Leaders' Roundtable

Clean Cooking in Africa

12 November 2026, 14:30 – 16:00, Leaders' Roundtable Room 3 (Topkapı)

1. Overview and Context

Nearly one billion people in Africa continue to rely on polluting fuels and traditional cooking methods. Limited access to clean cooking has significant implications for public health, the environment and sustainable development, with women and children disproportionately affected. Time spent collecting fuel and preparing meals can also restrict opportunities for education and economic participation.

Clean cooking solutions are relevant not only for households but also for schools, hospitals and other public institutions. Expanding access requires enabling policies, affordable technologies, effective delivery models and sustained investment. Local enterprises, including women-led businesses, can play an important role in reaching underserved communities.

Building on growing international attention to clean cooking, COP 31 offers an opportunity to strengthen political engagement and practical cooperation under the COP 31 Action Agenda. The event will provide a leader-level platform to exchange experiences, consider implementation needs and support progress towards wider access to clean cooking across Africa.

2. Purpose and Objectives

The Roundtable aims to reinforce high-level support for expanding access to clean cooking in Africa and encourage practical cooperation, taking account of national priorities and circumstances.

Its objectives are to:

- Highlight the health, social, economic and environmental benefits of clean cooking, including for women and children.
- Share approaches to expanding clean cooking in households, schools, hospitals and other institutions.
- Explore opportunities to support local enterprises, including women-led businesses, through access to finance, technology and markets. Encourage cooperation among governments, development partners, financial institutions and the private sector.

3. Participation Level and Invited Participants

Heads of State and Government, senior representatives of relevant international and regional organisations, development banks and financial institutions, and private-sector representatives, entrepreneurs, civil society and organisations engaged in clean cooking access and delivery.

4. Session Overview and Format

The Roundtable will combine high-level remarks with a moderated dialogue on priorities and practical pathways for expanding access to clean cooking.

- **Opening**
- **Leaders' Segment:** Participating leaders and senior representatives will exchange views on women's leadership, clean cooking in public institutions, support for local enterprises and the enabling role of finance and partnerships.
- **Closing:** Summary of key messages and potential areas for continued cooperation by the co-organisers, including opportunities for policy exchange, partnerships, finance and implementation support, and continued engagement in the lead-up to the second Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa in January 2027.

5. Guiding Questions

Participants are invited to structure their interventions around the following guiding questions:

- Which policies and delivery approaches have been most effective in expanding access to affordable clean cooking solutions, including in public institutions?
- How can finance, technology and partnerships better support local enterprises and reach underserved communities?
- What forms of international cooperation could help sustain progress beyond COP 31 and support future clean cooking efforts?

6. Logistical Details

Hosts / Organizers:	COP 31 Presidency of Türkiye, United Republic of Tanzania, International Energy Agency (IEA), Clean Cooking Alliance
Date and time:	12 November 2026, 14:30–16:00
Venue:	Leaders' Roundtable Room 3 (Topkapı), COP 31 Antalya
Format:	Leaders' Roundtable (90 minutes)