COP 31

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COP31 Final Weekend: The Collapse of the Antalya Pact

Antalya, 22 November 2026 – The final weekend of COP31 ended in historic failure, as nearly 50 hours of overtime negotiations failed to produce a consensus political agreement. The conference, which was supposed to gavel through the "Antalya Pact" on Friday, collapsed on Sunday after a broad coalition of countries–including the European Union, Panama, Norway, the Marshall Islands, and the United Kingdom rejected a final draft that failed to explicitly address fossil fuels or provide adequate financial support to developing nations.



What is the Antalya Pact?

The Antalya Pact is the name given to the overarching political declaration that is supposed to be adopted at COP31. As the "cover decision," it was meant to capture the conference's main political messages.

Saturday, 21 November 2026: A Tense Overtime and a Missing Draft

What was expected: Following the suspension of Friday's closing plenary, Saturday was expected to deliver a revised third draft of the cover decision by the morning. The Presidency had promised a text that could bridge the gap between the EU and Panama (who demanded fossil fuel language) and Saudi Arabia and the Arab Group (who fiercely resisted it). A final plenary was expected to gavel the deal through.

What actually happened: The day became a tense waiting game. The promised third draft failed to materialise by late afternoon, leaving negotiators in limbo as venue work crews began boxing up equipment. Reports indicated that the EU had gathered the backing of 130 countries to push for fossil fuel language. The day ended with COP31 President Murat Kurum announcing that a new draft would be delivered "shortly," pushing the final plenary to Sunday morning.



Civil Society: "The Global South is Being Abandoned"

A coalition of 100 civil society and environmental organisations–including 350.org, **Climate Action Network (CAN), Greenpeace International, and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**–wrote a scathing open letter to the COP31 joint presidents. They warned the summit was hours away from becoming "one of the most disappointing Cops the UNFCCC has ever had." The letter stated: "The Global South is being abandoned," accusing developed countries of having "blocked progress across the negotiations and arrived with no new finance commitments." The coalition described the draft text as "a gift to the fossil fuel industry," noting that "the major cause of the climate crisis - coal, oil and gas - fails to rate a mention."

Private Sector: A Last-Minute Push for Certainty

More than 120 companies, investors, and business groups–organized by the **We Mean Business Coalition**–issued a joint statement urging governments to deliver a strong signal on electrification. Signatories included **Siemens, BNP Paribas, Nestlé, Unilever, Volvo Cars, Iberdrola, and Fortescue.** They warned that they needed **greater regulatory certainty and a clear political signal** to unlock strategic investments, and expressed concern that the draft's 35x35 target did not explicitly require the electricity to come from renewable sources.

Key Quote from the Private Sector:

"Electrification is an economic priority, and business needs certainty to invest. COP31 must deliver the strongest possible signal to accelerate electrification."

- **Andrew Prag, Managing Director for Policy at the We Mean Business Coalition**





Why This Matters for Youth



The delay and deadlock left young people in a perilous limbo. While the private sector clamoured for a clear signal to invest in clean energy, the failure of governments to provide it meant the transition was being stalled. Without a mandate to phase out fossil fuels and without new finance commitments, the next generation was inheriting a process that prioritised the profits of the fossil fuel industry over their survival.



Sunday, 22 November 2026: The Gavel Falls on a Failed Deal



What was expected: A final plenary was scheduled for 9:00 AM to present the third draft of the Antalya Pact. It was expected that Parties would either reach a last-minute compromise on fossil fuel language and adaptation finance, or the Presidency would force a gavelling to adopt the text and close the summit.

What actually happened: The COP31 process officially collapsed. After more than two weeks of negotiations that spilled into nearly 44 hours of overtime–making it the longest COP on record–the summit ended without the adoption of the Antalya Pact.

❌ Is There an Outcome Document?

No. For the first time since the Copenhagen summit in 2009, a COP failed to adopt a final consensus document. **COP31 President Murat Kurum** acknowledged that consensus was impossible: "There is nothing to do, we did all that we could. Since there are 196 countries, they will make the decision and we will respect their decision." He confirmed he would not advance any new text and later left the stage while country representatives were still delivering their speeches.



The deal collapsed over two fundamental divides:

1. **Fossil Fuels:** The final text made no mention of fossil fuels. The **EU** formally rejected it on these grounds. Ireland's Climate Minister, **Darragh O'Brien**, stated: "It is unconscionable that we would have a climate act that makes no reference to fossil fuels, no reference to transitioning away from fossil fuels."
2. **Finance:** The text lacked a concrete baseline or binding dollar figure for adaptation finance, leading developing countries to accuse wealthy nations of refusing to put real money on the table.

The Failed Antalya Pact

The final draft of the pact reaffirmed the 1.5°C temperature goal and called for deep, rapid, and sustained emissions reductions. It also set an ambition to increase electricity's share of global final energy consumption to **35% by 2035** and to scale up carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS) to gigatonne levels.

Crucially, however, **it stopped short of explicitly recognising the need to transition away from fossil fuels.** It merely reiterated the COP28 UAE consensus, which called for a "just, orderly and equitable" transition away from fossil fuels without outlining a new roadmap. It was this omission that led the EU, Panama, and others to reject the text, triggering the collapse of the summit. Because it was never adopted, the Antalya Pact has no formal standing.

Civil Society: "No Agreement is Better Than a Bad Agreement"

Civil society organisations effectively celebrated the failure, having pushed hard against the text. **Savio Carvalho** of 350.org stated: "We averted a truly bad outcome because many countries stood up to the fossil fuel industry and rejected dangerous distractions. But we still left COP31 without a clear plan to exit coal, oil, and gas." **Tasneem Essop of Climate Action Network (CAN International)** called on governments to reject the final draft, stating that it "betrays vulnerable populations." **Jasper Inventor of Greenpeace** summed up the sentiment: "It is better not to have an agreement than to sign an agreement with the fossil fuel industry."



Savio Carvalho, Managing Director, Campaigns & Networks, 350.org speaks to the media during the first overtime day of the COP31


Ben Backwell, CEO of the Global Wind Energy Council

Private Sector: A Shift to Voluntary Action

While the private sector had pushed hard for a clear political signal on electrification, the failure to reach a consensus deal was met with a pragmatic shift. Reporting indicated that **private sector and subnational actors–including over 250 businesses and 37 cities–may take on a greater role in driving climate action through voluntary initiatives,** shifting focus from government consensus to direct implementation. **Ben Backwell, CEO of the Global Wind Energy Council,** stated: *"Decisive action today will ensure the private sector has the confidence to invest and deliver a secure, affordable, clean and electrified energy system for everyone, for decades to come."*





Why This Matters for Youth

The total collapse of the COP31 political process is a profound generational failure. The refusal of wealthy nations to commit to a fossil fuel phase-out and to provide adequate, grant-based adaptation finance means that young people in the Global South are left to inherit a world of accelerating climate impacts with even fewer resources to adapt. While the private sector shifts to voluntary action, the failure of governments to deliver a binding outcome means there is no accountability mechanism to hold polluters to account.