

# Concept Note

## COP31 Presidency event on Decarbonization of the Building Sector “From Targets to Implementation: Accelerating Climate-Positive Buildings through Global Cooperation”

**Date and time:** 10 September 2026, from 11 am to 12 pm

**Venue:** Azerbaijan Climate Week, Baku, Azerbaijan

**Organized by:** COP31 Presidency of Türkiye

**Format:** High-Level Panel Discussion

### Background

The buildings sector is central to the global transition towards a climate-neutral, resilient and energy-efficient future. Buildings account for a significant share of global energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, while rapidly growing building stocks, increasing cooling demand and urbanisation are expected to further increase pressure on energy systems.

According to the [UNEP Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction 2025-2026](#), buildings and construction account for around 37 per cent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and nearly 50 per cent of global material extraction. With half of the buildings that will exist in 2050 still to be built or renovated, decisions taken now will shape emissions, energy use, resilience, affordability and quality of life for generations. The report also finds that investment in building energy efficiency must more than double to align the sector with a 2050 net-zero pathway.

Under its Action Agenda, the COP31 Presidency of Türkiye is working with international partners to strengthen global cooperation on buildings and move the sector from commitments towards measurable implementation. A key element of this work is the proposed **Antalya Compact for Climate-Positive Buildings**, which aims to provide a common framework bringing together measurable global ambition, country-led implementation, international cooperation and practical delivery mechanisms. The Compact is being developed in cooperation with the [Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction \(GlobalABC\)](#) and the [Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate \(ICBC\)](#), the intergovernmental platform established under the Declaration de Chaillot. The Second ICBC Ministerial Meeting, to be convened during COP31 in Antalya, is expected to consider and endorse the Antalya Compact and strengthen collective implementation of its 2035 target.

### About the Antalya Compact for Climate-Positive Buildings

The COP31 Presidency proposed global target is to:

**Reduce energy intensity in buildings by at least 25% by 2035, compared with a 2025 baseline.**

The target would serve as one of the key measurable milestones towards the broader vision of **Climate-Positive Buildings**, while recognising different national circumstances, building stocks, climatic conditions and development priorities.

The Compact is intended to go beyond setting a target. It would provide an umbrella for countries and partners to accelerate implementation through policies and building energy codes, renovation strategies, financing mechanisms, electrification, efficient cooling, renewable energy integration, whole-life carbon approaches, capacity building and international cooperation.

To complement this implementation framework, the COP31 Presidency launched in cooperation with the GlobalABC [the International Sustainable Buildings Competition](#). In 2026, the Competition with its award ceremony to take place at COP31, will recognize and showcase projects and solutions that demonstrate how the objectives of the Compact can be translated into practical action. Based on the experience of the 2026 Competition, it could be scaled up into a recurring mechanism of demonstrating progress of Antalya Compact implementation.

## Objective of the High-Level Panel Discussion

This High-Level Panel Discussion is organized by the COP31 Presidency of Türkiye/Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Türkiye with the support of the secretariat of the GlobalABC/ICBC.

The Panel will bring together representatives from governments and international partners to discuss how global ambition on buildings can be translated into practical national actions.

In particular, the discussion will explore how countries can contribute to and benefit from the emerging **Antalya Compact for Climate-Positive Buildings**, including the proposed **25% reduction in buildings energy intensity by 2035**, and how successful national policies and projects can be identified, recognised and scaled through the proposed buildings competition.

The Panel will also provide an opportunity for participating countries to share their national experiences, priorities and challenges related to improving the energy performance of buildings.

## Key Discussion Areas

The discussion will focus on four interconnected areas:

### 1. A Common Global Target for Buildings

How can the proposed target of reducing buildings energy intensity by at least 25% by 2035 provide a clear global direction while allowing countries to follow different national pathways?

Participants will be invited to reflect on national targets, building energy performance policies and the enabling conditions required to accelerate progress. The exchange will reflect the fact that progress can be achieved through different, nationally and locally appropriate pathways, and will showcase the value of a diverse range of policy, technology, finance and delivery options.

### 2. Antalya Compact for Climate-Positive Buildings

How can the Antalya Compact become an effective framework for translating global ambition into country-led implementation?

The discussion will explore possible implementation areas including:

- building energy codes and standards;
- renovation of existing buildings;
- electrification and renewable energy integration;
- sustainable cooling and heat resilience;
- whole-life carbon approaches;
- financing and investment;
- data, monitoring and capacity building.

### 3. From National Experience to Global Implementation

Participating countries will share concrete examples of policies, programmes or projects that could contribute to the objectives of the Compact.

Particular attention will be given to approaches that can be replicated or adapted in countries with different economic, climatic and institutional circumstances.

### 4. The COP31 International Sustainable Buildings Competition: Recognising and Scaling Solutions

The [COP31 International Sustainable Buildings Competition](#), led by UNEP-hosted Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, in partnership with the COP31 Presidency of Türkiye, brings together governments, industry leaders, and practitioners to showcase and accelerate best practices across the entire building lifecycle.

The discussion will explore how the competition can help showcase and scale successful solutions towards the Antalya Compact's 2035 target.

### Guiding Questions to the High-Level Panel

Panellists may be invited to address the following questions:

1. What are the main policies and programmes currently being implemented in your country to improve buildings energy performance?
2. What would be required for countries to accelerate progress towards a global ambition of **reducing buildings energy intensity by at least 25% by 2035**?
3. How could the **Antalya Compact for Climate-Positive Buildings** support national implementation while respecting different national circumstances?
4. Which implementation areas — such as building codes, renovation, electrification, cooling, finance or whole-life carbon — should receive particular attention under the Compact?
5. What financing mechanisms and investment approaches could help countries scale up building energy efficiency and accelerate implementation towards the 2035 target?
6. What successful policy, programme or project from your country could be showcased internationally and potentially replicated elsewhere?
7. How could a global buildings competition and recognition platform help accelerate implementation and encourage countries, cities and the private sector to take further action?
8. How can the buildings and construction sector - including developers, investors, financial institutions, manufacturers and building owners - be meaningfully engaged in delivering the 2035 target?

## Expected Outcomes

The High-level Panel is expected to:

- build political and technical understanding around the proposed **25% by 2035 buildings energy-intensity target**;
- gather country perspectives on the emerging **Antalya Compact for Climate-Positive Buildings**;
- identify practical implementation priorities and country-level solutions;
- showcase examples that could contribute to the COP31 Presidency/GlobalABC sustainable **buildings competition**;
- strengthen cooperation among participating governments and international partners ahead of COP31; and
- contribute to the development of a stronger global implementation agenda for climate-positive buildings.

## Proposed Panel Structure

### Opening Remarks – COP31 Presidency

Introduction to the COP31 Action Agenda approach for buildings, the Climate-Positive Buildings vision, the proposed 2035 target and the Antalya Compact.

### Setting the Scene

Short technical intervention presenting the global buildings landscape and the rationale behind accelerating buildings energy-efficiency improvements.

### Country Perspectives

Representatives from participating countries present national experiences, priorities and flagship actions. **A representative of the Turkic Investment Fund could be invited to provide an investment and financing perspective.**

### Moderated Discussion

Discussion on the Antalya Compact, the 2035 target, implementation mechanisms and the role of the COP31 Presidency/GlobalABC sustainable buildings competition.

### Closing – COP31 Presidency

Summary of key messages and explanation of how the outcomes of the discussion will feed into the COP31 buildings workstream.

## Key Message

**COP31 aims to move the global buildings agenda from ambition to implementation. The proposed 25% by 2035 target provides a measurable direction; the Antalya Compact provides the cooperation and implementation framework; and the buildings competition helps identify, recognise and scale the solutions capable of delivering that ambition.**