COP31 · COUNTDOWN

Antalya Opens: What to Expect at COP31

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

COP31 TÜRKİYE ANTALYA

9 – 20 · NOV · 2026

No. 1 **Towards COP31** · Antalya 2026

THE COUNTDOWN

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A CONTEXT GUIDE FOR THE CLARETIAN FAMILY

COP31 · 9–20 November 2026 · Antalya, Türkiye

01 The moment: from promises to action

> COP31 opens on 9 November at the Antalya EXPO Center in Türkiye. For two weeks, governments will try to answer one urgent question: how do we turn climate promises into real action that cuts the gases heating our planet, protects people, and pays fairly for the change?

This year, for the first time, two countries share the leadership. Türkiye hosts the conference, and its minister Murat Kurum is COP31 President. Australia's climate minister, Chris Bowen, leads the negotiations. How the two will work together, especially in the difficult final days, remains to be seen.

The focus this year is on implementation: putting promises into practice. But this is not just a technical job. It raises hard questions. Who acts first? Who pays? Whose rights are protected? And will help reach the communities already suffering from climate change?

For us as Claretians and partners, these questions touch everything we care about: a fair move away from coal, oil and gas; fair climate finance; strong food and farming systems; and real participation of people in decisions.

02 Two tracks: negotiations and announcements

COP31 runs on two parallel tracks:

Formal negotiations

OFFICIAL DECISIONS

Governments negotiate and agree official decisions on money, adaptation, a fair transition, cutting emissions and carbon trading.

The Action Agenda

VOLUNTARY PLEDGES

Led by Türkiye, this is where governments, businesses and others announce projects, partnerships and voluntary pledges.

Why does this matter? A big announcement is not the same as an agreement, and neither one guarantees that anything will happen. We will look for who is responsible, how much money, by when, and who checks.

03 The two weeks at a glance

Each day has a theme chosen by the Presidency. Negotiations on all issues continue in the background.

WEEK 1 — 9 – 14 NOV

9 — MONDAY
Food, Agriculture and Health
OPENING

10 — TUESDAY
Energy and Transport

11 — WEDNESDAY
Zero Waste
WORLD LEADERS' SUMMIT

12 — THURSDAY
Resilient Cities and Built Environment
WORLD LEADERS' SUMMIT

13 — FRIDAY
Finance and Trade

14 — SATURDAY
Children, Youth, Education and Skills

WEEK 2 — 15 – 20 NOV

15 — SUNDAY
"A Breath in Antalya": Social and cultural programme
OFFICIAL CONFERENCE PREMISES CLOSED

16 — MONDAY
Science, Industry and Technology

17 — TUESDAY
Ocean, Seas, Nature and Land Use

18 — WEDNESDAY
Human and Social Development

19 — THURSDAY
İmece (working together): Enhancing Implementation

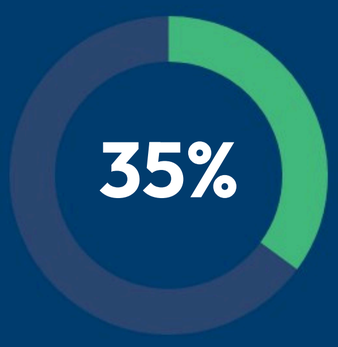
20 — FRIDAY
Final negotiations
SCHEDULED CLOSE

04 Five questions to watch

1 Will the world really move away from fossil fuels?

Last year at COP30 in Brazil, countries could not agree on a roadmap for moving away from coal, oil and gas. COP31 is under pressure to turn that promise into clear steps, and not let the issue quietly drop.

The Presidency is promoting a "35 by 35" pledge: by 2035, electricity should make up 35% of all the energy the world uses. This is voluntary. Countries can sign up, but it is not an agreed COP decision.



"35 BY 35"

By 2035, electricity should make up 35% of all the energy the world uses

VOLUNTARY

> Our test: electrification must help us move away from coal, oil and gas, not replace that conversation. Affordable energy for all, protection for affected communities, and fairness between countries must stay at the centre.

2 Will the "just transition" mechanism start working?

A "just transition" means moving to clean energy fairly, so that no worker, community or country is left behind. At COP30, governments agreed to create a mechanism to support this through cooperation, technical help and sharing knowledge. Talks in June 2026 made progress, but key questions remain: what exactly it will cover, how it will work, and whether money will come with it.

Often called the Belém–Antalya Mechanism, it is one of the big issues at COP31. It is about more than retraining energy workers: it is about fair change across whole economies and societies. It should not be confused with a separate climate fund that already exists.

> We expect it to protect workers and communities, respect human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and give affected people a real say.

3 Will climate money be fair and reach those who need it?

Two promises are on the table. At COP29, countries agreed on at least US$300 billion a year for developing countries by 2035, with richer countries taking the lead, and a wider aim of US$1.3 trillion a year from all sources, public and private. At COP30, countries called for at least tripling money for adaptation (helping people cope with climate impacts) by 2035.

COP29 · AT LEAST

US$300

billion a year by 2035
for developing countries

COP29 · WIDER AIM

US$1.3

trillion a year
from all sources, public and private

COP30 · ADAPTATION

3×

at least tripled by 2035
money for adaptation

Antalya must make clear how these promises will be kept and counted. On adaptation money especially, there is still disagreement: tripled from what starting point, along what path, and what kind of money counts?

> For climate justice, the questions are simple. Will help come as grants, or as more debt? Can poor countries and communities actually get it? Will it reach people on the ground?
>
> Loss and damage, meaning support for people facing climate harm they can no longer avoid or adapt to, is also expected to be discussed.

4 Will action reach farms, coasts and communities?

The opening day links food, farming and health. On 17 November the focus is oceans, nature and land. Adaptation, resilience and stronger national climate plans are at the heart of the conference.

This matters to small farmers, fishing communities, Indigenous Peoples and every family that depends on healthy land and water.

> Our concern: not only whether new projects are announced, but whether communities help shape them, and whether they protect food, water, nature and livelihoods.

5 Will people have a real voice?

Youth and education have their own day. Civil society and Indigenous Peoples take part alongside governments as observers, but only those with accreditation can enter the negotiation area.

> Through our work on climate education and public participation (known as Action for Climate Empowerment), we want people's voices to shape decisions, not just appear at events. We will push for clear information, climate education and real space for affected communities.

05 What worries us: civil society's concerns

Alongside the hopes are serious worries about what could block progress. These are not reasons to step back. They are reasons to stay informed, present and persistent.

The grip of coal, oil and gas

Ten years after Paris, governments still plan to produce far more coal, oil and gas than the planet can bear. At every COP, fossil fuel interests work hard to slow things down, and because decisions need everyone's agreement, a few countries can block progress for all. Many fear Antalya will end like Belém, with fine words about clean energy and no plan to leave fossil fuels behind.

Less solidarity in a world spending more on weapons

Aid to poorer countries is falling sharply while military spending rises. Early OECD figures show that aid from the main donor countries fell by 23.1% in 2025, after inflation. Researchers at SIPRI have tracked the widening gap between military spending and aid. Civil society will press governments to turn finance promises into real support for adaptation, loss and damage, and a fair transition, not more delays.

↘ 23.1%
aid from the main donor countries in 2025
OECD · EARLY FIGURES

Shrinking space for people's voices

Climate talks need the voices of people living with climate impacts, not only governments and powerful institutions. Amnesty International warns that limits on free speech, organising and peaceful protest in Türkiye threaten safe participation at COP31. It calls for protection from intimidation and reprisals, inside and outside the venue.

Big business and greenwashing

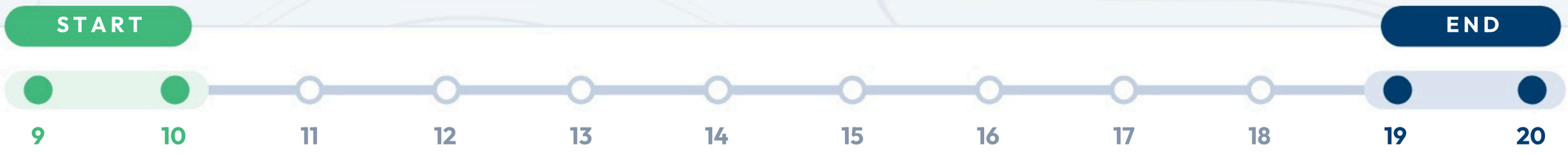
Powerful companies can gain special access while frontline communities struggle to be heard. Amnesty warns that weak protection for civil society would tilt the balance further towards industry. Sponsorship, branding and voluntary pledges can look like progress without bringing real change. Openness, accountability and checks on conflicts of interest are essential.

A major polluter stepping back

The US government's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement weakens global cooperation. Americans will still be present: a 19-member congressional delegation has been announced, along with state and local leaders. Their presence matters, but it cannot replace national commitment.

We name these fears not to give up, but to keep a hope that is honest, alert and ready to act.

06 Where negotiations could stall



At the start: agreeing on what to discuss

Even the agenda is political. Developing countries want more attention on rich countries' finance promises, including tripling adaptation money. Disputes over whether and where to discuss these issues could delay the real work.

At the end: agreeing on what the outcome really delivers

The final days will show whether governments can close their gaps on finance, adaptation, a fair transition and cutting emissions. A final political declaration may grab the headlines, but real progress must be judged decision by decision.

So we will read beyond the headlines. What was agreed? What is only voluntary? What was postponed? And who will be held accountable?

07 Beyond the official halls: the people's voice

Outside the official conference, civil society is organising its own spaces to share frontline experiences and people-led solutions. These are not part of the UN programme.

15–18 NOV

People's Climate Summit

15–18 November, Antalya: bringing together civil society groups, local movements, women and youth from many countries.

14 NOV

Global Day of Action for Climate Justice

Saturday 14 November, 14:00 Antalya time: a march calling for climate justice through the streets of Antalya.

For faith communities, these are places to listen and to stand with people living with climate injustice. Our presence links what happens in the negotiating halls with the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

08 Our contribution: faiths for a just transition

WEDNESDAY
18 NOV
11:30 – 13:00

Our side event, Faiths for a Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels and Climate Justice, is planned for Wednesday 18 November, 11:30–13:00 at the Blue Zone.

It is a chance to bring our faith into the conversation: a transition that protects human dignity, supports affected communities, and asks the most from those who can do the most.

09 How you can take part

Follow and share. Join the Proclade Climate WhatsApp channel for daily updates.

Pray. For the negotiators, for frontline communities, and for the courage to put the common good first. Use the Claretian prayer guide.

Listen. Follow the People's Climate Summit and its organisers; some sessions may be online.

Support our side event. Share the invitation and joining details with your networks.

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Towards COP31

Antalya, Türkiye | **9–20 November 2026**

Success will not be measured by speeches or pledges, but by this: does COP31 bring us closer to a fair move away from fossil fuels, help that reaches vulnerable communities, and climate action shaped by the people it is meant to serve?

COP31 TÜRKİYE ANTALYA

NEXT STOP

COP31 · Antalya

COP31 opens on 9 November at the Antalya EXPO Center in Türkiye.

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THIS — 9 NOV

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