



Climate
High-Level
Champions

Marrakech
Partnership



Zero Waste and Circularity as Cross-Cutting Enabler for Climate Action

Concept note & Run of Show

Date & time: 12.30-14.00, 24 April 2026

Location: Conference Hall, Yeosu Expo Convention Center

Organised by: COP31 Climate High-Level Champion, Climate Champions Team

Session Description

Delivering on the outcomes of the Paris Agreement and first Global Stocktake (GST) and advancing national climate commitments requires a whole-of-society approach. Since COP30, the Climate High Level Champions have been leading a unified Global Climate Action Agenda that focuses on scaling solutions and accelerating implementation of agreed outcomes under the UNFCCC process.

Zero waste and circularity serve as critical, cross-cutting enablers of climate action, offering rapid and scalable solutions to the "triple planetary crisis" by linking waste prevention directly to mitigation, resource efficiency, and food security. Recent global developments further reinforce this shift. The No Organic Waste (NOW) plan launched at COP30 aims to cut 30% of methane emissions from organic waste by 2030; businesses are adopting circular measures to reduce material use, emissions, and waste; and subnational actors are increasingly strengthening their reuse systems, repair infrastructure, and the substitution of problematic materials at source to prevent waste before it is generated – delivering environmental, economic, and social returns.

As preparations advance towards COP31, strengthening collaboration between governments, businesses, subnationals, and civil society has become essential to ensuring that climate ambition translates into concrete, scalable action. Convened by the COP31 Presidency Climate High Level Champion, this event will explore how zero waste and circularity can act as an increasingly important enabler to global climate action and escalate solutions addressing both mitigation and adaptation

Agenda	
Session description	Suggested speakers
<p>High-Level Introductory Remarks</p> <p>Strategic framing on redesigning urban consumption and setting the stage for ZWDs.</p>	<p>Moderator: Champa Patel, Executive Director, The Climate Group</p> <p>Samed Ağırbaş, COP31 Climate High-Level Champion</p> <p>H.E. Fatma Varank, Deputy Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Türkiye, COP 31 incoming Presidency</p> <p>Monique Sacardo, Chief of Staff for Ana Toni, COP30 Presidency</p>
<p>Upstream Solutions at Scale (Davos-Style Panel)</p> <p>Interactive discussion on structural barriers, downstream lock-in, and implementing upstream design.</p>	<p>Moderator- Neil Khor (Senior Advisor to COP31 Climate High-Level Champion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sally Higgins, COP31 Presidency Youth Climate Champion • Amjad Abdulla, Director General and multidisciplinary team leader, Climate Change & Energy Department, Maldives • Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General, UCLG Asia-Pacific Section • Dongjae Oh, Public Finance Director at Solutions for Our Climate (SFOC)
<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Finalising commitments on the road to COP31.</p>	<p>Samed Ağırbaş COP31 Climate High-Level Champion</p>