COP31 PRESIDENCY BROUGHT TÜRKIYE'S DIVAN TRADITION TO FINAL PUSH FOR AGREEMENT

- **Centuries-old tradition of deliberation informs the Presidency's closing-stage approach**
- **Informal gathering open to all Parties brought ministers together in one conversation to build common ground across COP31 agenda**
- **COP31 Presidency urged Parties to turn progress into agreement in final days of negotiation**
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ANTALYA, Nov 18 – As COP31 enters its final days, President Murat Kurum and COP31 President of Negotiations Chris Bowen drew on Türkiye's centuries-old Divan tradition of counsel and collective judgment to help ministers find common ground on the political choices needed for climate agreement in Antalya.

Open to ministerial-level Parties, negotiating group chairs and observer constituencies, the COP31 Divan gave ministers a shared space to consider how the work across the different negotiating tracks can come together as part of a balanced package, consider the conference as a whole and build common ground around an overall outcome, in an informal, Party-driven and transparent discussion.

The Divan brought participants together to discuss key cross-cutting issues and identify where there is room for common ground. The conversation helps the Presidency bring together the work of the ministerial pairs, Presidency consultations and technical negotiations into a balanced package by the end of the week.

The Divan carries deep institutional and cultural resonance in Türkiye. It evokes a place of assembly where those bearing different responsibilities came together to hear one another, weigh difficult choices and determine a common course.

The best-known example is the *Divan-ı Hümayun*, or Ottoman Imperial Council, which can be traced as far back as the 15th century. It was established to deliberate major affairs of state. Diplomacy, administration, finance and justice were considered not as isolated matters, but as connected responsibilities requiring counsel, judgment and a wider view.

In the same spirit, the COP31 Divan provided a space for frank exchange across the conference agenda. It allowed ministers to hear one another's priorities, explain where their delegations see room for common ground and what they would need to reach agreement and consider how different elements can come together in an agreed outcome.

COP31 President Murat Kurum said:

"The views we hear here will inform the Presidency's consultations throughout the remainder of the week. We need to have a clear understanding of both the areas where we are converging and those where differences remain.

What we need at this stage is not so much to reiterate our respective positions, but rather to identify where we can move forward together.

As we approach the final days of COP31, let us uphold the spirit of the Divan in our discussions here: let us listen to one another, broaden our common ground and translate what is possible into concrete outcomes."

COP31 President of Negotiations Chris Bowen said:

"This is a chance for the world to show we can work together on climate change and deliver on the real economic and energy pressures people are facing.

"Now we need to build on common ground and deliver an ambitious, balanced and practical message to the world."

ENDS

Notes to editors

- COP31 is the 31st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and takes place in Antalya, Türkiye, from 9–20 November 2026.
- For more information regarding the COP31 Presidency and requests to be added to the media list, please contact COP31 Presidency at media@cop31.tr
- For more information regarding the COP31 President of Negotiations and requests to be added to the media list, please contact: COP31mediaoperations@dcceew.gov.au
- For more information regarding UN Climate, please contact the UNFCCC at press@unfccc.int
- For official photography from COP31 Presidency events and activities, visit the COP31 Flickr
- For official photography from all other COP31 events and activities, visit the UNFCCC Flickr
- Latest updates from the COP31 Presidency can be found here: COP31 Türkiye Antalya 2026 UN Climate Change Conference
- Latest updates from the COP31 President of Negotiations can be found here: COP31 | Australia-Pacific Partnership for COP31