



Subject:“From Baku to Antalya: Circular Economy as a Driver of Climate Action and Implementation” Side Event; Baku Climate Week, 10 September 2026 (11:00-12:00)

1. Background and Rationale

The transition towards a circular economy is increasingly recognized as an essential component of climate action, as resource extraction, production, consumption and waste management are closely interconnected with greenhouse gas emissions, resource security and resilience.

The outcomes of recent Conferences of the Parties have further strengthened the need to translate global climate commitments into concrete policies, investments and actions across the real economy. In this context, circular economy approaches provide an important bridge between climate ambition and implementation by promoting resource efficiency, sustainable production and consumption, waste prevention, reuse, repair, recycling and the development of circular business models.

Azerbaijan’s COP29 Presidency marked an important step in this regard through the launch of the Baku Resource Efficiency and Circularity Agenda, which placed resource efficiency and circularity more prominently within the international climate agenda. Building on this momentum, Baku Climate Week offers a timely opportunity to reflect on the progress made since COP29 and to explore how circular economy approaches can contribute to implementation on the road to COP31.

Against this background, the side event, “From Baku to Antalya: Circular Economy as a Driver of Climate Action and Implementation”, aims to provide a platform for dialogue among governments, international organizations, development partners and the private sector.

The event will explore how the momentum generated through the Baku process can be carried forward towards Antalya, with a particular focus on transforming circular economy principles into policy measures, investment decisions, business solutions and regional cooperation.

The event is also aligned with the broader UNFCCC approach of strengthening the connection between climate outcomes under the Paris Agreement and their implementation in the real economy.

2. Objectives

The side event will aim to:

- Highlight the contribution of circular economy and resource efficiency approaches to climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience;
- Build a bridge between the circular economy agenda advanced during COP29 in Baku and the implementation agenda leading towards COP31 in Antalya;
- Exchange experiences on translating circular economy principles into legislation, national strategies, action plans and concrete implementation measures;
- Discuss the role of international norms, financial mechanisms, private-sector engagement and partnerships in accelerating the circular transition;
- Identify opportunities for stronger regional cooperation and knowledge exchange, particularly between Türkiye, Azerbaijan and international partners;



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- Explore how circular economy approaches can support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and contribute to a more resource-efficient, resilient and competitive real economy.

Moderator

- **Kay Merce**, Manager, UNFCCC — *TBC*

Keynote Speaker

- **Daniele Violetti**, Senior Director, UNFCCC — *TBC*

Panelists

- **Republic of Türkiye: Nazlı YENAL**, Expert, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye
- **Republic of Azerbaijan: Faiq Mutallimov**, Senior Adviser, Office of the Representative of the President of Azerbaijan on Climate Issues
- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Nuri Özbağdatlı**, Climate Change and Environment Portfolio Manager, UNDP Türkiye
- **SKD Türkiye: Ediz Günsel**, Chair of the Board of Directors

3. Expected Outcomes

The side event is expected to contribute to:

- Increased visibility of circular economy as an implementation pathway for climate action;
- Greater recognition of resource efficiency and circularity within the climate agenda;
- Enhanced understanding of the link between the Baku Resource Efficiency and Circularity Agenda and the road towards COP31 Antalya;
- Identification of practical opportunities for policy, investment, business and international cooperation;
- Strengthened dialogue among governments, international organizations, development partners and the private sector;
- Encouragement of further knowledge sharing and partnerships on circular economy and resource efficiency.

The event may also provide an opportunity to identify areas of common interest that could be further developed in the context of COP31 Antalya and its Action Agenda, particularly with regard to implementation, partnerships, knowledge exchange and voluntary cooperation.