



Observer Handbook for COP 31

9–20 November 2026
Antalya, Türkiye

WELCOME!

Is this your first COP? Are you a seasoned observer?

This UNFCCC handbook* has been prepared to assist those observers attending a UNFCCC session for the first time. It is also useful for seasoned observers as the handbook has key information to follow COP 31. In the following pages, you will find some pointers on how to participate effectively and contribute to the UNFCCC process.

We hope this handbook will help you – before and during the UNFCCC session – and we wish you a fruitful and productive conference.

Observer Relations Team

*This observer handbook is a living document and will be updated as needed.



CODE OF CONDUCT

The organizations of the United Nations system are committed to enabling events at which everyone can participate in an **inclusive, respectful and safe environment**. UNFCCC events are guided by the highest ethical and professional standards, and all participants are expected to behave with integrity and respect towards all participants involved with any UNFCCC event.

The Code of Conduct applies to all participants at UNFCCC events.

The Code of Conduct applies to any UNFCCC event, and any other forum organized, hosted or sponsored in whole or part by the UNFCCC wherever it takes place, and any event or gathering that takes place on UNFCCC premises.

**The heads of delegations are to ensure compliance of the UNFCCC Code of Conduct and UN guidelines for participation by all representatives of their organizations.
Possible consequences of infractions are listed in the Code of Conduct.**

Please see the Code of Conduct here:



CONTENTS

COP 31 AT A GLANCE

- [Key Information](#)
- [Engagement Overview](#)

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

- [UNFCCC Objective](#)
- [What are COPs?](#)
- [Key Outcomes from COP30](#)
- [Agenda Items at COP 31](#)
- [UNFCCC Process Explained](#)
- [Negotiation Context](#)

ACCESS AND LOGISTICS

- [Registration and Access](#)
- [Logistics](#)
- [Venue Map](#)

[CODE OF CONDUCT](#)

OBSERVER ROLES

- [Who are Observers?](#)
- [NGO Constituencies](#)

ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS

- [Stay up to Date](#)
- [Engagement Opportunities](#)
- [Negotiation Documents](#)
- [Access to Negotiation Meetings](#)
- [Negotiation Meeting Rooms and Seating](#)
- [Interventions in Negotiations](#)
- [Side Events](#)
- [Advocacy Actions](#)
- [Engaging Beyond COP 31](#)

[FAQ](#)

COP 31 AT A GLANCE

Key Information



KEY DETAILS

- **Dates:** Monday, 9 November to Friday, 20 November 2026
- **Venue:** Antalya EXPO Center, Antalya, Türkiye

REGISTRATION AND ACCESS



- All participants must be registered through the **Online Registration System (ORS)**.
- Bring a **valid photo ID** to collect your badge
- Only one badge per person; badges **must be visible** at all times
 - For more information on registration, **click here**.

KEY LOGISTICS



- Venue map, catering, transport, and more
 - For more information on logistics, **click here**.

OBSERVER ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



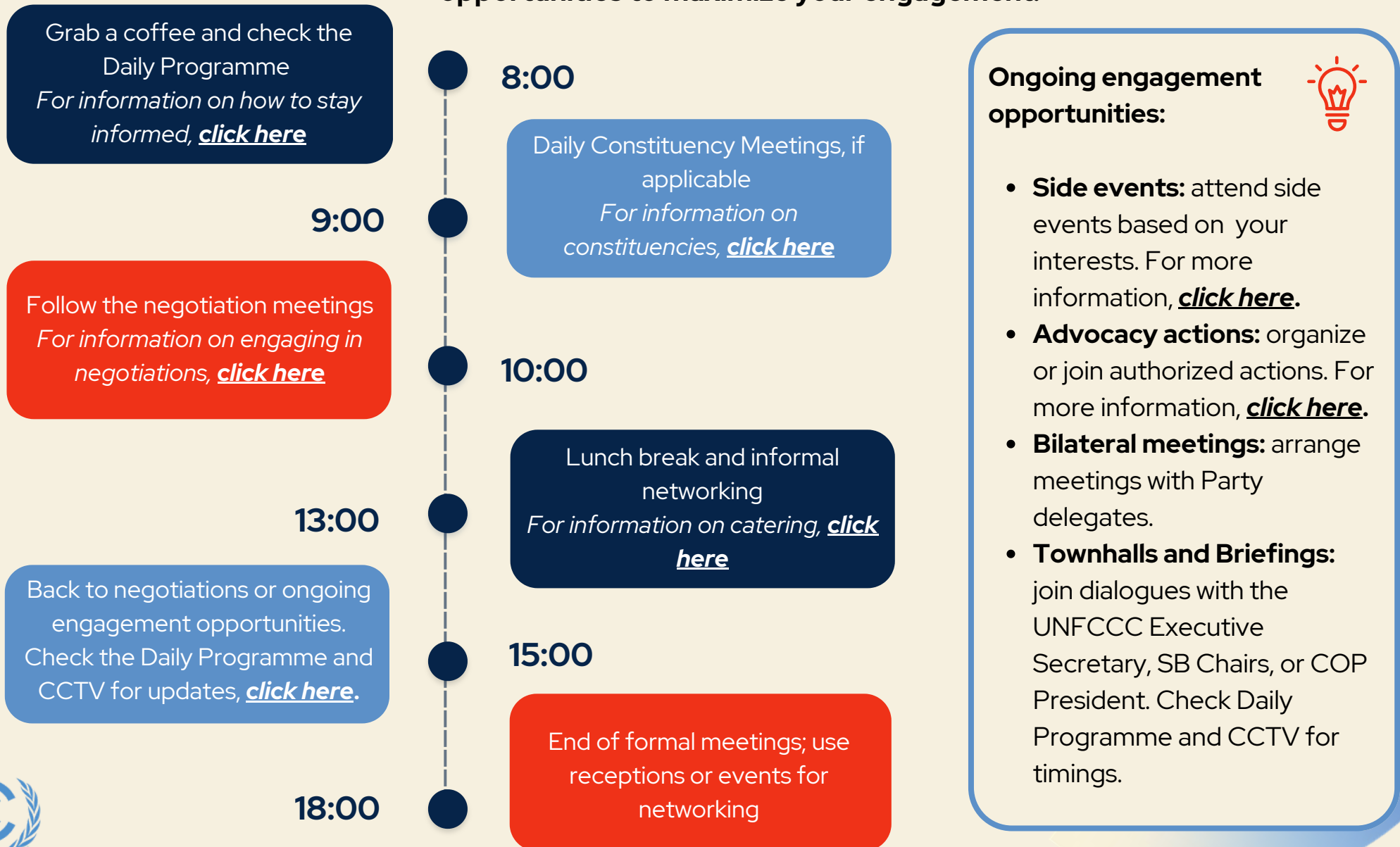
- Attend open **negotiations**, including Contact Groups
- Join **constituency coordination** meetings
- Participate in **side events and authorized advocacy actions**
 - For more information on engagement opportunities, **click here**.



COP 31 AT A GLANCE

Engagement Overview

A typical day at COP 31 may look like this, but stay flexible! Use ongoing opportunities to maximize your engagement.



UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

UNFCCC Objective

The objective of the UNFCCC is to **“stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”**.

It states that "such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow **ecosystems** to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that **food production** is not threatened, and to **enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner**."

In pursuit of this objective, the UNFCCC establishes a framework with:

- broad principles,
- general obligations,
- basic institutional arrangements, and
- an intergovernmental process for agreeing to specific actions over time (including through collective decisions by the Conference of the Parties, as well as other international legal instruments with more specific obligations – such as the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement).



UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

What are COPs?



The **Conference of the Parties** (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention. All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP, at which they review the implementation of the Convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, including institutional and administrative arrangements. A key task for the COP is to review the reports submitted by Parties on their GHG emissions and climate action.

More Background on the COP

The COP meets every year, unless the Parties decide otherwise. The first COP meeting was held in Berlin, Germany in March 1995. The COP meets in Bonn, the seat of the secretariat, unless a Party offers to host the session. Just as the COP Presidency rotates among the five recognized UN regions – that is, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe and Others – there is a tendency for the venue of the COP to also shift among these groups.



Learn more: For a detailed overview of the UNFCCC process and procedures, see the [Presiding Officer's Guide to the UNFCCC Process](#).



UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

Key Outcomes from COP30

Understanding the outcomes of COP30 can provide context for the discussions at COP 31:

- **Belém Action Mechanism (BAM)**: Established under the UAE Just Transition Work Programme to strengthen international cooperation and support the implementation of just transition pathways.
- **Belém Gender Action Plan**: Adopted at COP30 to advance gender-responsive climate action under the enhanced Lima work programme on gender.
- **Mutirão for Climate Action**: Parties agreed to unite efforts to accelerate and scale up climate action, implementation and international cooperation.
- **Global Goal on Adaptation**: Parties adopted the Belém Adaptation Indicators, establishing a common framework to assess progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation.
- **Climate Finance**: COP30 advanced work on scaling up finance for developing countries, including implementation of the Baku to Belém Roadmap to USD 1.3 trillion and a new two-year climate finance work programme.

Explore the full Belém Political Package [here](#).



Source: UNFCCC Secretariat

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

Agenda Items at COP 31

The COP 31 provisional agenda covers a range of issues under the Convention, including:

- **Adaptation** – Adaptation Committee and its review
- **Loss and damage** – Warsaw International Mechanism
- **Climate finance** – long-term finance, operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and its seventh review
- **Technology development and transfer** – Technology Mechanism and CTCN
- **Capacity-building and least developed countries**
- **Response measures**
- **Long-term global goal and progress**
- **Gender and climate change**
- **Reporting and review**
- **Administrative, financial and institutional matters**

COP 31 includes several governing and subsidiary body sessions, each with its own agenda. Separate provisional agendas are available for COP 31, CMA 8, CMP 21, SBI 65 and SBSTA 65.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

UNFCCC Process Explained

The **UN CC:Learn** platform offers free, self-paced courses to help observers, delegates, and stakeholders **better understand the UNFCCC process and engage effectively in climate action**. Here are three key courses to boost your knowledge for COP 31:

1. **Introduction to Climate Change Negotiations**: This course provides a clear overview of how international climate negotiations work under the UNFCCC. You will learn about negotiation dynamics, key players, and how decisions are made. This course is perfect for anyone looking to follow or engage in sessions more confidently.
2. **Mastering International Climate Negotiations - All You Need to Know**: An interactive, engaging course designed especially for youth and newcomers. It explains the Paris Agreement, negotiation procedures, and how non-Party stakeholders, like NGOs, can make an impact. Includes real-world tips to navigate sessions effectively.
3. **A Participant Guide to the UN Climate Change Process**: This guide dives into the structure of the UNFCCC, explaining how meetings are organized, who does what, and how observers can engage meaningfully. It is a practical tool for understanding the roles, rules, and opportunities within the process.

Want to go deeper?

The **Presiding Officer's Guide to the UNFCCC Process** provides a detailed overview of the UNFCCC process, including meeting procedures, decision-making and the roles of presiding officers.



UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

How Negotiating Positions Are Developed



Throughout the year, governments develop national positions through domestic consultations. Parties may also coordinate positions through negotiating groups ahead of and during sessions.



Negotiators generally arrive at UNFCCC sessions with mandates and instructions from their governments, which can limit their flexibility on some issues.



When issues cannot be resolved at the technical level, they may be referred to higher political levels, including ministers, during COPs.



Many national negotiating positions are developed in capitals before sessions begin.



Observers can engage throughout the year, including with governments and other relevant actors, while national positions and priorities are still being developed.

ACCESS AND LOGISTICS

Registration and Access

For the most up to date information please refer to the **Information for COP 31 participants.**

REGISTRATION PROCESS

- **Who can register:** Representatives of Parties, observer States, UN entities and admitted observer organizations.
- **How to Register:** Participants must be nominated by their organization's Designated Contact Point (DCP) through the **UNFCCC Online Registration System (ORS)**.
 - **Nomination period:** 7 July 2026 – 10 August 2026, 23:59 CEST
 - **Confirmation period:** 24 August 2026 – 8 November 2026, 23:59 CET
- Each participant must register with a **unique and valid email address**.
- **Quota allocation:** The secretariat sets participation quotas for admitted observer organizations, taking into account **venue capacity, available services, safety and security, and efforts to achieve more balanced representation across regional groups and constituencies**. DCPs may request increases through the ORS Communication tab.
 - As at the closing of the nomination period on 10 August 2026, the secretariat had received **over 37,000 nominations from about 2,200 IGOs and NGOs** for participation in COP 31.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION

- Each admitted observer organization has a **quota of 10 virtual participants** for COP 31.
- Virtual participants must be registered through ORS.
- Virtual participation provides access to meetings where online participation is available.
- **On-site participants can also access the virtual platform.**
- Further information can be found **here**.

ACCESS AND LOGISTICS

Registration and Access

BADGE COLLECTION

- **Location:** Upon first arrival at the venue, participants should collect their badges at the registration desk.
- **Hours:** See the [Information for COP 31 participants](#) for registration desk opening hours.
- **Requirements:** Acknowledgment letter and valid photo ID (e.g. passport or national ID).

ACCESS AND ATTENDANCE

- **Badge Usage:** Badges are personal, non-transferable and must be worn visibly at all times within the conference premises.
- **Lost badges:** Lost badges must be reported immediately. Misuse of a conference badge, including using a badge issued to another participant, is prohibited.
- **Changes after the deadline:** From 9 November, DCPs must request changes to attendance dates through the ORS communication tab.
- **Daily Badges:** Organizations have a quota for daily attendance. DCPs can allocate attendance dates to delegates through ORS. Delegates cannot change their own attendance dates themselves.
 - **Non-consecutive days:** To request non-consecutive days for a delegate, DCPs must specify the requested dates through the ORS communication tab. Further information is available [here](#).
- **Multiple registrations** (e.g., as both an observer and media representative) are not permitted.



It is prohibited to trade or sell registration to attend a UNFCCC session, meeting or workshop.



ACCESS AND LOGISTICS

Transparency measures

To enhance transparency of participants at UNFCCC sessions, the registration process has been updated with the following new transparency measures introduced at COP 30:

- **Optional disclosure of funding source(s):** Observer and global climate action participants now have the possibility to disclose the **immediate source(s) of funding** for their participation in the UNFCCC conference, along with the **type of entity** providing the funding.
- **Optional declaration of alignment:** Observer and global climate action participants are invited to declare their participation's alignment with the **objective of the Convention** and the goals and principles of the **Kyoto Protocol** and the **Paris Agreement**.
 - Observer participants are strongly encouraged to download the acknowledgment letter, at which point they will be asked to review and confirm the declaration.
- **Additional information on home organization:** The existing field on home organization/affiliation has been updated to include a drop-down menu where participants are required to specify the type of home organization.
- Information provided in response to all transparency measures will be **included in the List of Participants (LOP)** for the UNFCCC conference.



Further information can be found [here](#).

ACCESS AND LOGISTICS

Logistical Information

For the most up to date information please refer to the [Information for COP 31 participants](#).



ACCESSIBILITY

The COP 31 venue will be accessible for those with reduced mobility needs.



ACCOMMODATION

Participants are urged to book their accommodation for their time at COP 31 as soon as possible. Additional accommodation information is available [here](#).



CATERING

Information on catering available at COP 31 is available [here](#).



INTERPRETATION SERVICES

Information on interpretation and translation services is available [here](#).



TRANSPORTATION

Participants can explore shuttle routes, stops and official hotels through the interactive transportation map available on the official COP 31 website: [COP 31 Transportation Map](#).



VISA

Information on visas, including how to apply for a COP 31 visa, is available [here](#).



ACCESS AND LOGISTICS

Logistical Information



MEETING ROOM ASSIGNMENT (MRA)

Meeting rooms may be booked by Parties and observer organizations free of charge for meetings of up to 55 minutes. Further information is available [here](#).

- **Before 9 November:** Requests must be submitted electronically through the MRA form.
- **From 9 November:** Requests must be made in person at the MRA counter.



PRESS AND MEDIA

Information for media representatives is published on [the UNFCCC Press and Media page](#) as it becomes available.



SOCIAL MEDIA AND PHOTOS

Along with live webcast, social media community tools such as [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [TikTok](#) and [YouTube](#) enable virtual engagement with COP 31.



SAFETY AND SECURITY

Information can be found [here](#).



VENUE

COP 31 will be held at the Antalya EXPO Center, Solak Alanya Yolu Serik Caddesi, Aksu – Antalya, Türkiye. The venue is accessible via Antalya Airport (international flights) and modern highways. Dedicated COP 31 shuttle services will also be arranged. More details on the venue and a venue map can be found [here](#).

ACCESS AND LOGISTICS

Access to the Venue

GREEN ZONE



Side events



Exhibits

The Green Zone has separate access arrangements. Further information can be found [here](#).

BLUE ZONE

UNFCCC badge required for entry

Access to individual meetings may depend on meeting status, room capacity and other access arrangements

Mandated events

Official Side Events and Exhibits

Presidency and special events

Media/press

Global Climate Action events

Country offices and pavilions

Negotiations

Plenaries

Contact Groups

Informals

Informal Informals

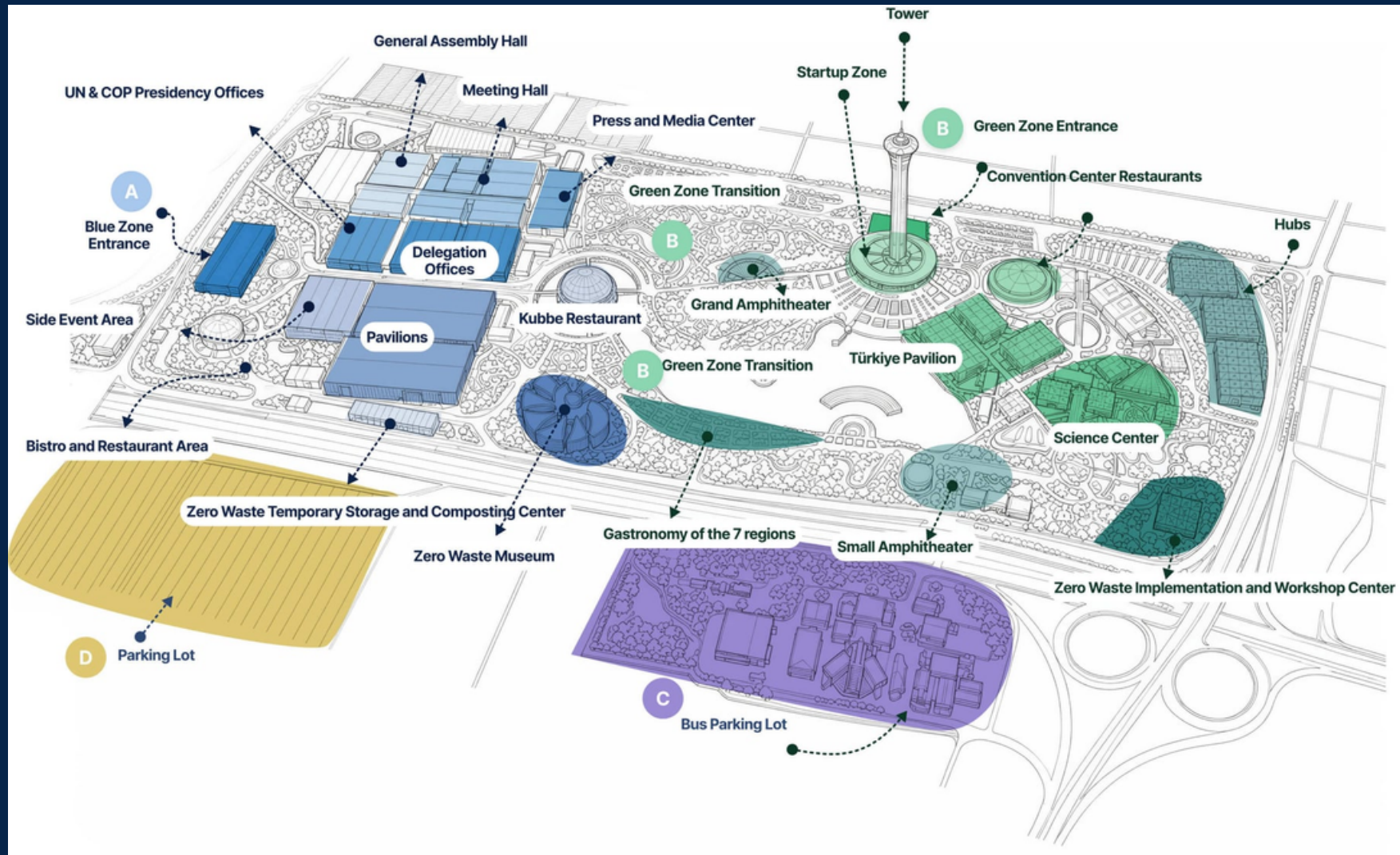
BEYOND THE VENUE

Off-site events may have separate arrangements and require registration.



ACCESS AND LOGISTICS

Blue Zone



[Further information can be found here](#)



CODE OF CONDUCT

UN meetings operate on the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness, to create an enabling environment for the participation of a diversity of voices and interests. To ensure that Parties can conduct their work and a diverse range of stakeholders can participate in the process effectively, participants are expected to adhere to a number of rules, including those set out below.

- **Code of Conduct to address harassment at UNFCCC conferences, meetings and events**
- **Reporting a complaint within the code of conduct**
- **Guidelines for the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations at meetings of the bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**
- **Use of cameras and audio/video recording devices by participants at sessions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other meetings and workshops**
- **UN Security guidelines related to media actions, distribution of publicity materials, and use of UN emblem at the UNFCCC conferences**
- **UN Administrative instruction on Authority of United Nations security officers**



CODE OF CONDUCT

Topics to be aware of

- **Badges are personal and non-transferable.** They must not be **sold, traded, transferred or used by another person.**
- Please ensure your badge is **visibly worn** at all times and comply with requests from UN staff to **verify your identity.**
- **Dispose of badges securely** to prevent misuse.
- **Harassment**, including sexual harassment, is **prohibited.** Participants are expected to treat others with respect and dignity.
- The use of **flags of Parties** is prohibited in advocacy actions.
- **Advocacy actions must not disrupt** meetings or other official activities.
- The use of the **UNFCCC logo** requires advance permission.
- Do not block the **movement of participants.**
- Please **cooperate** with the secretariat and UN Security officers.
- **Distribution of information materials** outside the designated areas, such as exhibits, is prohibited.



OBSERVER ROLES

Who are Observers?

UNFCCC PARTICIPANTS

UNFCCC sessions are not open to the public. All participants must be accredited. Participants fall into three main categories:

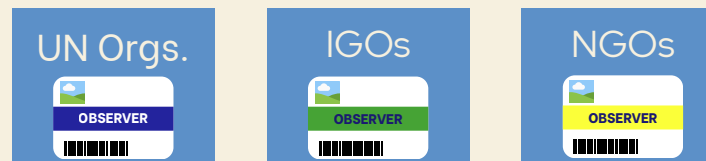
PARTIES AND OBSERVER STATES

Representatives of
Parties and observer
States



OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS

Representatives of admitted observer
organizations



PRESS AND MEDIA

Accredited press and
media representatives



Once admitted, IGOs and NGOs can nominate representatives to attend UNFCCC sessions through the **Online Registration System (ORS)**. Information on **observer admission** is available [here](#).



OBSERVER ROLES

NGO Constituencies & Coordination

The majority of admitted NGOs in the UNFCCC process are **self-organized into constituencies** – loose groupings based on shared interests. These constituencies correspond to the nine Major Groups identified in Agenda 21 and reaffirmed in the Rio+20 outcome document "***The Future We Want***." Each constituency is represented by a Constituency Focal Point (CFP), who facilitates communication with the UNFCCC secretariat. Contact details for CFPs can be found [here](#).

Business and
Industry NGOs
(BINGO)

Environmental
NGOs (ENGO)

Farmers



In addition to the nine NGO constituencies, the secretariat recognizes informal groups of admitted observer organizations focused on specific themes, such as:

- Disability Caucus,
- Faith-Based Organizations,
- Parliamentarians,
- Education and Communications NGOs.

The list of Focal Points is available [here](#).

Indigenous
Peoples
Organizations
(IPO)

Local Government
and Municipal
Authorities
(LGMA)

Research and
Independent
NGOs
(RINGO)

Trade Union NGOs
(TUNGO)

Women and
gender
Constituency
(WGC)

Children and
Youth NGOs
(YOUNGO)

OBSERVER ROLES

Business and Industry NGOs (BINGO)

Description: The Business and Industry Constituency (BINGO) represents businesses of all sizes, sectors and geographies in the UNFCCC negotiation process. The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) – as the institutional representative of 45 million companies across 170 countries – has served as the Focal Point for the BINGO Constituency since the early 90s, coordinating business participation in the process and working with its global network and a wide range of partners to ensure that climate policy frameworks are implemented in a way that works for and with business, and through policies that recognise their defining role in tackling climate change. BINGO is committed to the objectives of the Paris Agreement of limiting global warming to 1.5°C and increasing climate resilience, and contributes to advancing these objectives through initiatives such as ICC global campaign “What if we saw the climate challenge differently?”, which highlights the role of business in turning climate challenges into opportunities for innovation, investment and growth, and the enabling policy environments needed to scale these efforts.

Role: Providing a platform for the private sector to engage in technical and political aspects of the UNFCCC negotiations, contribute technical expertise and real economy insights, and facilitate exchanges with governments and other civil society groups on opportunities and challenges related to the implementation of the Convention and its Paris Agreement.

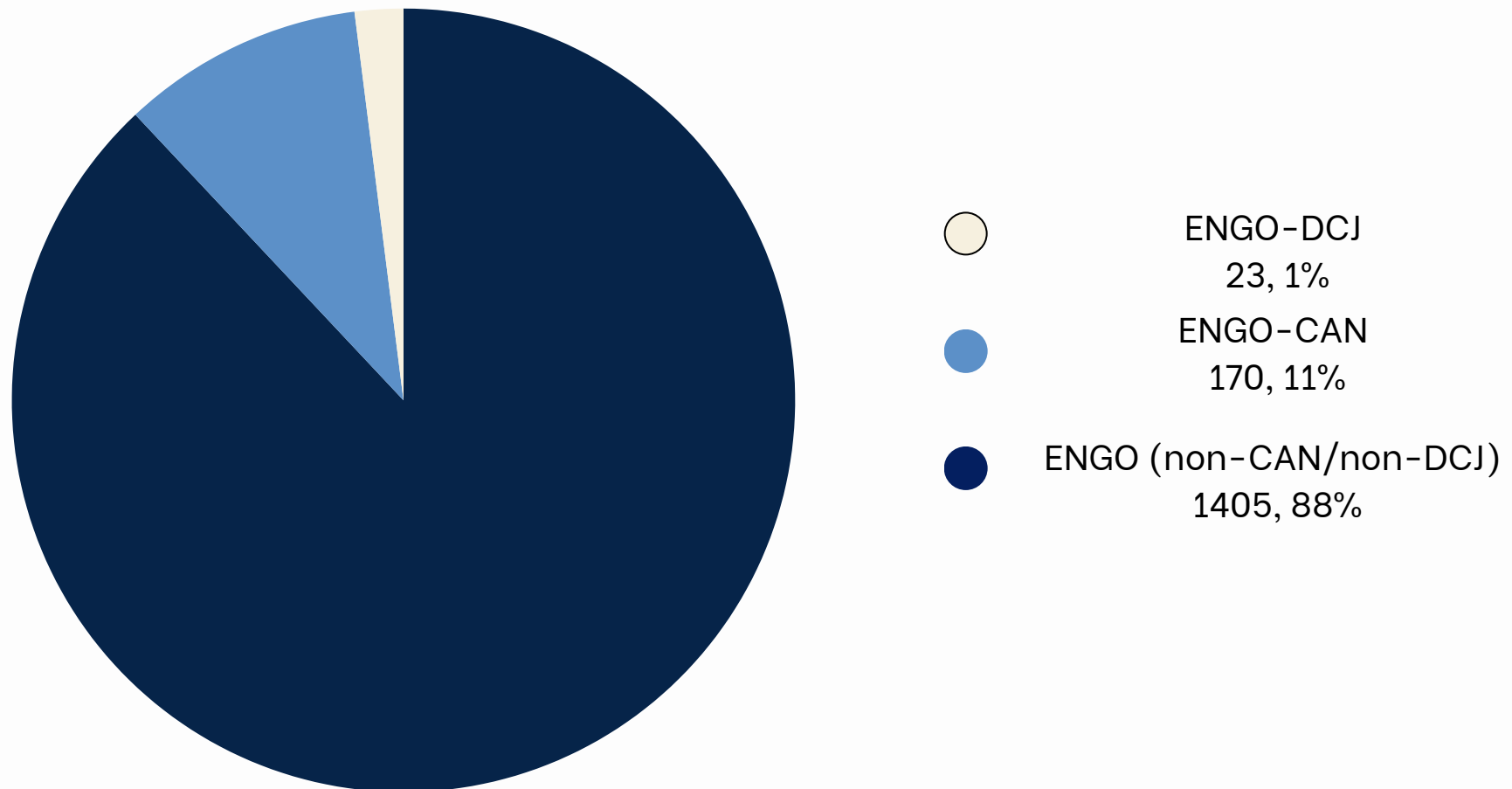
Contacts: Sandra Hanni sandra.hanni@iccwbo.org, Sophie Talarico sophie.talarico@iccwbo.org, Emma Segre emma.segre@iccwbo.org

OBSERVER ROLES

Environmental NGOs (ENGO)

ENGO, the largest Constituency, has been represented by two networks within – Climate Action Network (CAN) and Demand Climate Justice (DCJ). However, the majority of ENGO members are not covered by the two networks, as shown below.

ENGO Constituency Breakdown



OBSERVER ROLES

ENGO-CAN

Description: Climate Action Network (CAN) is a global network of non-governmental, not for profit organisations with over 2500 members across more than 140 countries, driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and achieve climate justice. CAN is a bottom-up network, convened through 25 Regional and National Nodes, International Organisations and the International Secretariat (CAN-I). CAN acts as intermediary, connecting and building its work from local to national, regional and global through sustained organising and convening its members, developing joint strategies, positions and demands that drive the network collectively to deliver impact. At global level, CAN convenes and coordinates its members in preparation for our participation at UNFCCC sessions and also during the UN climate talks. We do the same for our participation in other international fora. We collaborate and work with allies in the wider movement for climate justice in building alignment.

Role: CAN provides a platform for civil society organizations to align, collaborate and coordinate to address the climate crisis through an intersectional global struggle to realize climate justice at the international, regional, and national level that results in just, equitable and ambitious climate action. Within the UNFCCC process, CAN provides a platform for its members and works with other aligned civil society organisations working on the issue of climate justice and human rights to come together, align behind shared demands and positions and make their voices heard within the UNFCCC process. In particular, CAN actively ensures representation from the global south and brings the voice and demands of people from the ground and climate frontlines, to influence global policy, and who otherwise would not have access to these spaces. CAN was established during the time that the UNFCCC was set up and has been building its political and technical expertise since the very beginnings of the UN climate talks. As a recognized observer, CAN contributes to the democratic proceedings of the UNFCCC process through following negotiations, directly engaging with Parties, conducting extensive media work to connect the negotiations with the “outside” world, as well as advocacy actions.

Contact: Website: www.climatenetwork.org

Contacts: Jana Merkelbach, jmerkelbach@climatenetwork.org and Pooja Dave, pdave@climatenetwork.org

The insights presented on this page reflect a self-introduction from Constituencies.

OBSERVER ROLES

ENGO-DCJ

Description: The Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice (DCJ) is a global network of over 200 grassroots, national, regional and international human rights and climate justice organisations fighting together for climate justice and systems change. We are a global network grounded in the realities, challenges and struggles of the Global South and ensuring these voices are heard front and center in the global arenas. Unlike other climate movements, our positions come from and reflect the realities of the peoples and communities who are most impacted by the climate crisis, and we aim to influence the global narratives and bring substantial change to global climate policies that have a direct impact on the Global South. The Global South movement has fought very hard and for a very long time to decolonise the climate movement, and DCJ is a central leader in that. Together, we have reframed climate action to climate justice – with justice being at the forefront of a decarbonised and sustainable planet for everyone, not just privileged communities.

Role: DCJ provides a critical platform for the peoples and communities who are least responsible for the ongoing climate crisis but are most impacted by it to present their positions, lived experiences, and demands in the global climate policy spaces and the climate negotiations. DCJ is also a campaign vehicle for the groups from the global south to collectively campaign and advocate for their rights and demands both within and outside the UNFCCC

Contacts: Victor Menotti, victormenotti@gmail.com; Rachitaa Gupta, rachitaa.dcj@gmail.com

OBSERVER ROLES

Farmers

Description: The Farmers' Constituency represents farmers in all their diversity producing food and other agricultural goods, delivering ecosystem services, including healthy soils and water resources whilst making a key contribution to the worldwide climate effort. It welcomes crop and livestock farmers, horticultural growers, pastoralists, ranchers, foresters and aqua-culturists; women, youth, and indigenous farmers, farmer organisations and co-operatives, family farmers and businesses, farm workers, landowners, and tenants; as well as agricultural and other NGOs supporting farmers on the ground.

Role: The Constituency provides the platform for observer organisations working to ensure that farmers' voices are heard in the UNFCCC process and that farmers' knowledge and priorities are integrated into relevant decisions, so that the potential of the sector for adaptation and mitigation is realised whilst minimizing and addressing loss and damage in agriculture.

Contacts: Ceris Jones, ceris.jones@wfo-oma.org and Vittoria Altese, vittoria.altese@wfo-oma.org

OBSERVER ROLES

Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPO)

Description: The Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPO) Constituency is the constituency recognized by the UNFCCC for Indigenous Peoples and their organizations. Within the UNFCCC process, Indigenous Peoples coordinate their collective engagement through the Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), also known as Indigenous Peoples Caucus. Indigenous Peoples are right holders and distinct Peoples under international law. The IPO Constituency advocates for the recognition, respect and implementation of their individual and collective rights, as affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), including the rights to self-determination and free, prior and informed consent. The Constituency brings together Indigenous representatives from the seven UN socio-cultural regions: Africa, the Arctic, Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia, North America, and the Pacific. It promotes the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and the recognition of their knowledge system, governance institutions and leadership in climate policies and actions.

Role: The Indigenous Peoples Caucus coordinates Indigenous Peoples and their organizations, participating in the UNFCCC process. It facilitates the development of collective positions and advocacy priorities, engagement in climate negotiations, dialogue with Parties and UNFCCC bodies, and the participation of Indigenous representatives in relevant meetings and processes. The Caucus also organizes coordination meetings, side events and other activities, and provides a culturally safe space for information-sharing, collective deliberations and decision-making. The IPO Constituency Focal Points serve as the liaison between the Constituency and the UNFCCC secretariat and facilitate the exchange of official information.

Contacts: the focal points for IPO are:

- Eileen Mairena Cunningham (eileen.mairena@gmail.com) and Tiana Jakicevich, tianajakicevich@gmail.com
- General contact: ipofocalpoints@gmail.com

OBSERVER ROLES

Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA)

Description: The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency is the voice of towns, cities, regions and all types of local and other subnational governments at the UNFCCC process since 1995.

Role: The LGMA provides a unified global voice for subnational governments in international climate policy and negotiation spaces, ensuring local and other subnational governments are visible, credible, mobilized and influential in UNFCCC-related global climate processes, on behalf of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. The Constituency takes a collective impact approach towards advocacy and diplomacy, aligning messages and actions across diverse local and regional government networks, platforms, alliances and organizations to amplify influence year-round and at key global moments. They help to shift global narratives from fragmented local action to a coherent global movement, highlighting how subnational governments are already leading on climate action, sustainability, and resilience. The Constituency works collaboratively with COP Presidencies and other entities, ensure that the Constituency plays a meaningful role in each COP, and combine coordinated closed-door diplomacy with public legitimacy and momentum, using strategic communications to raise visibility, shape political narratives, build support, and sustain pressure beyond formal policy moments.

Focal point: Ariel Dekovic, Head of Global Communications and Engagement, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, lgma@iclei.org



OBSERVER ROLES

Research and Independent NGOs (RINGO)

Description: The RINGO constituency was formed to represent officially admitted observer organizations of the UNFCCC negotiations process that are engaged in research, teaching, and other knowledge, practice, or theory-based activities relating to any aspect of climate change. RINGO also promotes effective research-based outreach and capacity building relating to climate change for all stakeholders and supports access to and transparency of the international climate negotiation process.

Role: RINGO facilitates participation of members in the UNFCCC process through engagement at COPs, SBs, Constituted Body, Work Programme and other meetings. The RINGO constituency was created with the understanding that it would not, as a constituency, advocate for any particular outcomes within the negotiations. RINGO does ask parties to ground their discussions and decisions in sound science, encompassing various disciplinary approaches. Individual RINGO members represent a wide range of views on many subjects and can advocate in their individual capacities. The RINGO constituency welcomes the diverse views, expertise, and experience of its members.

Contacts:

Washington University in St. Louis – Ms. Beth Martin E-mail: beth@ringofocalpoint.org

National University of Singapore – Ms. Melissa Low E-mail: melissa@ringofocalpoint.org

OBSERVER ROLES

Trade Union NGOs (TUNGO)

Description: Trade Union NGO (TUNGO) is the observer grouping representing workers and trade unions and is coordinated by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). The ITUC is the global voice of the world's working people. Its mission is the promotion and defence of workers' rights and interests. A labour focused Just Transition must secure the future and livelihoods of workers and their communities during the transition to a low-carbon economy, effectively limiting global temperature rises to 1.5 °C. Any institutional arrangement on Just Transition must focus on workers, the world of work, and trade unions, and be explicitly based on and incorporate the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work or Labour Rights, and the ILO Guidelines on Just Transition. Workers and their representatives are not passive bystanders in climate action, but crucial agents of change. The ITUC represents 191 million workers in 169 countries and territories and has 340 national affiliates. More information can be found here: <https://www.ituc-csi.org/climate>.

Role: TUNGO provides a platform for the coordination of positions and the participation of workers and trade unions at the UNFCCC negotiations.

Contacts: The focal point for TUNGO is Bert De Wel (Bert.DeWel@ituc-csi.org), the co-focal points are Patrick Rondeau (prondeau@ftq.gc.ca) and Rhoda Boateng (rhoda.boateng@ituc-africa.org).

OBSERVER ROLES

Women and Gender Constituency (WGC)

Description: The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) is one of the nine stakeholder groups of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Established in 2009, the WGC now consists of 64 accredited women's and environmental civil society organizations and over 1600 gender and feminist and gender equality advocates, who are collectively working to ensure that women's voices and their rights are embedded in all processes and outcomes of the UNFCCC.

Role: Our goal is to formalize the voice of women's rights and gender equality civil society organizations present and regularly active in UNFCCC processes, and to develop, streamline and advance common positions. The Constituency aims to bring together as many NGO observers accredited to the UNFCCC as possible, as well as those not yet accredited organizations but working at local, national, regional and global levels to advance gender just climate action. The Constituency works to ensure that human rights and gender equality are firmly anchored in all climate actions under the UNFCCC and to challenge the extractive, exploitative and patriarchal economic model which has resulted in the climate crisis.

Services: The WGC does not render any services, however, provides a space for engagement around developing common positions in pursuit of collective advocacy for gender just climate action; capacity building and movement strengthening.

Contacts: The Focal Points (focalpoints@womengenderclimate.org) for WGC are

- Mwanahamisi Singano | mwanahamisi@wedo.org
- Pat Bohland | Bohland@life-online.de



OBSERVER ROLES

Children and Youth NGOS (YOUNGO)

Description: YOUNGO is the official children and youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). YOUNGO is a vibrant, global network of children and youth activists (up to 35 years) as well as child and youth NGOs, who contribute to shaping the intergovernmental climate change policies and strive to empower children and youth to formally bring their voices to the UNFCCC processes. In 2009, the UNFCCC Secretariat extended provisional constituency status to admitted youth NGOs, which was confirmed in 2011. YOUNGO's vision is to empower children and youth to take action and works to enhance their skills and capacity to drive the necessary and ambitious climate actions and policies at all levels towards a lovable climate just future.

Role: YOUNGO representatives make official statements, provide technical and policy inputs to negotiations and engage with decision-makers at the UN climate change conferences, and promote child and youth participation in climate change projects at local and national levels. YOUNGO consists of thematic WGs focusing on policy work, and operational teams working on organising conferences each year on the local, regional and global level (known as LCOYs, RCOYs, and COY), along with capacity building and other mechanisms of engagement for young people around the world, including through projects coordinated by the 200+ admitted member NGOs. During UNFCCC sessions, YOUNGO provides a platform for young people to mobilise and organise their advocacy collectively. Each year, YOUNGO produces the Global Youth Statement, which compiles insights, expectations and policy proposals from children and youth organisations, as well as individuals and institutions across the globe.

2026 Focal Point:

- Megi Marku (megimarku.climate@gmail.com)

ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS

Stay up to Date

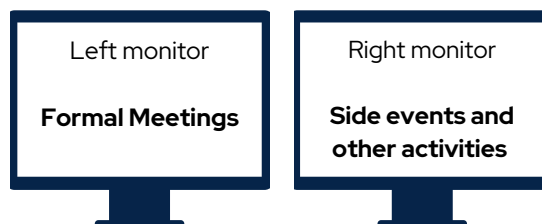
DAILY PROGRAMME

Your main source for the day's official schedule, including meetings, mandated events, press briefings and other activities.

- Published each morning on the [COP 31 webpage](#).
- Includes links to relevant documents and information.
- Check regularly for schedule changes.

CCTV MONITORS

Located throughout the venue and useful for real-time schedule updates. The left screen shows formal meetings; the right screen shows side events and other activities.



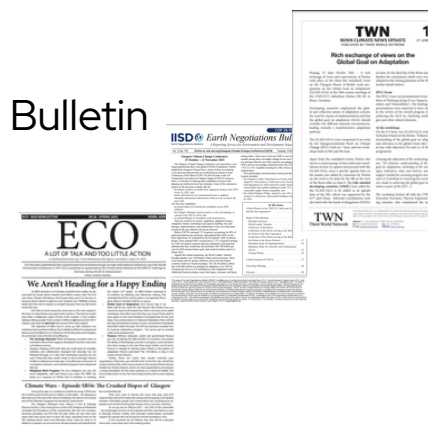
INFORMATION COUNTER

Need help finding a meeting or where to go? Visit the Information Counter near the venue entrance for assistance from secretariat staff.

EXTERNAL DAILY READS

For additional summaries and analysis of the negotiations:

- TWN Climate change updates and briefing papers
- Earth Negotiation Bulletin
- ECO Newsletter



These are external resources and do not represent the views of the UNFCCC secretariat.



ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS

How Observers Engage in COP 31

Admitted IGOs and NGOs can engage in COP 31 in a variety of ways, including:



Follow the negotiations to provide inputs to Parties, promote transparency, and raise public awareness.



Showcase work and findings through **side events** and **advocacy actions** to disseminate research, share lessons, and amplify stories.



Meet with delegates to share policy positions and submissions. Develop **position papers and make formal submissions** in response to calls for information and views by negotiating bodies. Information on submissions is available **here**.



Attend Townhalls to raise key issues with Presiding Officers and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary. Details are shared in the Daily Programme and CCTV.



Hold press conferences to share views and influence public discourse through media outreach. More information on press conferences is available **here**.



ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS

Working with Other Observers

NGOs can engage **collectively through the nine recognized NGO constituencies** and, where relevant, through **informal NGO groups**. These structures provide opportunities to coordinate, exchange information and amplify common messages during sessions.



Join coordination meetings to exchange information, discuss developments and coordinate engagement. Meeting times and locations are listed in the Daily Programme and CCTV.



Contribute to joint statements delivered in plenaries and, where possible, other negotiating spaces.



Nominate speakers for UNFCCC-mandated events, workshops and other engagement opportunities.



Coordinate engagement with Parties and the Presidency on issues of shared interest.



Share information and expertise with other observer organizations throughout the session.

NGOs do not need to be affiliated with a constituency or informal group to participate in the UNFCCC process. Admitted NGOs can engage independently through the opportunities outlined on the previous page.



ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS

Negotiation Documents

UNFCCC negotiations produce different types of documents throughout the process. Understanding the most common document types and abbreviations can help observers follow negotiations and identify relevant texts.

Document	Description	Language	Abbrevia tion
Regular document	Session reports, provisional agendas, constituted body reports and background documents	All UN languages	
Information document	Practical information, participant lists, workshop reports and background documents	English	INF
Technical	Detailed technical analysis and background	English	TP
Limited distribution document	Draft decisions or conclusions presented to governing or subsidiary bodies for adoption	All UN languages	L
Addendum	Addition to a document	According to original	Add
Revision	Revised version of a document	According to original	Rev
Corrigendum	Corrections to a document	According to original	Corr

Negotiation documents will be available **here**.



ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS

Access to Negotiation Meetings

Meeting Type	Access	Notes	Documents to Consult
Plenary	Open	Open to observers. NGO Constituency statements, time permitting.	Pre-sessional documents
Contact Groups (CG)	Determined by Parties/Presiding Officers	Usually open; can be closed by Parties.	Pre-sessional documents/ Deliberations/ Draft text
Informal Consultations (ICs)	Determined by Parties/Presiding Officers	Open if decided by Chair/Parties, often restricted. NGO Constituency statements “if time and Parties allow”	Deliberations/ Draft text
Informal Informals (Inf-Inf)	Closed	Not open to observers, used for drafting/small group negotiations.	Draft text
Contact Group Conclusions	Open	Summarize outcomes of contact group discussions.	L Documents
Closing Plenary	Open	Adoption of conclusions and final decisions.	Adoption of L documents

Access Protocol:

- **Parties have priority** where room capacity is limited.
- Observer access may be restricted due to **capacity or at the request of Parties**.
- Open meetings may be closed, and closed meetings may subsequently reopen.
- Please follow instructions from the **presiding officers and secretariat staff** regarding access.

ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS

Negotiation Meeting Rooms & Seating

Access and seating arrangements vary depending on the meeting format, room capacity and decisions of the presiding officers.

Room Capacity:

- If a room reaches capacity, Parties have priority over observers.
- A ticketing system may be introduced for observer access where necessary.



Seating Arrangements:

- **Party representatives must have a seat at the table.**
- Observers sit in the **back rows**.
- In some meetings, observers may be invited to sit at the table after Parties are seated, depending on the agenda and the presiding officers.



If invited to speak:

- Observers invited to make an intervention should use an **available microphone seat**, unless otherwise instructed.



ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS

Interventions in Negotiations

Opportunities for observer interventions vary by meeting and remain subject to the discretion of the presiding officers and Parties.



PLENARIES

Observers are often invited by the presiding officers to make interventions during opening and closing plenaries, time permitting.



CONTACT GROUPS AND INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

Co-Chairs or Co-Facilitators may invite observers to make interventions, time permitting and where Parties allow.



WHEN OBSERVERS ARE GIVEN THE FLOOR

Where there is no objection from Parties and time allows, observers may be given the floor after Parties have spoken. Representatives of the **nine NGO constituencies** have priority, followed by other observers

Further information on meeting procedures and the role of presiding officers is available in the [Presiding Officer's Guide to the UNFCCC Process](#).



ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS

Side Events and Exhibits

Organized by observer organizations, Parties partnering with observers, side events and exhibits are popular modes of observer engagement at COPs.

At COP 31, over 380 joint side events and 100 exhibits are selected from over 1,600 applications, particularly those proposals by developing country observers. Side events will be held in Side Event Rooms 1 - 9 from 9 - 19 November 2026. The most up-to-date logistical information on COP 31 side events and exhibits can be found in the handbook for side event and exhibit organizers ([links to handbooks TBC](#)).

They cover the following topics:

1. **Building Resilience for Cities, Infrastructure and Water**
2. **Fostering Human and Social Development**
3. **Stewarding Forests, Oceans and Biodiversity**
4. **Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems**
5. **Transitioning Energy, Industry and Transport**
6. **Unleashing Enablers and Accelerators incl. on Financing, Technology and Capacity Building**

[COP 31 Side Events schedule](#)
[COP 31 Exhibits schedule](#)

[How to attend COP 31 side events and exhibits](#)

Is your organization involved in organizing a side event and/or an exhibit?

Check the [home page of SEORS](#) for the most up-to-date logistical information.

Did you know?

The SBI recognized side events as an **essential part of the UNFCCC process** and an important tool for engaging observers in knowledge-sharing, networking and the exploration of actionable options for meeting the climate challenge. (FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraph 224).



Source: UNFCCC secretariat



Source: UNFCCC secretariat

ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS

Advocacy Actions

Advocacy actions are peaceful, creative demonstrations (e.g. visual displays, performances, protests) organized by observers to **raise awareness and amplify messages**.

The UNFCCC secretariat, in collaboration with the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), is committed to facilitating these impactful actions. While advocacy activities are generally not permitted within UN premises, this unique practice under the UNFCCC is possible thanks to a **longstanding relationship of mutual trust and collaboration** among observer organizations, UNDSS, and the secretariat.

To request authorization to organize an action, **submit the application form by 10:00 local time the day before** your requested action. (E.g. for Thursday, 12 November, the deadline is Wednesday, 11 November at 10:00.)

UNDSS and secretariat staff must be present to **ensure safety**. Please do not begin your action before UNDSS and secretariat staff arrive.



Actions **outside the Blue Zone** fall under the host country's jurisdiction.

Further information can be found in the Observers' Guide to Advocacy Actions [here](#).



Source: UNFCCC secretariat



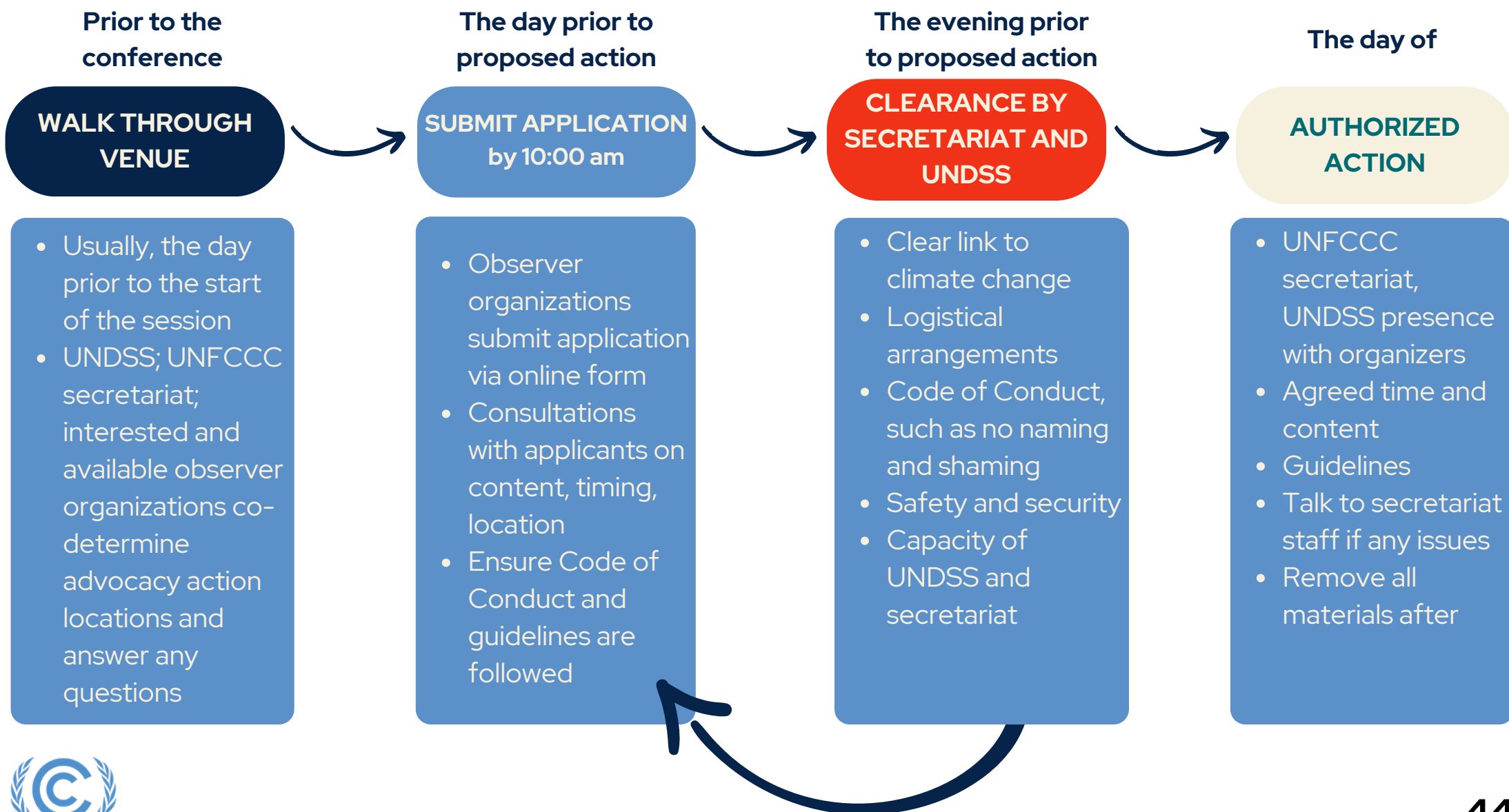
Source: UNFCCC secretariat



Source: UNFCCC secretariat

ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS

Advocacy Actions



(Iterative process in case of feedback/need for revision)

ENGAGING BEYOND COPs

Stay Engaged in the UNFCCC Process

Observer engagement continues throughout the year. Between sessions, observers can follow ongoing work and contribute expertise, evidence and recommendations to the UNFCCC process.



MAKE WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Respond to calls for submissions where observer input is invited. Submissions can provide evidence, experience and concrete recommendations. The submission portal is available [here](#).



FOLLOW CONSTITUTED BODIES

Follow meetings, reports and other work of the constituted bodies to stay informed about technical discussions and opportunities for engagement.



CONTRIBUTE TO MANDATED WORK

Engage in workshops, technical dialogues, expert meetings and other mandated activities, including through calls for inputs and participation opportunities.



PREPARE FOR UPCOMING SESSIONS

Follow agenda items and negotiation developments between sessions to identify where your organization's expertise and priorities can contribute.

ENGAGING BEYOND COPs

Engage Between Sessions

Engagement between sessions can be just as important as engagement at COPs. National positions develop throughout the year, creating opportunities for observers to contribute before the next session.



ENGAGE WITH GOVERNMENTS

Meet with relevant government ministries and negotiators to share evidence, policy recommendations and perspectives on issues under negotiation.



DEVELOP BRIDGING PROPOSALS

Identify areas of disagreement and develop concrete proposals that may help Parties find common ground. Share these through bilateral meetings and other engagement.



CONNECT INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ACTION

Bring developments from the UNFCCC process into national and local discussions, and bring experience and evidence from implementation back into the international process.



COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS

Work with other organizations to exchange information, combine expertise and coordinate engagement rather than working in isolation.

Badges and Quota

- Why is my organization's **badge quota** lower than in past years?
 - For COP 31, the overall quota for admitted IGOs and NGOs is approximately **9,500 participants**, taking into consideration the capacity of the premises and services available, as well as participant safety and security. By the close of the nomination period, the secretariat had received **over 37,000 nominations from about 2,200 IGOs and NGOs**. Individual quotas also seek to support more balanced representation across regional groups and constituencies.
- Can my organization **request an increase to its quota**?
 - Yes. DCPs may submit quota increase requests through the ORS Communication tab. Requests are reviewed subject to available capacity.
- Can **badges be transferred daily**?
 - Yes, but only within the rules set by the daily badge system. Badges are personal but may be allocated on a daily basis by your DCP. For further information, please see [here](#).
- How does **virtual participation** work?
 - Each admitted observer organization has a quota of 10 virtual participants. Virtual participants must be nominated and confirmed through ORS. DCPs may request increases to the quota of 10 virtual participants via ORS.

Visas and Access

- How can we **apply for a visa** for COP 31?
 - Information on visa procedures for registered attendees can be found [here](#).
- How does the UNFCCC **support visa applications**?
 - The secretariat provides support letters upon request but cannot influence national visa decisions. For assistance, contact visas@unfccc.int.
- Are any supporting documents for **visa applications** available?
 - Accredited participants are requested to use their COP 31 UNFCCC Acknowledgement Letter.
- Do **minors** also need to apply for a visa?
 - Yes. Each participant, regardless of age, must go through the COP 31 visa portal linked to their registration.

FAQs

Venue and Facilities

- How can **meeting or working rooms** be reserved?
 - Please see [here](#) for information on booking meeting rooms.
- How can I get to the **venue**?
 - Information on transportation in Antalya can be found [here](#).
- What kind of **food choices** will be offered at the venue?
 - Information on catering can be found [here](#).
- Is **catering** free or charged?
 - Catering is paid. Complimentary items may occasionally be offered, but most food and beverages are available for purchase.
- How can I find **accommodation** for COP 31?
 - The accommodation website for reservations and further information is available [here](#).
- How far apart are the **Blue and Green Zones**, and how long does it take to walk between them?
 - The two zones are adjacent. Security-controlled entry points connect both zones.
- Will **Wi-Fi** be available throughout the venue?
 - Yes. Wi-Fi will be available throughout the Blue Zone and is expected in the Green Zone as well. The network provided is PlugNPlay.
- Will **water** be provided at the venue?
 - Yes. Filtered water stations will be available throughout the venue.
- Can observers access the **Media Centre** or speak to journalists?
 - Observers may enter the Media Centre only by invitation.

FAQs

Agenda and Scheduling

- When will the **agenda and side event schedule** be published?
 - The provisional agenda is available [here](#).
 - The side events schedule will be available [here](#).
 - Daily programmes will be available each morning during the session.
- Is there a **ticketing system** this year?
 - No general ticketing system is planned, but access to high-demand meetings may be managed depending on room capacity.
- What are **Thematic Days**, and are they part of the negotiations?
 - Thematic Days are organized by the COP 31 Presidency to highlight specific topics across side events and initiatives. Negotiations follow their formal agenda separately.

Side Events and Exhibits

- Can organizers **change speakers or side-event programmes**?
 - Yes, up to 48 hours before the event. Updates should be sent through the SEORS communication log.
- Will **technicians** assist during side events, and can we show PowerPoints or videos?
 - Yes. Technicians will be available in all side-event rooms. Organizers should arrive 15 minutes early to test equipment.
- Will side events be **live-streamed or recorded**?
 - Most side events will be recorded and uploaded to the UNFCCC YouTube channel after the conference.
- Can **virtual speakers** or participants join side events?
 - Yes. Virtual panelists can connect through Teams via the virtual platform, and all registered participants can attend side events virtually.
- Where will exhibits and pavilions be **located**?
 - Maps and layouts will be published closer to COP 31.
- Can I **join a side event as a participant** if I am not an organizer?
 - Yes, most side events are open to all accredited participants unless otherwise specified.



Engagement and Participation

- What are **engagement opportunities for observers at COP 31**?
 - Opportunities include attending townhalls, joining your constituency's coordination meetings, participating in side events, requesting opportunities to speak in negotiations, and arranging bilateral meetings with Party delegates.
- Where can I find daily schedules and updates?
 - Check the **Daily Programme each morning and follow CCTV screens** for live updates on meetings, side events, and townhalls. Further information can be found [here](#).
- Can I attend **coordination meetings of other constituencies**?
 - Generally no, but some may allow guests; ask the relevant Constituency Focal Point.
- How do I know whether a **negotiation meeting is open to observers**?
 - Check the Daily Programme and CCTV monitors for the latest information. Access may change during a meeting at the request of Parties or the presiding officers.
- How early should observers **arrive for popular sessions or negotiations**?
 - There is no set rule, but for popular agenda items it is advisable to arrive 20–30 minutes early, particularly where room capacity is limited.
- Can I **distribute flyers or materials** at the venue?
 - Only in designated areas like side events or during authorized advocacy actions, in line with venue rules and the Code of Conduct.
- Do **advocacy actions** in the Blue Zone require authorization?
 - Yes. Advocacy actions in the Blue Zone must be authorized in advance. Applications must be submitted by 10:00 local time on the day before the proposed action. See the Observers' Guide to Advocacy Actions for further information.
- Can observers participate **virtually in daily coordination meetings**?
 - Virtual participation may be possible for some coordination meetings, depending on the arrangements of the relevant constituency or group and the technical facilities available.
- How can I **report a potential breach of the Code of Conduct**?
 - Concerns can be reported through the UNFCCC SpeakUp channel or raised with UNDSS or secretariat staff. Further information on reporting is available [here](#).



We wish you a productive conference!

For more information please visit the [Non-Party
Stakeholder web pages](#) or contact us at
cool@unfccc.int



UN Climate Change website

[Our official website](#). You can find documents, calendar of events, news and resources here.



X (previously Twitter)

[@UNFCCC](#)
[@simonstiell](#)



Instagram

[@unclimatechange](#)



LinkedIn

[UN Climate Change](#)
[Simon Stiell](#)



TikTok

[UN Climate Change](#)



UN Climate Change App

This app will give you quick access to information about the UN Climate Change process and associated events.



Apple phones



Android phones