

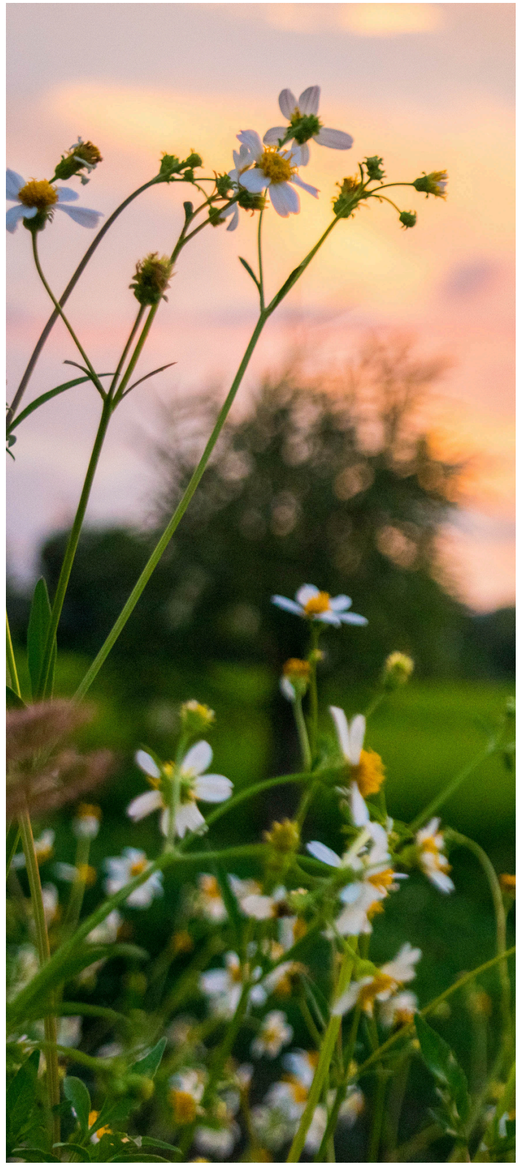
31st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on

CLIMATE CHANGE

Justice Coalition of Religious

9-20 November 2026





Justice Coalition of Religious

This guide was produced by the Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR), a coalition of 24 non-governmental organizations that are accredited to collectively represent over 200 congregations of Roman Catholic women and men Religious at the United Nations (UN). Congregations of Religious sustain the long-standing tradition of serving people who experience the marginalisation, oppression, and vulnerability resulting from unjust global systems. At the grassroots, Sisters, Brothers, priests, and their mission partners are leaders in the provision of essential services. While these efforts offer vital temporary assistance, our common home cries out for lasting global transformation, a transformation that requires addressing the root causes of human and environmental suffering. We are thereby called to the work of advocacy.

JCoR coordinates the efforts of Religious and their ministry partners - across more than 100 countries - in pursuit of our common mission: ***To facilitate collaboration among members and partners of Catholic Religious congregations working at the grassroots and at the United Nations in order to: (1) strengthen one another's capacity for advocacy and (2) advocate collectively for social, economic, and environmental justice and peace in international, regional, and national fora***.

Guided by Catholic Social Teaching and the Universal Human Rights Framework, JCoR envisions a just and peaceful world where the dignity of every person, particularly the most marginalized, and the sanctity of all creation are upheld. In this world, all people can fully participate in the social, economic, political, and cultural life of society, working together to foster the common good. We strive to realise this future world by coordinating the efforts of Religious to call on political leaders to take action for a just, equitable, and rights-based implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations' Agenda for 2015-2030.

We hope these pages will help empower you join us in this mission!

What is COP31?

COP31 refers to the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the annual climate COP, delegates from UN Member States come together to negotiate and agree upon actions to address climate change, such as limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, helping vulnerable countries adapt to the effects of climate change, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Governments' representatives also present their national plans for contributing to the accomplishment of these goals and report on challenges, best practices, and progress. In addition to delegates from UN Member States, COP31 also gathers climate-concerned leaders from civil society, indigenous groups, scientists, academia, younger generations, and the private sector to advance our collective response to the climate crisis.

COP31 is framed as a "COP of implementation." Its proceedings will differ from the ambition-setting and commitment-making focus of previous COPs towards implementation and acceleration, with a particular emphasis on translating existing climate pledges and financial commitments into tangible action.





Why is it important?

Climate change is a global challenge that demands a global response. COP31 brings nations together to work towards shared solutions - transforming climate commitments into meaningful action. The negotiations of past COPs have helped reduce projected global warming from more than 4°C to around 2.6°C. This is important progress, but significant work remains. Stronger, urgent action is needed to protect planet Earth and it's people. COP31 will focus on putting climate solutions into practice and advancing a global energy transition that drives economic growth, more jobs, food security, better health and safety and affordable clean energy. While no single COP can solve the climate crisis, each one builds on the progress of previous years. COP31 is an important opportunity to transform ambition into action and shape a more sustainable, resilient future for all.

Essential

Terminology

The following terms provide an important foundation for understanding the global-policy conversation on climate change. You will want to be familiar with them if you plan on participating in or following the discussions at COP31.



UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UNFCCC outlines the legal framework and principles for international climate change cooperation. Its overarching goal is to reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and to desist from dangerous human interference with the global climate system. Click here to learn more.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC is the United Nations body tasked with assessing the science related to climate change. It collects scientific, technical, and socio-economic data on the risks and impacts of climate change and produces reports to guide governments in an effective response to the crisis. Click here to learn more.





Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is an international treaty, adopted in 2015, to address climate change. It marks a significant achievement in the global discourse as the first legally-binding agreement to unite a multitude of countries in a collective commitment to engage in ambitious efforts to tackle climate change and its impacts. Under the Paris Agreement, individual countries determine how much they will reduce their carbon emissions each year, and these plans are called nationally determined contributions (NDCs). At COP30, Member States presented the third generation of NDCs (NDC 3.0), and at COP31 the emphasis will shift to delivering on these new commitments. Click here to learn more about the Paris Agreement.







Essential Terminology (continued)

National Adaptation Plans

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) are strategic frameworks that are developed by countries to address and manage the impact of climate change. They guide nations to identify medium- and long-term needs to adapt to changing climate conditions, reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience across various sectors.

Action Agenda

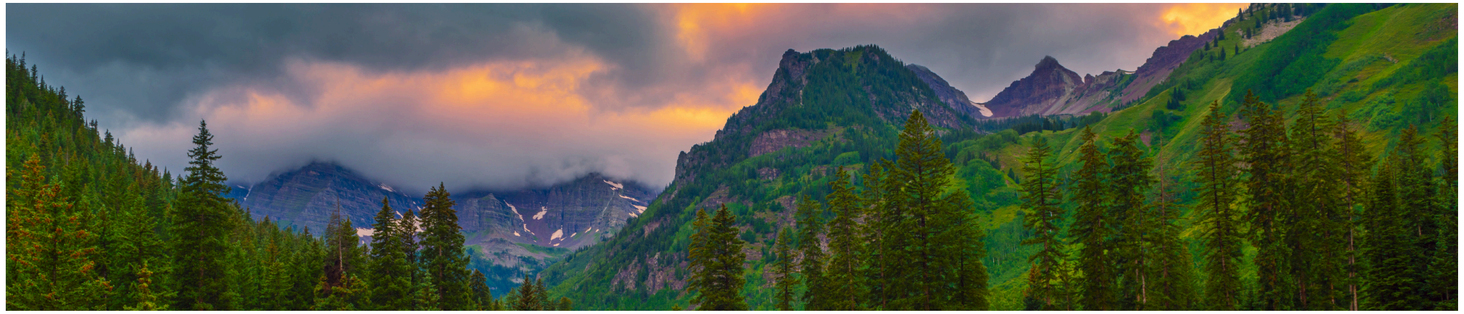
The Action Agenda is the pillar of the UNFCCC that mobilizes voluntary climate action from civil society, businesses, investors, cities, states, and countries to intensify emission reductions, climate adaptation, and the transition to sustainable economies, as set out in the Paris Agreement. The Action Agenda engages actors who do not negotiate agreements yet are essential for effective implementation. Its purpose is to advance climate action by highlighting solutions that can be repeated and scaled up in different places in a structured manner, allowing transparency in assessing progress and ensuring accountability. Click here to learn more about the COP31 Action Agenda and its 10 priority themes.

Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13)

SDG13 is a commitment by the global community to combat climate change as an important part of the of the UN's overall Sustainable Development Agenda. It sets specific targets and indicators for measuring our progress in addressing climate change. Its placement in the Sustainable Development Agenda signals a recognition that environmental conservation is a pillar of progress for the international community and should be monitored and promoted alongside other measures of development. Click here to learn more.

COP31

Essential Details



When

Monday, 9 November - Friday, 20 November 2026

Where

Antalya, Türkiye

In-person:

- **Blue Zone**: This zone is the formal conference and negotiation space at COP31. All the official sessions, meetings, and side events during COP31 will take place in the Blue Zone. Access to this space is restricted to official delegations, heads of state, accredited observers, and registered media.
- **Green Zone**: This zone is a public space where non-accredited delegates (including civil society, academics, Indigenous, youth, and representatives from the private sector) can connect, engage in dialogue, showcase innovative solutions, and promote awareness about climate action. Some events in this zone may require preregistration or tickets.

Online: Follow the proceedings of COP31 at https://www.youtube.com/@UNClimateChangeEvents/featured

Official Websites

- **COP31 Türkiye Presidency:** https://cop.sifiratikvakfi.org/en/ including answers to Frequently Asked Questions here
- **UNFCCC:** https://unfccc.int/cop31

✨ COP31 Handbook

This handbook is designed to help you navigate COP31 and get the most out of your participation

Virtual Meeting Platform

The COP31 virtual meeting platform is **designed for registered conference participants**. This platform can help participants find meetings with simple search filters, build a personal schedule, watch sessions live and on demand, and access additional content according to badge type. Login to the meeting platform from your computer or visit the virtual meeting platform webpage for information on how to download the app to your mobile (Android or iOS).

Mobile App

The COP31 conference mobile app is designed to provide participants with convenient access to key conference information and practical resources including the conference programme, news and updates, venue navigation, transportation and accommodation information, and details regarding Green Zone and pavilion events. of program changes. Click here to download the mobile app (available for both Android and iOS).

COP31 on WhatsApp

Subscribe to UN Climate Change on WhatsApp for updates, announcements, and stories.

COP31

Programme

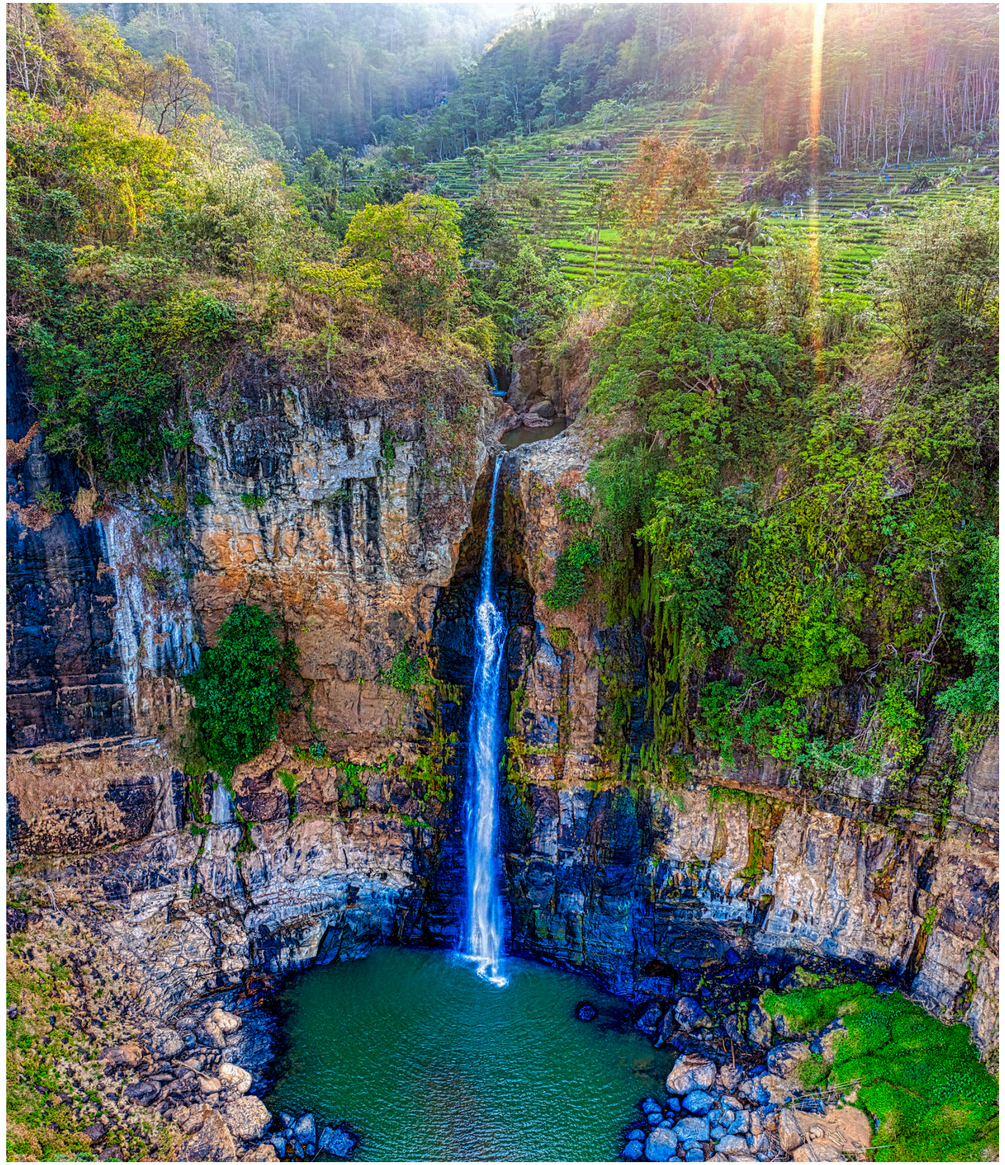
General Program

Click on the following links to access the overview schedule and the main conference schedule

Side Events and Exhibits

Click on the following links to access the full list of:

- Side events: Side events provide a space for organizations to present their work and foster discussions on key issues.
- Exhibits: Exhibits enable participants to network around different climate-related topics.





Recommended Events

Please visit JCoR's COP31 webpage to access a curated list of COP31 side and parallel events that are recommended by the Justice Coalition of Religious and our Religious community at the United Nations in New York.

Click here to view JCoR's recommendations



Social Media Recommendations

Who to follow and tag

COP31
Instagram: @turkiyecop31 LinkedIn: COP31 Türkiye YouTube: Turkiyecop31

United Nations Climate Change
Subscribe UN Climate Change on WhatsApp for updates, announcements and stories: English, French, Spanish
Facebook: @UNclimatechange Instagram: @unclimatechange
TikTok: @UNclimatechange LinkedIn: UN Climate Change
YouTube: @UNClimateChange

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Facebook: @IPCC Instagram: @IPCC YouTube: @ipccgeneva

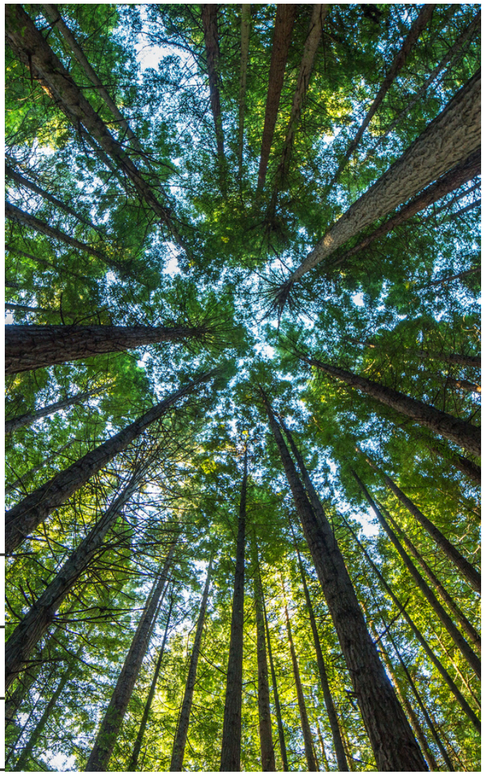
Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR)
Facebook: @JCoR2030 Instagram: @jcor2030 LinkedIn: @JCoR2030

Your congregation's NGO at the UN
Need help? Find many congregations' NGO's social media details here

Your government's Permanent Mission to the UN







Hashtags

#COP31

#ClimateAction

#ClimateActionNOW







How will you answer the call to

Care for Our Common Home

Creation is crying out in floods, droughts, storms and relentless heat. One in three people live in great vulnerability because of these climate changes. To them, climate change is not a distant threat, and to ignore these people is to deny our shared humanity. As stewards of God's Creation, we are called to act swiftly with faith and prophecy to protect the gift [God] entrusted to us.

Pope Leo

Address to COP30 in Belem, Brazil (November 2025)