COP 31

9-20 November 2026 | Antalya, Turkiye



COP31 Day 2: Energy and Transport in the Spotlight as Finance Clash and Adaptation Protest Erupt

Antalya, 10 November 2026 – Day 2 of COP31 shifted the thematic focus to Energy and Transport, with roughly 370 sessions scheduled across the Blue and Green Zones, including 140 under the energy and transport theme focusing on energy security, electrification, grid infrastructure, and sustainable mobility. But the finance fight from Day 1 continued to reverberate, with a major protest in the Blue Zone and the first real negotiations on the Climate Finance Work Programme.

The High-Level Events: Electrification Takes Centre Stage

The day's high-level programme was anchored by the Global Electrification Ministerial and Forum in the Blue Zone, organized under the COP31 Presidency's Action Agenda in cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the International Energy Agency (IEA). The forum placed electrification at the center of discussions on the energy transition.

A joint press conference was held in the morning featuring COP31 President Murat Kurum, COP31 President of Negotiations Chris Bowen, and UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell. The key outcomes and demands from these events were:

- **The 35% by 2035 target was reaffirmed**. Stiell pointed to the COP31 Action Agenda's goal of increasing electricity's share of global final energy consumption to **35% by 2035.**
- **Bowen called for accelerated action**. "Accelerating our work is important. We have only one way to combat the effects of climate change," he said.
- **Stiell highlighted the scale of investment needed**. He noted that around **180 companies** are calling for **$1.7 trillion in investment** to improve electricity systems.

- **Kurum reaffirmed the 1.5°C commitment.** "We can never give up on the 1.5-degree target. The Paris Agreement continues to guide us," he stated.
- **Former COP Presidents issued a joint declaration.** COP21 President Laurent Fabius, COP26 President Alok Sharma, COP24 President Michal Kurtyka, and COP30 President André Corrêa do Lago called for continuity between climate conferences and stronger implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- **The Global Green Freight Corridors Initiative** was launched to build more environmentally friendly logistics corridors.

The Finance Fight: Climate Finance Work Programme Contact Group Meets for the First Time

The **Climate Finance Work Programme (CFWP) contact group** met for the first time, where the real battle over the programme's direction began. The CFWP was adopted as a standalone agenda item on Day 1, a key demand of the G77 and China, despite objections from the EU and the Umbrella Group. The programme stems from the Global Mutirão decision at COP30, which established a two-year work programme on climate finance, including Article 9.1 within the broader context of Article 9.



The Core Clash: "Provision" vs. "All Sources"

The central fight in the contact group is over the interpretation of the programme's mandate.

- **The G77 and China's Position**: The coalition of developing countries is pushing for the programme to focus specifically on the implementation of Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement, which places a mandatory obligation on developed countries to provide financial resources to developing nations. They want negotiations on how developed economies intend to fulfil these obligations, with concrete outcomes from the work programme.
- **The EU and Umbrella Group's Resistance:** Developed countries argue that the scope was already decided in Belém and should cover **"Article 9 as a whole"**. They prefer an **"all-sources" framing** that includes private finance and mobilised investment. The EU has also maintained that the programme has a fixed two-year mandate and should conclude by COP32.

A Key Obstacle: Rejection of the Co-Chairs' Workplan

The tension is compounded by a procedural dispute that predates COP31. The G77 and China have **refused to accept the 2026–2027 workplan** presented by the CFWP Co-Chairs, **Yolando Velasco (Philippines)** and **Apollonia Miola (European Union).** The G77 and China expressed "strong dissatisfaction" with the co-chairs' work plan and said it was "not in a position to accept it or use it as a basis for further work," calling for a party-driven process. This rejection means the contact group is beginning its work without an agreed roadmap, which could lead to immediate procedural delays.

The Stakes for Us at YTJN

The first meeting confirms that the CFWP is a **contested space,** and the battle lines are drawn around the distinction between **"provided" vs. "mobilised" finance**.

1. **Our Fight is for "Provision"**: We must support the G77 and China's push to anchor the programme in Article 9.1. This is our best chance to challenge the narrative that loans, private investment, and relabelled development assistance count as climate finance. For young people, the "quality" of finance is a matter of survival–debt-creating instruments mortgage our future.
2. **The EU's Credibility Test:** The EU's role as co-chair while resisting the programme's core mandate will be a key point of scrutiny. We will be watching whether the EU uses its position to dilute the programme's focus on public, grant-based provision, or whether it engages in good faith.
3. **A Litmus Test for "Implementation":** COP31 is branded the "COP of Implementation." If the contact group cannot even agree on a workplan, it will expose the gap between the Presidency's rhetoric and the reality of the negotiations.

Protest Erupts Over Africa's Failed Adaptation Finance Push

A protest erupted in the Blue Zone on Tuesday, with climate activists demanding urgent, needs-based adaptation finance after the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) failed to secure a standalone agenda item on tripling adaptation finance.



A protesting member raises a banner during the protests Photo: **UNFCCC**

The demonstration was joined by the Climate Action Network (CAN) and the Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD). Protesters called for public, grant-based finance rather than loans that deepen developing countries' debt burdens. One speaker challenged the emphasis on developing indicators under the Global Goal on Adaptation without ensuring the financial resources to implement adaptation measures: ***"Unless you give us the means to implement adaptation, you are playing with our lives."***

AGN Chair Nana Antwi-Boasiako Amoah said the group was dissatisfied with the outcome but would explore other avenues to advance discussions, stating: ***"In negotiation you can't get everything. You can get some".***

Why This Matters for Youth

1. **The Finance Quality Gap:** The CFWP contact group is debating not just how much money flows, but what kind. For young people in Uganda, **loans are not solidarity**, they deepen the debt burden that will be passed on to our generation. We need grant-based finance that funds adaptation and clean energy without mortgaging our future.
2. **Access to Energy Transitions:** The energy and transport day focused on electrification and grids. For youth, the question is whether we can participate in the **green value chains,** from e-mobility to clean cooking or whether these sectors will be dominated by large corporations and foreign investors.
3. **The Adaptation Gap:** The failed push for a standalone adaptation finance item means **adaptation remains an "orphan"** in the formal negotiations. For youth in climate-vulnerable regions like Karamoja, this is a direct threat. We will continue to push for adaptation finance to be accessible, predictable, and youth-inclusive through the channels that remain open.

WHAT TO WATCH ON DAY 3 (Wednesday, 11 November)

The Thematic Focus: Zero Waste

Day 3 shifts to **Zero Waste,** focusing on waste reduction, resource efficiency, methane, and the circular economy.

Our angle: Waste management is a sector where youth-led enterprises are already innovating from organic composting to plastic recycling. We will be watching whether the discussions create space for youth-led MSMEs, and whether the finance flows discussed in the CFWP contact group can be directed toward these community-level solutions.

The Finance Fight Continues

- **CFWP contact group:** We will be tracking whether the procedural impasse over the co-chairs' workplan is resolved, and whether developing countries can lock in a scope that covers public, grant-based finance.
- **Article 2.1c contact group:** This is the space on aligning financial flows with climate goals. It is a prime entry point for our tax justice language.
- **Adaptation Fund and Loss and Damage Fund contact groups:** Watch for any movement on access modalities, direct access, and whether community and youth-led organisations get a dedicated window.

Plenary Statements

Watch for statements from African delegations and the G77 and China on the adaptation finance fight.

Civil Society Actions

Following Tuesday's protest, we expect further civil society actions on adaptation finance and climate justice. We will be monitoring how the Presidency responds to these demands.