COP 31

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COP31 Day 6: Finance Deadlocks, Fossil Fuel Fights, and the Subsidiary Bodies Close

BY YTJN

Antalya, 14 November 2026 – Day 6 marked the midpoint of COP31 and the close of the first week, defined by the **Children, Youth, Education and Skills** thematic focus, the circulation of the first draft of the Climate Finance Work Programme, the largest civil society mobilisation of the conference so far, and the closure of the Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) after intense, drawn-out negotiations that stretched past midnight.

Thematic Focus: Children, Youth, Education and Skills

Day 6 was dedicated to climate literacy, green skills, workforce development, and intergenerational climate action. Türkiye's Pavilion in the Blue Zone hosted sessions throughout the day on climate education, youth leadership, and green skills. **UNESCO** used the day to highlight the role of education in strengthening climate resilience. **The World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)** launched its Position on Youth and Climate, calling for young farmers to be recognised as key actors in the just transition of agrifood systems.

COP31 President Kurum: "We Carry the Children of Gaza in Our Hearts"

COP31 President and Türkiye's Minister of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change, **Murat Kurum**, met with young people and children at the **High-Level Dialogue on Children, Youth and Climate Resilience**. Citing two recent **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** analyses, Kurum stated: "Approximately 1.1 billion children worldwide are exposed to at least three climate hazards. In 2025, climate-related events disrupted the education of more than 171 million students. Behind every number is an unfinished lesson, a postponed dream, a mother and a father anxious about their child's future."

The first figure comes from UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Report 2026, released in June 2026. The second comes from the analysis Learning Interrupted: Global Snapshot of Climate-Related School Disruptions in 2025, released on 10 September 2026.



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>
> **MURAT KURUM**
> *COP 31 President*

He also drew attention to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, saying: "In Antalya, we carry the children of Gaza in our hearts. We will continue to defend every child's right to live, learn, play and grow up in safety".

Climate Finance Work Programme: First Draft Text Circulated

In the early hours of 14 November, the first draft text of t**he Climate Finance Work Programme (CFWP)** was circulated, running to **104 paragraphs.** Formally titled the "Climate Finance Work Programme on Article 9.1 in the context of Article 9 as a whole," the CFWP is now a formal COP31 agenda item.



What the draft contains:

- **Opening paragraphs "welcome" the work of the co-chairs** and look forward to their "second and final year in 2027". This directly contradicts the G77 and China and the **Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs)**, who argue the programme must be formally launched at COP31 and run until COP33.
- **Three options for the timeframe:** ending at COP33, concluding in 2027, or a neutral option based on "discussion among Parties".
- **Focus on Article 9.1:** The text states the CFWP should focus on implementing Article 9.1, but retains language on **broadening the contributor base,** a key demand of developed countries.
- **Tripling adaptation finance:** Acknowledges coherence between the **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)** negotiations and the CFWP.

Subsidiary Bodies Close: Deadlocks on Finance, Agriculture, and Mitigation

The Subsidiary Bodies–**the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)**–closed their sessions at 12:48 am on 15 November, forwarding a mixed bag of outcomes to the second week.

- **Green Climate Fund (GCF):** Deep divisions emerged over whether to specify that developed countries must provide and scale up finance. **The Arab Group** stressed that expanding the donor base was a red line. **The Philippines** highlighted the increasing use of loans as inappropriate, particularly for adaptation, while the **European Union (EU)** supported targeted grants for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- **Adaptation Fund:** Parties debated transitioning the Fund to exclusively serve the Paris Agreement. **The African Group** sought assurance that decision-making authority would be delegated to the Fund's Board, not the Secretariat, and underscored the Fund's importance as a source of grant-based finance.
- **Mitigation Work Programme (MWP)**: **The African Group, Arab Group, and LMDCs** objected to forwarding an updated informal note, arguing it included elements beyond the MWP's mandate. The matter was forwarded to the CMA (Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement).
- **Agriculture**: To the disappointment of many, no agreement was reached. The item will be delayed until SBSTA 66 in 2027. **Youth Non-Governmental Organizations (YOUNGOs)** highlighted the realities facing farmers and called for a decision ensuring support reaches the most vulnerable. **Farmers** lamented feeling left behind, emphasizing their role as partners in building resilient agriculture.
- **Article 6 (Carbon Markets):** The LMDCs expressed concern that the mechanism's financial outlook places its operation at risk. **Ukraine** warned that the current approach favors large-scale activities while making smaller projects which often provide the greatest host-country benefits–financially unviable.

Cover Decision: Deep Fractures and the "Transitional Plenary"

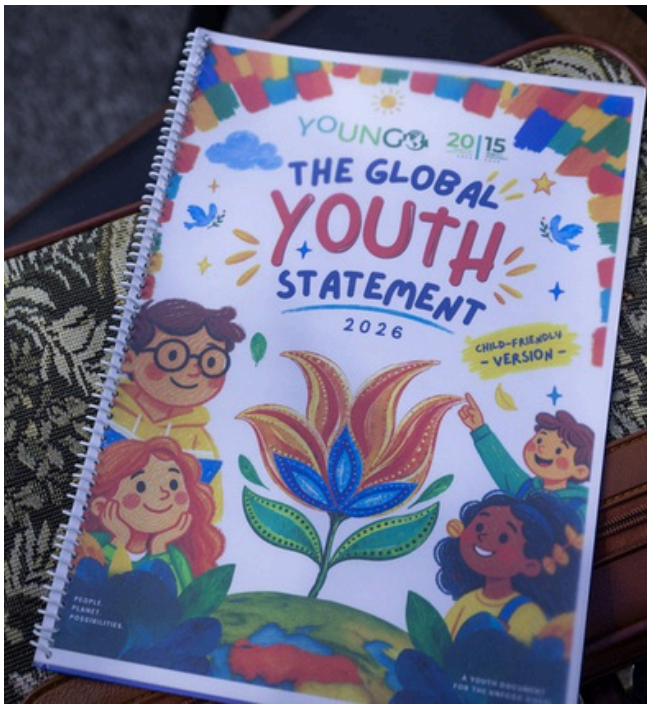
Early on Sunday morning (15 November), COP31 President Murat Kurum convened a transitional plenary to outline the path for the second week. He announced work would proceed across four streams: ministerial engagement, Presidency consultations, ministerial consultations on outstanding political issues, and technical negotiations.



The Cover Decision Opposition Grows:

The **Russian Federation, Arab Group, African Group, LMDCs, and Argentina** noted a lack of clarity on the mandate and outcomes of the Presidency consultations, particularly on the UNFCCC process, and explicitly **opposed an outcome in a cover decision.**

Conversely, **the EU, Umbrella Group, LDCs, Independent Alliance of Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC), Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and Switzerland** supported continued discussions under the Governing Bodies, with some supporting an outcome included in a cover decision.







Global Day of Action: Thousands March in Antalya

Civil society staged its largest mobilisation of COP31 on Saturday. According to police estimates, **more than 7,000 people** marched through the rain in central Antalya (organisers claimed over 10,000). The march was not only about climate. Numerous Turkish associations, trade unions, and opposition parties used the march to draw attention to domestic issues, chanting slogans against the ruling **Justice and Development Party (AKP)** government.

The **People's Climate Summit** opened in Antalya, running from 14–18 November. **Kirtana Chandrasekaran** of Friends of the Earth International stated: "We're demanding that these solutions be reflected at COP31 and that the Big Polluters blocking them and promoting false solutions be kicked out". The summit also demanded **public and non-debt-inducing climate finance**, with Y**egeshni Moodley of groundWork** stating: "*Rich countries responsible for the climate crisis owe an enormous debt to the Global South, and it's time they pay up*".

Midpoint Press Conference: Stiell and Bowen Urge Compromise

Simon Stiell, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, held a press conference, delivering a direct message to negotiators: "There is no collective success without compromise from every Party." He warned against delaying tactics: "As we head into the second week, I urge Parties to move swiftly to the hardest issues and to avoid tactical delays."

Chris Bowen, COP31 President of Negotiations, struck a more optimistic tone, stating that **good progress** had been made. He confirmed parties had been negotiating across **160 agenda items and 60 substantive mandates,** and that a comprehensive draft text had been worked on overnight.

Other Developments

China ruled out hosting COP33 in 2028, leaving the field open for other Asian countries. Experts told the Guardian that the **timing of the 2028 US presidential election (scheduled for 7 November 2028, just before COP33)** was likely a factor. India also decided against hosting. Other countries mulling a bid include **Uzbekistan, South Korea, Indonesia, and Thailand.**

Philanthropic funders pledged more than **$480 million in new funding to accelerate action on methane** at the **Leaders' Level Methane and Other Non-CO_2 Greenhouse Gases Summit. Christie Ulman, President of the Sequoia Climate Foundation,** said: "*Philanthropy can help catalyse action, but government leadership and private investment are essential to delivering change at scale*".

The Climate Vulnerable Forum and V20 Finance Ministers (CVF-V20) launched a **46-project carbon investment pipeline,** featuring projects from **Bhutan, The Gambia, Madagascar, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.**

Private sector: **Borusan Group** shared its concrete applications for the transformation of energy and industry, with Group Leader **Özgür Günaydın** stating that COP31 built a direct bridge between public policies and private sector dynamics. **Eco Invest Brasil** received the **SB COP Awards** 2026 for its work in mobilising private sector climate action.





Why This Matters for Youth

1. **The CFWP Draft Is a Critical Opening:** The 104-paragraph text is the first concrete document that can hold developed countries accountable to their **Article 9.1** obligations. We will be watching whether the final text **prioritizes grants over loans** and includes mechanisms to track youth access.
2. **Civil Society's Demands Are Our Demands:** The global day of action's call for **public, non-debt-creating climate finance** aligns directly with YTJN's tax justice and climate finance agenda.
3. **The Cover Decision Remains Contested Ground**: The growing opposition from the Russian Federation, Arab Group, African Group, LMDCs, and Argentina to the Presidency's cover decision is a significant development. We will be watching to see how the ministerial consultations navigate these deep political fractures.

WHAT TO WATCH IN THE SECOND WEEK (16–20 NOVEMBER)

With the Subsidiary Bodies closed and the first week's procedural battles over, COP31 now enters its decisive phase. The **high-level ministerial segment runs from 16–20 November**, where environment ministers will engage directly to unlock the compromises that eluded technical negotiators.

The Ministerial Pair Consultations

The COP31 Presidency has appointed pairs of ministers to co-facilitate consultations on the most politically sensitive issues, in an attempt to break the deadlocks that stalled the Subsidiary Bodies. These are the rooms where the real deals will be made:

- **Climate Finance: Monique Barbut (France) and Robert Borje (Philippines).** This is the track to watch most closely. The **Climate Finance Work Programme (CFWP)** remains stalled, and the ministerial pair will need to bridge the divide between the G77 and China's demand for a focus on **Article 9.1 (**public, grant-based finance) and the EU's preference for **an "all-sources" framing.**

- **Mitigation: Carsten Schneider (Germany) and Bhupender Yadav (India).** Watch whether they can find a path forward on the **Mitigation Work Programme (MWP)** , which was forwarded to the CMA without agreement after the African Group, Arab Group, and LMDCs objected to elements they said went beyond its mandate.
- **Adaptation**: Jiwoh Abdulai (Sierra Leone) and Miatta Fahnbulleh (United Kingdom). The question of **tripling adaptation finance by 2035** is central to any final deal, and the **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)** text was forwarded to the CMA without full agreement.
- **Just Transition: Alicia Bárcena (Mexico) and Krzysztof Bolesta (Poland).** The Just Transition Work Programme was forwarded to the CMA, with deep divisions remaining over financing arrangements.
- **The Ocean: Julie Dabrusin (Canada) and Steven Victor (Palau).** Parties remain split on whether ocean concerns should be reflected in the cover decision, with the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, and Japan cautioning against new negotiating items.

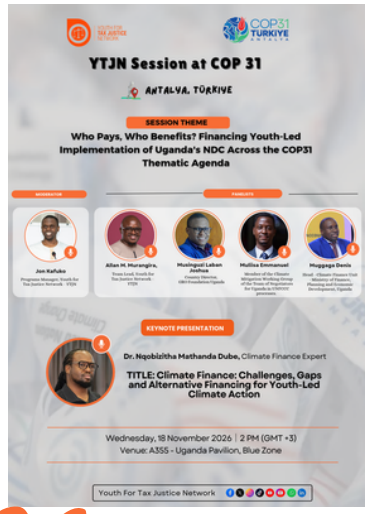
The Cover Decision: First Draft Expected Early in the Week

The Presidency's "**Summary of Reflections"** is a wish list, not a consensus text. The first **draft cover decision is expected early in the second week,** and it will be negotiated by ministers. The key battles will be over:

- **Fossil Fuel Transition:** Whether the cover decision welcomes the COP30 Presidency roadmaps on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels (TAFF) and halting deforestation.
- **Electrification: The 35-by-35 goal** refers to "clean sources" rather than explicitly renewable energy, opening the door to nuclear–a red line for many parties. It also does not connect to the need to phase out fossil fuels.
- **Overshoot of 1.5°C:** How the text responds to the likely temporary overshoot of the 1.5°C threshold, and whether it welcomes the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Climate Change.

YTJN's Side Event: 18 November at the Uganda Pavilion

YTJN's side event, "Who Pays, Who Benefits? Financing Youth-Led Implementation of Uganda's NDC Across the COP31 Agenda," will now take place on 18 November, aligning it with the Human and Social Development thematic day. The session will bring together government officials, experts, and youth leaders to interrogate Uganda's pivot to alternative financing–green bonds, carbon markets, debt swaps.



this WEEK

Key Dates in the Second Week

- **Monday 16 November – Science, Industry and Technology Day:** The thematic focus shifts to science, green industrialisation, technology and innovation, SMEs, digitalisation, and artificial intelligence. Watch for events on Early Warnings for All and the role of technology in implementation.
- **Tuesday 17 November – Ocean, Seas, Nature and Land Use Day:** Discussions will focus on ocean and marine ecosystems, inland water ecosystems, coastal resilience, the blue economy, biodiversity, and forest and ecosystem restoration. This is a critical day for the Ocean ministerial pair consultations.
- **Wednesday 18 November – Human and Social Development Day:** This is the day YTJN's postponed side event will take place. The thematic focus includes just transition, employment and livelihoods, vulnerable groups, women's empowerment, and traditional and local knowledge. Watch for the German Climate Pavilion side event on "Holistic Just Transition: Energy, Food Systems, and Youth Leadership in the JTWP", which will explore how young people are shaping the just transition and how their demands can be reflected in the Just Transition Mechanism.
- **Thursday 19 November – İmece:** Enhancing Implementation Day: The focus is on institutional and technical capacity building, investment-ready projects, and access to finance. This is the day the Presidency will likely push for concrete deliverables from the Action Agenda.
- **Friday 20 November – Final Negotiations and Closing Plenary:** The gavelling of the final texts, including the cover decision. Watch for whether the Presidency can deliver a text that bridges the deep political fractures, or whether the summit ends with a minimalist outcome.