



COP31
TÜRKİYE
ANTALYA
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COP31 PRESIDENCY
YOUTH CLIMATE
CHAMPION

COP31 PRESIDENCY YOUTH CLIMATE CHAMPION **Work Plan**

August 2026

Sally Higgins

COP31 Presidency
Youth Climate Champion





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The Presidency Youth Climate Champion

Established under the UAE Consensus at COP28 through Decision 16/CP.28, the role of the Presidency Youth Climate Champion (PYCC) aims to enhance and encourage the inclusive participation of children and youth in UNFCCC processes by leveraging the unique position of each COP Presidency.

The PYCC performs their role in consultation and collaboration with YOUNGO (the official Children and Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC), and youth within all other non-governmental organisation constituencies of the UNFCCC.

The PYCC has four areas of focus:

Enhance the inclusion, participation and representation of children and youth in climate policy and action through advocacy and awareness-raising.

Empower young people to usefully contribute to decision-making on climate through capacity-building and education opportunities.

Elevate and amplify the voices of children and youth on climate policy within the COP Presidency, UNFCCC process and beyond.

Catalyse action by leveraging the COP to advance, resource and monitor youth-led climate action.





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A note on the year ahead:

As the world moves from climate ambition to delivery, children and young people are critical to the task ahead.

More than half of the world's population is under 35. No climate strategy can succeed without the talent, energy, ingenuity and leadership of this generation. The transition ahead demands new ideas, new partnerships and collective effort at unprecedented scale. The opportunity is clear: mobilise young people and accelerate progress. Fail to do so and the world leaves enormous human potential untapped.



COP31 provides a unique opportunity to unlock that potential at a global scale.

The joint COP31 Presidency across Türkiye, Australia and the Pacific represents a significant moment of global cooperation for climate action. It brings together countries, cultures and communities connected by a shared determination to build a more resilient future. It also creates a powerful platform to connect and mobilise young people globally around a common purpose: turning climate ambition into climate delivery.

This workplan is an invitation to work together and mobilise the talent, leadership and creativity of children and young people in service of climate action.

It has been shaped by consultations with children and young people across the world and builds on the momentum created by the COP30 Presidency Youth Climate Champion team. Young people shared a clear message: they want more than a seat at the table. They want to be trusted and resourced as partners in delivery. This workplan reflects that ambition. It is focused on connecting young people with the relationships, opportunities and support needed to increase their impact.

Join me in unlocking one of the greatest opportunities to accelerate climate action: the potential of our children and young people.

Sally Higgins

COP31 Presidency Youth Climate Champion

The COP31 Commitment to Children and young people

COP31 President-Designate

Young people carry no blame for climate change, yet they are the ones whose entire lives will be affected, from extreme heat and more violent weather to disrupted agriculture and higher food prices. For too long, their voices have gone unheard. I believe in the transformative power of young people in Türkiye and around the world. That is why this year, the COP31 Presidency has announced an ambitious new goal to ensure climate action education for all by 2035. COP31 is an opportunity to ensure children and young people have the tools and support they need to take forward our fight against the climate crisis.



H.E. Murat Kurum

COP31 President-Designate, Republic of Türkiye

COP31 President of Negotiations

COP31 is about delivery, turning ambition into real action and outcomes. The decisions we make today will shape the economic and industrial opportunities available to young people tomorrow – particularly for the world's farmers and regional communities. This workplan sets out an ambitious but practical approach to ensuring young people are part of that effort, creating opportunities in Australia, the Pacific and around the world.

By strengthening connections between young people and decision-making, we will deliver more durable and effective climate outcomes. I support its focus on action and partnership, including with the Pacific, while embedding youth perspectives across COP31.



The Hon. Chris Bowen

President COP31 Negotiations, Australia

Vision

Children and young people are valued as climate action leaders, innovators and implementation partners.

1

Enable young people to meaningfully shape international climate decision making.

- Support child- and youth-led participation and engagement spaces at COP31 to strengthen youth influence, including the Global Youth Statement process and other initiatives led by YOUNGO.
- Embed children and young people across COP31 Presidency events, initiatives and priorities to ensure their perspectives shape delivery and decision-making.
- Help reduce barriers to participation in international climate spaces, particularly for Indigenous and Pacific youth, to broaden access and representation.

2

Support platforms, networks, and access to opportunities that help scale youth-led climate solutions.

- Connect and support youth-led innovation with relevant programs under the COP31 and COP32 Action Agenda to accelerate the scale and impact of youth-led solutions.
- Leverage existing and emerging platforms to identify and profile youth-led innovations in food and agriculture
- Connect young farmers and innovators with policy-makers, funders and other key decision-makers to inform climate action.

3

Strengthen the capability of a diverse pipeline of trusted, young, community leaders to support climate action and adaptation.

- Support young people with training, mentoring and peer learning to build the knowledge, skills and agency needed to contribute to climate policy, adaptation planning and real-world delivery.
- Support trusted young community leaders (including but not limited to educators, fishers, farmers, and Indigenous leaders) to champion climate adaptation and resilience within their communities.

4

Elevate rural, Indigenous and Pacific youth leadership in climate action to influence global narratives, policy and decision-making.

- Create and support existing platforms for under-represented youth voices in international climate spaces.
- Leverage social and traditional media to amplify climate action stories from young farmers, fishers, cultural practitioners and innovators to strengthen public trust and inspire broader participation in climate action.
- Support child- and youth-led storytelling and communications to strengthen public understanding of climate impacts and solutions.



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How to work with the COP31 PYCC

There are a number of ways to **engage** with and **support** the work of the Presidency Youth Climate Champion, including through funding partnerships and collaborations.

I welcome opportunities to work with **organisations, institutions, and individuals** who are **committed** to **strengthening the leadership of children and young people** and delivering practical, inclusive **climate action** across Australia, the Pacific, and globally.

Contact

Email: pycc@unfccc.int for international enquiries or cop31youthchampion@dcceew.gov.au for Australian and Pacific enquiries.

Connect

Stay engaged and follow the work.

LinkedIn: [@sally-higgins](#)

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