

2026 UNFCCC CLIMATE WEEK 4 | BAKU, AZERBAIJAN | 7-11 SEPTEMBER 2026
IMPLEMENTATION FORUM

IMPLEMENTATION LAB - Building the Market: How Governments Are Using Their Public Spending to Decarbonize Construction Materials and Heavy Industries

Date: *Wednesday, 9 September* | Time: *15:30-17:00* | Room: *Room A2, Baku Convention Center*
Version: *20 August 2026*

Background, Objectives and Outcomes

Public procurement is one of the strongest tools governments have to shape markets. Every year, governments buy large volumes of some of the heaviest-emitting industrial materials – cement, concrete, steel and other construction materials – necessary for building and maintaining critical public infrastructure. This spending can help create demand for low-carbon industrial products and support the transition to cleaner, more competitive heavy industries.

This Implementation Lab puts a spotlight on scaling demand for green industrialization, a key priority of the COP31 presidency as it prepares to launch the Global Green Industrialization Agenda (GGIA). The conversation focuses on the “Market Creation” thematic area and primarily connects Plans to Accelerate Solutions across two different Axes of the Climate Action Agenda launched at COP30 and showcases evidence of implementation ahead of COP31:

- Under Axis 6, AG22: *Climate-integrated Public Procurement* and the PAS: *Harnessing Public Procurement in High-Impact Sectors to Drive Climate Action and a Just Transition*; anchored by the *Belém Declaration on Sustainable Public Procurement*
- Under Axis 1, AG2: *Accelerating zero and low emission technologies in hard-to-abate sectors* and the following PAS: *Green Industry Support for EMDE's*; *Green Industrial Hubs/Corridors*; *Cement and Concrete*; and *Steel*; anchored by the *Belém Declaration on Global Green Industrialization*

This work furthers other priorities of the COP31 Action Agenda including clean energy transition, circular economy approaches, sustainable cities, and financial and institutional mechanisms for climate action.

The Lab addresses key interconnection required for implementation between these two workplans: governments want to buy low-carbon cement, concrete, and steel for public infrastructure, and producers are beginning to supply them – but the market signal between buyer and seller remains weak, fragmented, and poorly financed to achieve the scale required. The Lab will bring together government procurement authorities, producers, industry associations, multilateral development banks, standards bodies and technical partners to review the bottlenecks preventing implementation and identify solutions that are already being deployed. The conversation welcomes participation from non-Party stakeholders who can bring the capacity building tools, technologies and partners that can support governments and industry.

The aim is to match practical barriers with solutions being implemented that enable low-carbon public procurement to move from policy to implementation. The Lab will also highlight solutions already being used by governments, standards bodies and industry partners, and build alignment on tracking impact metrics for GPP so all stakeholders can account for progress in implementation. The Lab will close with a concise, validated list of the top implementation bottlenecks, actionable steps and indicators, some of

which could be submitted to the Granary of Solutions and carried directly into COP31 Action Agenda preparation. This list of bottlenecks, actionable steps and impact metrics will directly inform the formalization of the Thematic Areas and Work Programme for the GGIA.

Agenda

Time	Segment
15:30-15:50 (20 min)	1. Context-Setting Introductory remarks from co-leads of AG2 and AG22 outlining the role of public procurement as one of the strongest tools governments have to shape markets for low-carbon cement, concrete, steel and other construction materials for public infrastructure. Framed within the five thematic areas of the GGIA, speakers will demonstrate the opportunity to move from policy to implementation and show how government spending can help create demand for low-carbon industrial products and support the funding and build-out of green industrialization.
15:50-16:45 (55 min)	2. Problem-Solution Exchange Update from the conveners of the GGIA on the five thematic areas for green industrialization, focusing this conversation on furthering dialogue and identifying solutions to drive implementation on the “Market Creation” theme, in alignment with the cross-cutting themes of Finance, Policy Development, Technology & Innovation, Skills and Just Transition. Facilitation of a structured problem-solution exchange: a facilitator names a real implementation barrier that is common to many governments, and invites governments and stakeholders to share concrete implementation solutions addressing that concern from their own experience. Multiple governments and NPS will be invited to present potential solutions to the same common challenge to begin to identify common themes and approaches. Each government is invited to end their remarks with the next challenge they are facing as they expand implementation, thus creating a cascading problem-solution exchange.
16:45-17:00 (15 min)	3. Summary of pathways to implementation A facilitated collaborative brainstorm to highlight examples shared and lessons learned in scaling and implementing green public procurement policies to drive demand for low-carbon cement, concrete and steel for public infrastructure. Organizers will compile inputs into a concise, validated list of the top implementation bottlenecks, actionable steps and impact indicators to inform the development of the GGIA’s work programme for COP31.

Organizers and Supporting Organizations

Action Agenda Co-organizers

- Axis 1, AG2: Accelerating zero and low emission technologies in hard-to-abate sectors
 - PAS on Green Industry Support for EMDE’s
 - PAS on Green Industrial Hubs/Corridors
 - PAS on Cement and Concrete
 - PAS on Steel
- Axis 6, AG22: Climate-integrated Public Procurement
 - PAS on Harnessing public procurement in high-impact sectors to drive climate action and a just transition

- PAS on GHG Reporting and MRV Harmonization (AG23)

This directly unlocks global momentum towards the Global Green Industrialization Agenda (GGIA) and scaling-up of green construction materials for public infrastructure construction.

Leading organizers

- United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)'s 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) and One Planet Network's Sustainable Public Procurement Programme (SPP)
- Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM)'s Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI), hosted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in partnership with the Net Zero Partnership for Industrial Decarbonization (NZP-ID) and Global Green Industrialization Agenda (GGIA)
- Federal Government of Brazil's Ministry of Management and Innovation in Public Services (Brazil-MGI)

Supporting partners, organizations and initiatives

- UNIDO's Net Zero Partnership for Industrial Decarbonization, The Climate Club's Global Matchmaking Platform, Breakthrough Agenda, Mission Possible Partnership, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) Working Group on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)