain the increase in global average temperature well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C.
- **Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Development of national policies aimed at reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. Each party is required to establish and periodically update its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** Enhancing the resilience of nations to combat the adverse effects of climate change, such as droughts, floods, and extreme heatwaves.
- **Provision of Financial Support:** Commitment by developed nations to provide financial and technological assistance to developing countries for the implementation of climate projects.
- **Long-term Carbon Neutrality:** Achieving a balance between anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals—effectively reaching "net zero" emissions—by the second half of the century.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Establishing a framework for countries to regularly report their emissions data and progress toward their targets.
- **Global Stocktake:** A mechanism to review and strengthen national targets and collective progress every five years.



The following graph shared by the UNFCCC illustrates what it defines as the remarkable success of the Paris Agreement. The black line depicts historical greenhouse gas emissions, while the red cone represents the projections of how these emissions were estimated to increase significantly after 2015. The blue cone, which indicates a reduction in emissions, represents the current global trajectory where emissions peak and subsequently decline.



## Loss and Damage

Loss and damage encompasses the adverse impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided through mitigation or adaptation efforts. At COP27 and COP28, the Parties established and operationalized the Loss and Damage Fund, which is temporarily hosted by the World Bank. The Fund provides support to vulnerable countries facing devastating climate impacts through a governing board and the implementation of initial commitments that are now in effect.

## Mitigation

Mitigation refers to anthropogenic actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions or enhancing carbon sinks. It is the fundamental key to stabilizing the climate. The UNFCCC requires Parties to pursue mitigation programs across all primary sectors—such as energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry, and waste—through policies, incentives, and the deployment of technologies that foster cleaner and more efficient operations. Examples include renewable energy, advanced efficiency, and reforestation.

## Adaptation

Adaptation involves the adjustment of natural and human systems in response to climatic effects, aiming to minimize harm and exploit potential opportunities. It encompasses structural and political measures ranging from flood protection and drought-resistant crops to social protection and planning reforms. Since climate risks vary by region, adaptation must be context-specific and integrate scientific, local, and indigenous knowledge.

## Technology Transfer

Technology development and transfer are of critical importance for mitigating emissions and enhancing climate resilience. While the Convention mandates all Parties to promote cooperation in the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, developed nations are required to take practical steps to finance and facilitate access for developing countries. This framework encompasses both mitigation tools, such as renewable energy and efficiency technologies, and adaptation technologies, including early warning systems and resilient infrastructure.

# Climate Finance

Climate finance refers to the provision and mobilization of funding from public, private, and alternative sources to support mitigation and adaptation efforts, particularly in developing nations. The Convention, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement recognize that those with greater financial capacity and historical responsibility must assist others. Financial resources are essential for clean energy transitions, resilient infrastructure, and risk-mitigation measures.

The Convention established a Financial Mechanism served by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and subsequently the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to channel resources toward developing countries. Two specialized funds—the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)—operate under the GEF, while the Adaptation Fund, established under the Kyoto Protocol, finances tangible projects and programs. The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), created in 2010, enhances coordination, prepares biennial assessments of financial flows, and organizes forums to strengthen coherence.

OECD data indicates that the \$100 billion target was achieved in 2022; at COP29 (2024), Parties reached an agreement to triple financing for developing nations to \$300 billion per year by 2035, with a broader mobilization goal of \$1.3 trillion annually from all sources by 2035. The Paris Agreement reaffirms the obligations of developed nations and calls for the alignment of financial flows with low-emission, climate-resilient pathways. Transparency and predictability are reinforced through reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework and the UNFCCC finance portal, providing clarity on both the support provided and the support needed.

UfK'lar Tarafından 2021 Yılında Sağlanan İklim Finansmanı ve Kofinansman Tutarları (Milyon Amerikan Doları)



Şekil 1. UKB'ler Tarafından 2021 Yılında Sağlanan İklim Finansmanı ve Kofinansman Tutarları (Milyar Amerikan Doları)



Şekil 2. 2019, 2020 ve 2021 yıllarında UKB'ler Tarafından Sağlanan İklim Finansman Tutarlarının Kırılımı, (Milyar Amerikan Doları)

## Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Prior to the Paris conference, countries submitted their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), which outlined their proposed climate actions. Upon the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, these became each Party's initial Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), unless a revised version was provided. NDCs are central to the Paris architecture, representing each nation's commitment to mitigation and, where applicable, adaptation and support.

The Agreement mandates that all Parties prepare, communicate, and maintain successive NDCs, implement domestic measures to achieve them, and increase their ambition over time. Following the first Global Stocktake, Parties are requested to submit their next NDCs by 2025, including targets for 2035. To ensure clarity, Parties provide information regarding objectives, baselines, assumptions, sectors, and metrics, and submit their NDCs to a public registry maintained by the secretariat. Developed nations are expected to maintain economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets, while developing nations are encouraged to transition toward such targets over time.

Long-term low-emission development strategies complement NDCs by outlining pathways consistent with the Agreement's temperature goals. Both NDCs and long-term strategies feed into the five-year Global Stocktake, which assesses collective progress and guides the subsequent cycle of contributions. This iterative approach renders the Paris Agreement a dynamic, flexible, and continuously evolving framework.

## Transparency

Transparency and accountability are the cornerstones of the regime. The Convention established reporting obligations for all Parties, requiring national communications and greenhouse gas inventories. Annex I Parties also submit Biennial Reports detailing mitigation progress and the support provided, while non-Annex I Parties provide Biennial Update Reports with inherent capacity-based flexibility. These reports are subject to review by technical expert teams and undergo a multilateral assessment process.

## Capacity- Building

Capacity-building assists individuals, institutions, and systems in acquiring the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary for effective climate action. It encompasses education, training, institutional strengthening, and the creation of enabling environments for policy, finance, and technology. The Convention emphasizes that capacity-building must be country-driven, participatory, and responsive to national circumstances.



COP30  
BRASIL  
AMAZONIA



COP30  
BRASIL  
AMAZONIA  
BELEM 2025

# COP30 Process

## 1. The "Implementation COP" Approach

Brazil has defined COP30 not merely as a meeting for discussing new pledges, but as a summit where previously made promises are put into action. For this reason, the conference has been referred to as the "Implementation COP."

Primary Objectives:

- Accelerating Paris Agreement goals
- Increasing emission reductions
- Strengthening climate finance
- Protecting forests
- Keeping global temperature rise close to the 1.5°C limit

## 2. Climate Finance as the Primary Subject of Debate

Developing countries demanded that wealthy nations provide greater financial support.

Specifically:

- Support for countries affected by climate disasters
- Renewable energy investments
- Adaptation policies
- Loss and damage funds

At COP30, a climate finance target of approximately \$1.3 trillion per year was subjects to intensive debate.

## 3. The Amazon Rainforest at the Center of the Summit

The most notable aspect of COP30 was that it was held in the Amazon region for the first time. For this reason, the following issues were brought to the agenda very strongly:

- Deforestation
- Loss of biodiversity
- Rights of indigenous peoples
- Protection of tropical forests

## 4. Disagreements Occurred Regarding Fossil Fuels

Many countries called for a reduction in the use of:

- Coal, Oil, Natural gas,
- while some oil-producing nations opposed this stance.

As a result:

- No clear decision was reached regarding a complete phase-out of fossil fuels.
- This situation was criticized by environmental organizations.

## 5. Renewable Energy and Sustainable Fuels Brought to the Agenda

At COP30:

- Biofuels,
- Hydrogen,
- Clean energy technologies came to the forefront.



## Issues Resolved/Unresolved at COP30

Issue	Reason Not Resolved	Quantitative Data / Information
Fossil Fuel Phase-Out	Oil & gas producer countries (e.g., Saudi	Over 80 countries supported a fossil fuel
Strong Emission Reductions	Countries did not commit to stricter targets	Scientists estimate current policies lead to
Binding Climate Finance	Disagreement between developed and	Developing countries requested \$1.3
Stopping Deforestation	Some countries avoided stricter commitments	Final agreement only had general statements,
Fossil Fuel Lobby Influence	Heavy influence of energy companies in the	Over 1,600 fossil fuel lobbyists attended
Logistics and Organization Issues	Belém's infrastructure was insufficient; hotel,	The summit concluded ~27 hours later than

Issue	Decision / Outcome	Quantitative Data	Why Is It Important?
Climate Adaptation Finance	Countries agreed to increase adaptation financing.	Adaptation finance is planned to triple by 2035. Discussions	The goal is to support developing countries most affected by
Tropical Forest Fund	A new funding mechanism was established to protect	Approximately \$6.5 billion was pledged for the "Tropical Forests	Protecting the Amazon is considered critical for global
Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities	Indigenous communities became more visible in COP	10 new Indigenous territories in Brazil were placed under	The role of Indigenous peoples in protecting the Amazon gained
Adaptation Indicators	Agreement was reached on indicators for measuring climate	Global adaptation policies are expected to become more	Countries' preparedness levels against climate risks
Clean Energy Investments	New initiatives for renewable energy and sustainable fuels were	Around \$1 trillion in clean energy and grid investment guidance	The aim is to accelerate the global energy transition.

## Why Was Brazil Selected as the Host?

### 1. The Amazon Basin

Brazil holds the majority of the Amazon rainforest. This region:

- Plays a critical role in the global carbon cycle
- Is sensitive to the impacts of climate change
- Is simultaneously under the threat of deforestation

### 2. The Voice of the Global South

Among developing nations, Brazil is:

- One of the leaders of countries demanding climate justice
- A leading advocate for financing and technology transfer
- Hosting COP30 in Brazil sends the message that "not only rich countries, but developing nations are also at the center of the solution."

### 3. Political and Diplomatic Impact

In recent years, the Brazilian administration specifically aims to:

- Bring the protection of the Amazon to the international agenda
- Increase climate finance
- Accelerate renewable energy investments

## Brazil's COP30 Objectives

Brazil views this summit not merely as a hosting duty, but as a "climate leadership platform":

### 1. Reducing Deforestation

The primary objective is:

- **To reduce illegal logging in the Amazon**
- **To bring deforestation down to near-zero levels by 2030**

### 2. Securing Climate Finance

Brazil has been demanding from developed nations:

- Greater climate funds
- Financial support for forest conservation
- Green energy investments

### 3. Role in Global Carbon Markets

Brazil aimed to establish a more active system within carbon credits and forest protection mechanisms.

### 4. Renewable Energy Leadership

Brazil is already robust in areas such as:

- Hydroelectric power
- Bioenergy Through COP30, it aimed to strengthen this position on a global scale.

# COP1 TÜRKİYE

CLIMATE ACTION  
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

İKLİM İÇİN DAYANIŞMA  
GELECEK İÇİN SORUMLULUK



BİRLİKTE DAHA GÜÇLÜ  
BİRLİKTE DAHA YEŞİL BİR DÜNYA

# A New Phase of Climate Diplomacy: COP31

COP31 is the 31st session of the United Nations Climate Change Conferences and is scheduled to be held in Antalya in November 2026.

COP31 (Conference of the Parties) represents the 31st session of the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These summits, held annually since 1995, serve as the preeminent international mechanism for determining global action plans against the climate crisis. COP31 stands as one of the most critical junctures in this process, serving as a summit where nations are expected to provide more robust climate commitments.



## How Will COP31 Decisions Affect the World?

Decisions to be made within the scope of COP31 have a wide range of influence, spanning from countries' carbon emission targets to energy policies, and from sustainable development strategies to green finance. Decisions reached at previous summits, such as the Paris Agreement, have directly influenced laws and economic transformation on a global scale. Similarly, COP31 is expected to shape the next generation of climate policies.



The United Nations General Assembly has emphasized the need to promote sustainable consumption and production habits, drawing attention to the negative impacts of increasing waste and plastic pollution on the environment and human health. In this context, the aim is to support "zero waste" initiatives that target recycling, reuse, and the minimization of waste generation.

In the resolution; countries, United Nations organizations, the private sector, academia, and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to develop zero waste practices. Additionally, the establishment of an advisory board consisting of experts is planned to facilitate the sharing of successful practices.

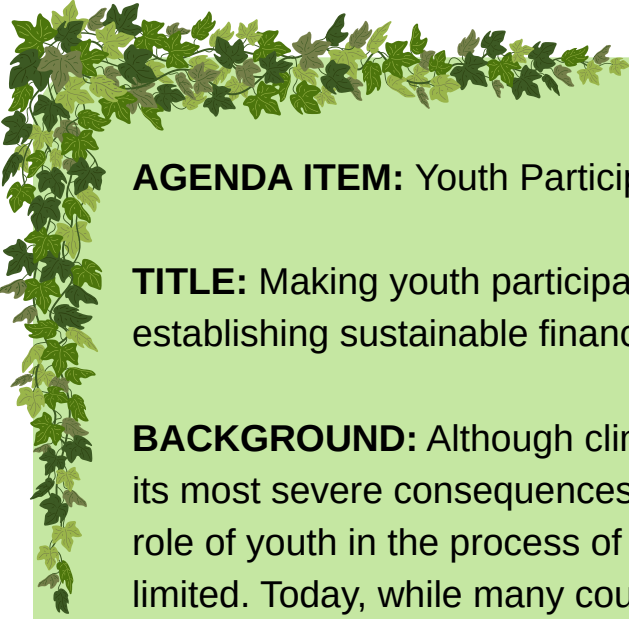
## **Zero Waste Initiatives Within the Framework of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution**

The United Nations has stated that reducing plastic pollution, developing a circular economy, and promoting environmentally friendly waste management are essential for combating climate change, protecting biodiversity, and achieving sustainable development goals.

One of the most significant outcomes of the resolution is the declaration of March 30th as "International Day of Zero Waste" to be observed annually. Within the scope of this day, it is aimed to organize awareness-raising activities across the globe.



# AGENDA ITEMS



**AGENDA ITEM:** Youth Participation and Climate Education Financing

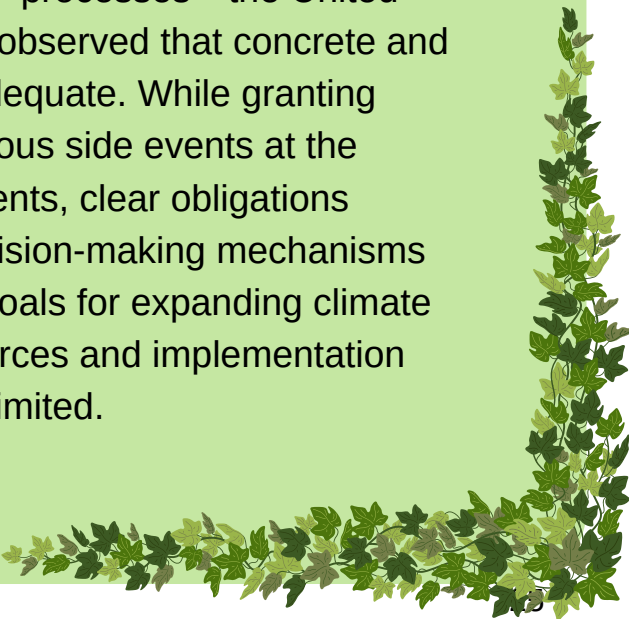
**TITLE:** Making youth participation in climate governance binding and establishing sustainable financing mechanisms for climate education.


**BACKGROUND:** Although climate change is a global crisis that will exert its most severe consequences on younger generations in the future, the role of youth in the process of shaping climate policies often remains limited. Today, while many countries and international organizations establish various consultative mechanisms to seek the views of young people, this participation generally occurs at a symbolic level and does not create a binding impact on decision-making processes. However, considering the long-term consequences of the climate crisis, today's youth should be viewed not only as the future but also as one of the most critical stakeholders in the climate struggle.

The insufficient support for climate education affects not only individual awareness levels but also the effectiveness of national and international climate policies. The failure to raise individuals with high environmental consciousness and awareness makes it difficult to promote sustainable consumption habits and slows down social transformation processes.

Therefore, climate education is considered not just a part of environmental policies, but also a fundamental element of economic development, social justice, and sustainable future goals.

Although the topics of youth participation and climate education are frequently brought to the agenda during COP processes—the United Nations Climate Change Conferences—it is observed that concrete and binding decisions in these areas remain inadequate. While granting young delegates a voice and organizing various side events at the summits are regarded as positive developments, clear obligations regarding the direct inclusion of youth in decision-making mechanisms have not been established. Similarly, while goals for expanding climate education are expressed, the financial resources and implementation plans to support these targets often remain limited.



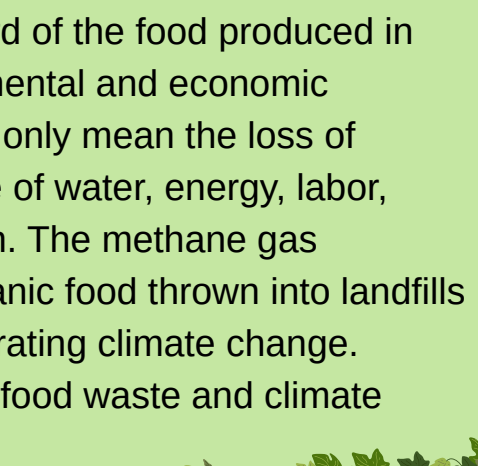


**AGENDA ITEM:** Food Security, Climate Crisis, and Food Waste (Year of Food Waste)

**TITLE:** Mitigating the impacts of climate change on food systems, reducing food waste on a global scale, and strengthening agricultural adaptation capacity in developing countries.

**BACKGROUND:** Climate change is one of the most significant problems threatening global food systems today. Rising temperatures, irregular precipitation patterns, droughts, floods, storms, and extreme weather events negatively affect agricultural production; leading to serious consequences such as a decrease in food supply, price increases, and food insecurity. Particularly, the depletion of water resources makes the sustainability of agricultural activities difficult and reduces production capacity in many regions. The fact that the agricultural sector is heavily dependent on climatic conditions causes these effects to become even more pronounced each year.

Furthermore, the fact that approximately one-third of the food produced in the world is wasted constitutes a major environmental and economic problem on a global scale. Food waste does not only mean the loss of consumable products; it also results in the waste of water, energy, labor, fuel, and agricultural land used during production. The methane gas released as a result of the decomposition of organic food thrown into landfills increases the greenhouse effect, thereby accelerating climate change. Therefore, there is a direct relationship between food waste and climate change.





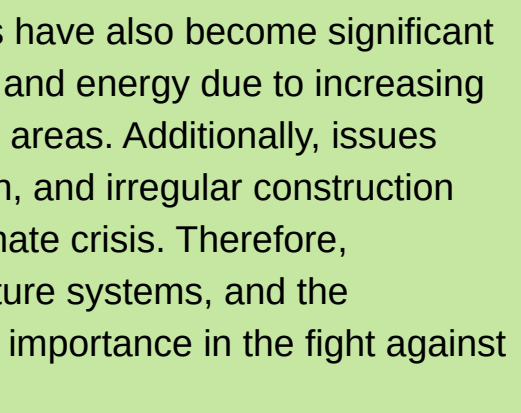
**AGENDA ITEM:** Climate-Resilient Cities

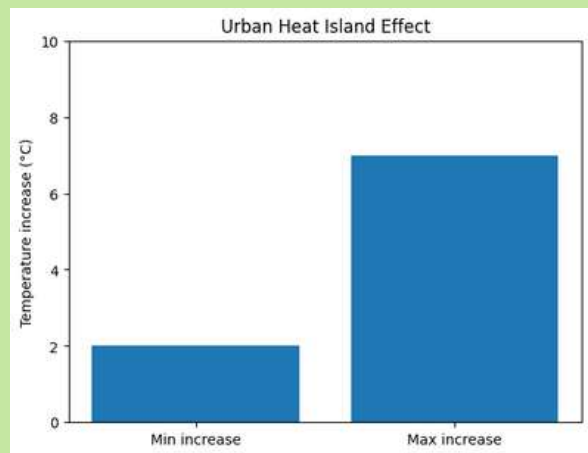
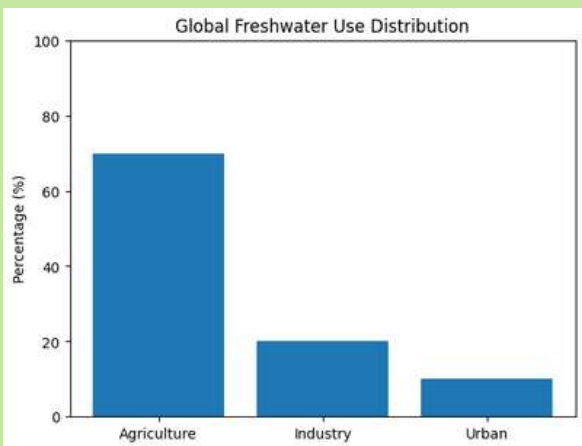
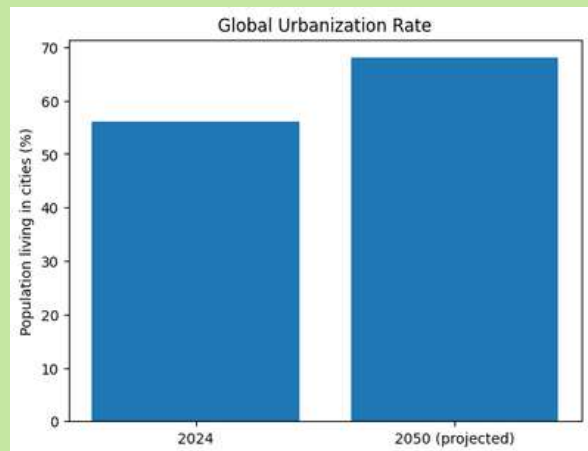
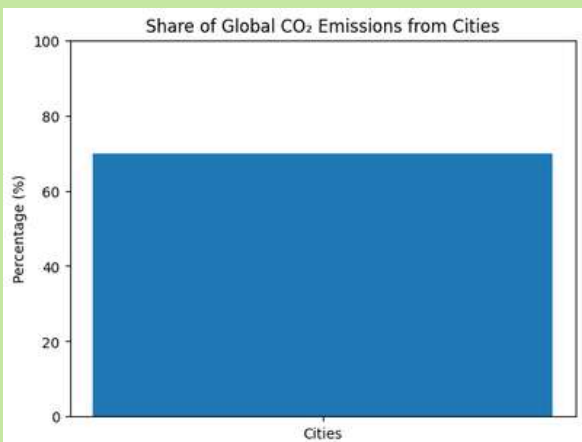
**TITLE:** Increasing climate resilience in urban areas, reducing disaster risks, and establishing direct financing mechanisms for cities

**BACKGROUND:** Today, a significant portion of the world's population lives in cities, and rapid urbanization is accelerating the growth of urban centers. However, unplanned urbanization makes cities more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Floods, heatwaves, droughts, and extreme weather events strain infrastructure systems, lead to economic losses, and threaten human security.

Particularly, floods resulting from extreme precipitation negatively affect transportation and sewage systems, while concretization and inadequate drainage systems exacerbate flooding. Furthermore, the "heat island effect" observed in large cities causes temperatures to be felt more intensely, posing health risks especially for the elderly and individuals with chronic diseases.

Drought and the depletion of water resources have also become significant problems for cities. The rising need for water and energy due to increasing populations intensifies the pressure on urban areas. Additionally, issues such as the lack of green spaces, air pollution, and irregular construction reduce the resilience of cities against the climate crisis. Therefore, sustainable urban planning, robust infrastructure systems, and the expansion of green spaces are of paramount importance in the fight against climate change.





**AGENDA ITEM:** Zero Waste and Circular Economy (Year of Zero Waste)

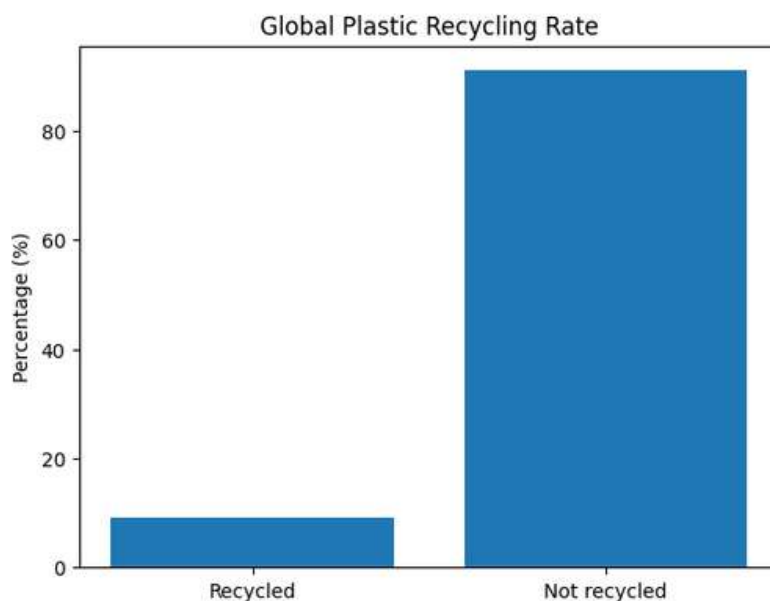
**TITLE:** Reducing global plastic pollution and accelerating the transition to the circular economy model


**BACKGROUND:** Plastic pollution has become a serious global environmental issue today. Approximately 400 million tons of plastic are produced worldwide every year, yet only 9% of it can be recycled. A large portion of the remaining plastic is landfilled, incinerated, or ends up directly in nature. This situation is steadily growing, particularly due to the prevalence of single-use plastics and inadequate waste management.

Plastics that enter nature break down over time into microplastics, causing persistent pollution in both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Approximately 11 million tons of plastic reach the oceans each year, which seriously impacts marine life. Fish, birds, and marine mammals can consume plastics, mistaking them for food; this leads to risks of injury, poisoning, and death. Furthermore, it is estimated that more than 100,000 marine mammals and millions of seabirds are affected by plastic pollution every year.

Microplastics enter the food chain, posing a threat to human health as well. Today, microplastics are found in drinking water, seafood, and even in the air. This demonstrates that plastic pollution is not only an environmental issue but also a public health problem.

One of the root causes of this problem is the "take-make-dispose" or linear economy model. This approach results in continuous waste generation. In contrast, the circular economy model aims to reduce the amount of waste through recycling, reuse, and sustainable design.



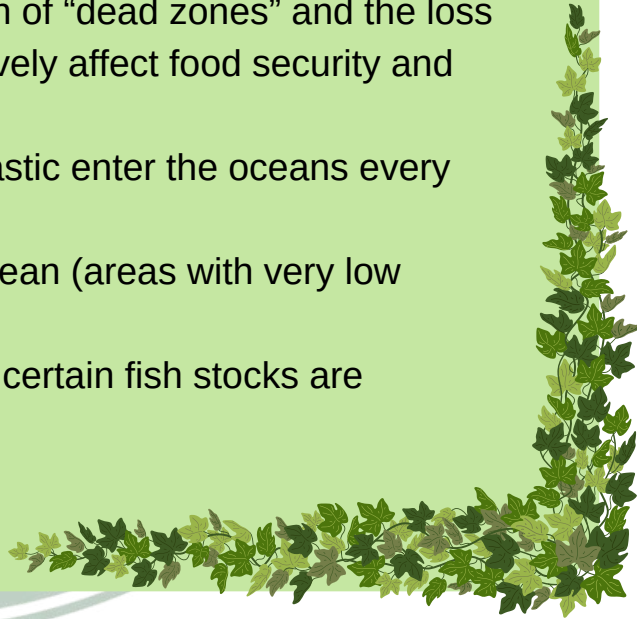


**AGENDA ITEM:** Oceans and Marine Ecosystems

**TITLE:** Strengthening global action plans for sea-level rise, marine pollution, and the protection of ocean ecosystems

**BACKGROUND:** Oceans serve as a vital “carbon sink,” balancing the climate by absorbing approximately 25–30% of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and more than 90% of excess heat. However, increasing greenhouse gas emissions are disrupting this equilibrium and raising seawater temperatures.

The warming of the oceans leads to severe consequences such as coral bleaching, migration of fish species, melting of glaciers, and rising sea levels. This situation increases the risk of flooding in coastal regions. Additionally, plastic waste, chemical pollution, and overfishing threaten marine ecosystems, causing the formation of “dead zones” and the loss of biodiversity. These impacts also negatively affect food security and coastal economies.

- Approximately 8–12 million tons of plastic enter the oceans every year (estimated global range).
  - The number of “dead zones” in the ocean (areas with very low oxygen) has surpassed 400+.
  - Due to overfishing, more than 30% of certain fish stocks are overexploited.
- 

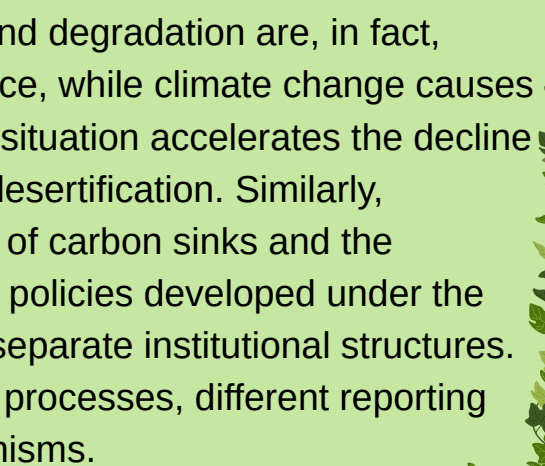


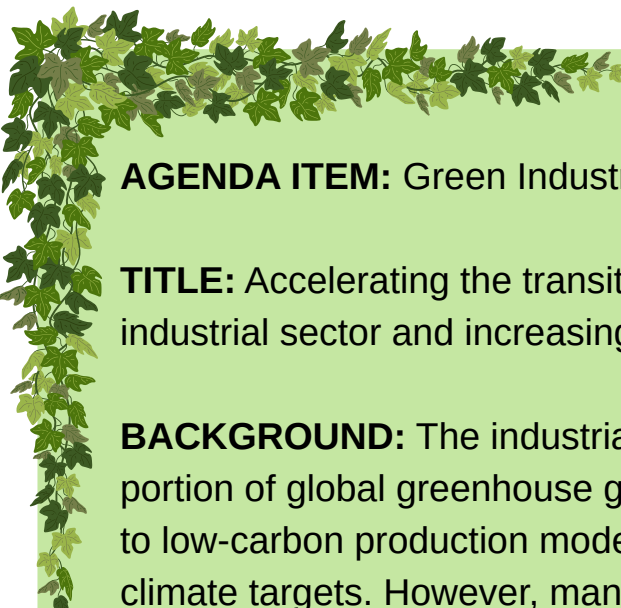
**AGENDA ITEM:** Synergy Between the Rio Conventions

**TITLE:** Strengthening policy alignment and enhancing institutional coordination among the conventions on climate change, biodiversity, and desertification

**BACKGROUND:** The three primary environmental conventions known as the Rio Conventions—the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification—emerged as the foundational structures of global environmental governance following the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit. The common objective of these conventions is to mitigate environmental pressures resulting from human activities and to support sustainable development. However, in practice, these three regimes often progress independently of one another, which creates a fragmented governance structure in global environmental policies.

Climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation are, in fact, directly interconnected crises. For instance, while climate change causes temperature increases and drought, this situation accelerates the decline of biodiversity and increases the risk of desertification. Similarly, deforestation leads to both the reduction of carbon sinks and the acceleration of habitat loss. Despite this, policies developed under the Rio Conventions are often managed by separate institutional structures. Each convention maintains distinct COP processes, different reporting systems, and separate financing mechanisms.






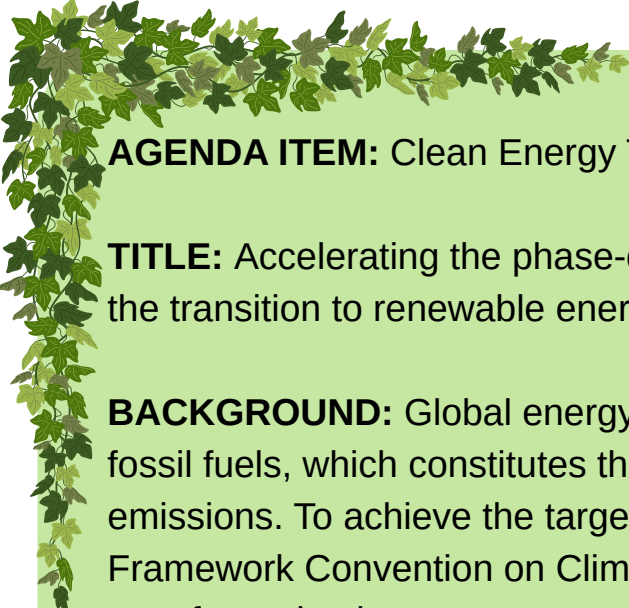
**AGENDA ITEM:** Green Industrialization

**TITLE:** Accelerating the transition to low-carbon production in the industrial sector and increasing access to clean technology

**BACKGROUND:** The industrial sector accounts for a significant portion of global greenhouse gas emissions; therefore, the transition to low-carbon production models plays a critical role in achieving climate targets. However, many developing countries face serious challenges regarding access to clean production technologies. As emphasized particularly during the COP30 process, the inadequacy of technology transfer slows down the industrial transformation process, deepens capacity disparities between countries, and makes it difficult to ensure a just transition on a global scale. Currently, financing shortages, restrictions related to intellectual property rights, and limitations in technical knowledge sharing are among the primary obstacles to the transition to low-carbon industry. Consequently, strengthening technology transfer mechanisms, increasing international cooperation, and supporting sustainable industrial policies have become priority areas of discussion within the COP processes.



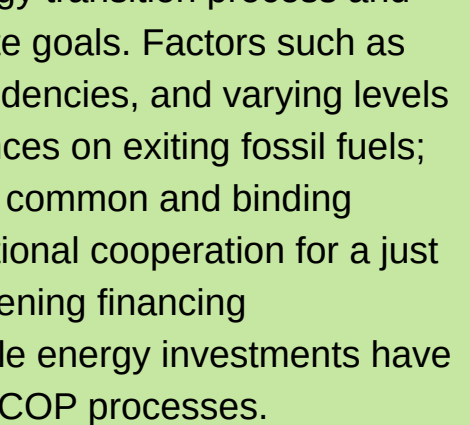
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**AGENDA ITEM:** Clean Energy Transition

**TITLE:** Accelerating the phase-out of fossil fuels and strengthening the transition to renewable energy

**BACKGROUND:** Global energy production is still largely based on fossil fuels, which constitutes the primary source of greenhouse gas emissions. To achieve the targets set under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a fundamental transformation in energy systems must be realized. However, as observed during the COP30 process, a full consensus among the parties regarding the phase-out of fossil fuels has not been reached. This situation limits the pace of the energy transition process and makes it difficult to achieve global climate goals. Factors such as energy supply security, economic dependencies, and varying levels of development influence countries' stances on exiting fossil fuels; this, in turn, complicates the adoption of common and binding decisions. Therefore, increasing international cooperation for a just and inclusive energy transition, strengthening financing mechanisms, and incentivizing renewable energy investments have become priority discussion topics in the COP processes.







**AGENDA ITEM:** Climate Finance and Paris Goals

**TITLE:** Strengthening climate finance and clarifying responsibility sharing to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement

**BACKGROUND:** Supporting developing countries financially and technically is of critical importance for achieving global climate goals. Within this framework, climate finance mechanisms established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change aim to address inequalities between countries and ensure a just transition. However, as demonstrated during the COP30 process, the failure to fully meet financing commitments and ongoing disputes regarding the sharing of responsibility among countries significantly hinder the achievement of Paris goals.

Differences in opinion regarding historical responsibility, capacity disparities, and financial obligations between developed and developing countries are among the primary factors limiting the progress of negotiations. Therefore, the creation of transparent, predictable, and sustainable financing mechanisms, along with the development of clearer and more binding frameworks for responsibility sharing, has become one of the priority discussion topics in the COP processes.





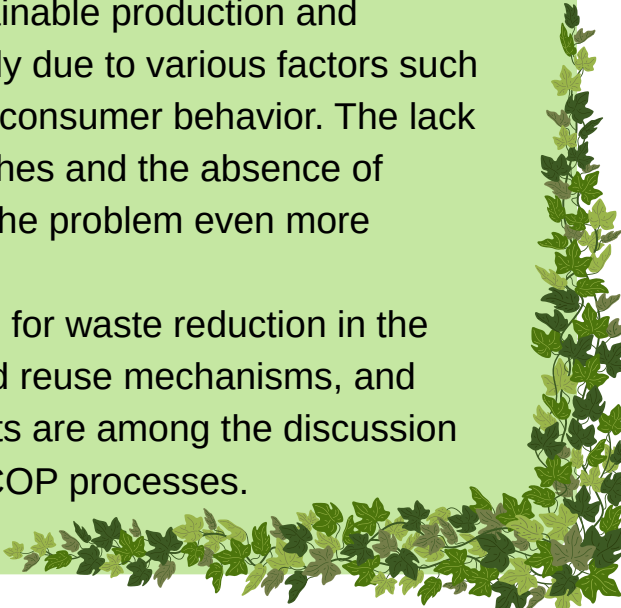
**AGENDA ITEM:** Sustainable Transformation in the Textile Sector

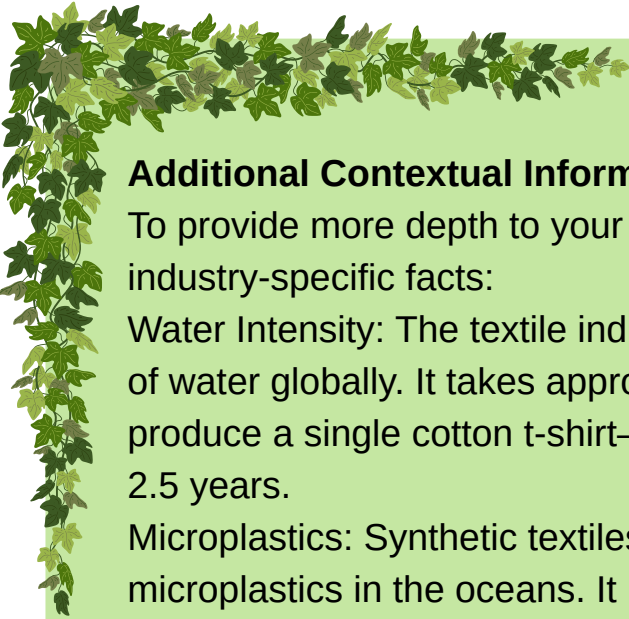
**TITLE:** Reducing global textile waste and accelerating the transition to sustainable production and consumption models

**BACKGROUND:** The textile industry has become one of the largest waste-producing sectors globally, driven largely by rapid consumption habits. Intense water and energy use during production processes, the environmental impact of chemical wastes, and short-lived product cycles significantly increase the sector's environmental footprint. According to United Nations Environment Programme data, a vast majority of textile waste cannot be recycled and is directed to landfills. This situation leads to both the rapid depletion of natural resources and an increase in carbon emissions.

On the other hand, the transition to sustainable production and consumption models is progressing slowly due to various factors such as costs, infrastructure deficiencies, and consumer behavior. The lack of widespread circular economy approaches and the absence of binding global regulations make solving the problem even more difficult.

Therefore, developing innovative policies for waste reduction in the textile sector, strengthening recycling and reuse mechanisms, and promoting sustainable consumption habits are among the discussion topics gaining increasing importance in COP processes.





### **Additional Contextual Information**


To provide more depth to your text, you may consider these industry-specific facts:

**Water Intensity:** The textile industry is the second-largest consumer of water globally. It takes approximately 2,700 liters of water to produce a single cotton t-shirt—enough for one person to drink for 2.5 years.

**Microplastics:** Synthetic textiles are a primary source of primary microplastics in the oceans. It is estimated that half a million tonnes of plastic microfibers are released into the ocean annually simply from washing clothes.

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** The fashion industry is responsible for roughly 8–10% of global carbon emissions, which is more than all international flights and maritime shipping combined.

**The "Fast Fashion" Impact:** The average consumer buys 60% more items of clothing than they did 15 years ago, but keeps them for only half as long. This "linear" model is the primary target for transition to a "circular" economy.



TOGETHER FOR CLIMATE, NOW FOR THE FUTURE

# COP31

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY  
AND GREEN FUTURE



19 MAY 2026  
TUESDAY

ONLINE

All sessions will take place online.



20 MAY 2026  
WEDNESDAY

IN-PERSON

Face-to-face sessions will take place in the SENATE HALL, ÇANAKKALE ÖNSEKİZ MART UNIVERSITY RECTORATE BUILDING.



DELEGATES FROM EUROPEAN AND ASIAN STATES WILL PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE SESSIONS.



CLIMATE CHANGE



RENEWABLE ENERGY



WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES



SUSTAINABLE CITIES



CIRCULAR ECONOMY



BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS



ÇANAKKALE  
ÖNSEKİZ MART  
UNIVERSITY

*For our world,*



FOR OUR WORLD,  
FOR OUR FUTURE.

EUROPE

ASIA

