CLIMATE IMPLEMENTATION BRIDGE

COP31 PRESIDENCY ACTION AGENDA TARGET

Expand the Climate Implementation Bridge ("BRIDGE") by 2035 to accelerate and scale up national climate action supported by investable project portfolios.

BACKGROUND

Under the Paris Agreement, countries articulate their climate commitments through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and Long-term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), translating global climate objectives into national climate ambition. However, a significant gap persists between the ambition reflected in these commitments and their actual implementation on the ground.

Closing this gap requires countries to translate stated climate priorities into sequenced, financed, and implementable actions that are embedded in national development and fiscal frameworks as well as supported by institutions with sufficient capacity. Yet progress in developing these implementation foundations remains uneven. Applying the OECD–UNDP framework for ambitious, implementable and investable NDCs, 80 percent of new developing-country NDCs show strong evidence of signalling elements for ambition and expected outcomes, while only 36 percent show strong evidence of actionable elements. These included investment or implementation plans, financing strategies or frameworks, sectoral action plans, or national and sectoral development plans that embed NDC targets and measures.

These planning and implementation challenges are compounded by persistent financing constraints. Global climate finance surpassed USD 2 trillion for the first time in 2024, yet annual flows remain at only one-third of the at least USD 6 trillion needed per year to meet climate and development objectives. In emerging markets and developing economies (excluding China), climate finance amounted to just USD 426 billion in 2024, highlighting the substantial scale-up required in the context of the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG), which calls on all actors to work together to enable the scaling up of financing to developing country Parties for climate action from all public and private sources to at least USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035. Available finance also remains unevenly distributed and difficult to access, underscoring the need not only to mobilise additional capital, but also to improve the prioritisation, coordination and effective deployment of existing financial resources towards climate and development priorities, while addressing structural barriers affecting countries and projects across the implementation lifecycle. These challenges are particularly pronounced in adaptation, for which financing needs in developing countries are estimated to be 12 to 14 times higher than current international adaptation finance flows.

Together, these challenges point to a set of interrelated constraints that affect the translation of national priorities into concrete investment and implementation opportunities:

- **Weak planning and prioritisation:** Climate and development strategies are not consistently translated into clear, prioritised, and fiscally aligned investment opportunities at the national level.

- **Institutional capacity and fragmentation gaps:** Institutional capabilities to align climate targets with development priorities and financing realities remain limited. At the same time, fragmented support and insufficient coordination constrain the systematic aggregation and scaling of proven approaches.
- **Limited project bankability, investability, and scalability:** Projects may face structuring and risk allocation gaps, high preparation costs, limited standardisation, data availability and transparency gaps, and a lack of aggregation, reducing their ability to attract finance at scale. Moreover, projects labeled "bankable" by developers might fail to satisfy lenders and investors, such as their needs for cash-flow predictability, profitability, and ticket size.
- **Constrained enabling environment and challenging risk profiles:** Policy and regulatory bottlenecks, long project-development cycles, limited institutional and financial capacity, high cost of capital, and challenges in project structuring and risk allocation can constrain the development of investment-ready opportunities and access to appropriate finance. These constraints are particularly relevant for adaptation and resilience projects.

OBJECTIVE

The Climate Implementation Bridge ("BRIDGE") is a COP31 Action Agenda initiative that advances implementation of the Paris Agreement and supports the objectives of the Global Implementation Accelerator (GIA) by helping countries mobilise and coordinate finance, capacity, policy and institutional support for climate action.

In doing so, the BRIDGE aims to contribute to the effective use of climate finance and support broader efforts associated with the NCQG on climate finance and the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap to 1.3T, towards scaling climate investment, while maintaining a broader focus on implementation effectiveness, institutional capacity and delivery at country level.

The BRIDGE is a COP31 Presidency-led, country owned, whole-of-government initiative, developed in partnership with UNDP, guided by NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDS and national development plans, that helps translate climate and development priorities into prioritised investment pathways, guide the development and aggregation of bankable project pipelines where appropriate, and connect these with appropriate sources of capital through tailored financing solutions, recognising that different climate and development priorities may require different combinations of grants, concessional, public, development and private finance.

It addresses the gap between climate ambition and capital deployment, focusing on the mobilisation of public and private sector climate finance at scale. It is not a new implementing agency, climate fund, financing institution, or coordination platform, nor does it replace existing country platforms or implementation mechanisms. Instead, it provides a structured pathway that helps countries navigate and mobilise the existing implementation ecosystem around country-defined priorities, from national climate priorities to investment-ready opportunities and capital mobilisation, offering flexible, modular support depending on country needs, and connecting institutions and financing mechanisms according to their comparative advantage. Where relevant mechanisms or support are already in place, the BRIDGE will seek to build on and connect them rather than replicate existing functions, focusing its support on identified implementation gaps.

The BRIDGE will also seek complementarity with and build on existing country-level and international implementation mechanisms, including the NDC Partnership, country platforms and

relevant Plans to Accelerate Solutions (PAS), such as the Country Platforms Hub, the NAP Implementation Alliance and the Fostering Investable National Adaptation and Resilience (FINI) initiative, where these can strengthen country-led implementation. More broadly, the BRIDGE will provide an open interface for relevant Global Climate Action Agenda initiatives and other technical, implementation and financing partners to contribute to country-defined priorities according to their mandates and comparative advantages, based on country demand. The BRIDGE's distinctive value lies in connecting these existing capabilities through a country-driven and country-owned pathway that links national climate and development priorities, implementation architecture, investment opportunities and appropriate sources of finance, rather than creating a new parallel mechanism.

INITIATIVE OUTLINE

1. Implementation pillars

The BRIDGE is structured across three integrated and modular components to drive implementation. Countries may enter at the point that best reflects their existing capacities, priorities, diagnostics, pipelines and financing arrangements, without being required to repeat existing analysis or create new institutional structures.

Finance and implementation actors will be engaged from the outset to ensure alignment with country priorities and maintain strong public-sector ownership. The BRIDGE will leverage existing national and international institutions, utilising their established roles, mandates, and capabilities to deliver comprehensive support under each component. As country priorities and implementation constraints are identified, relevant existing initiatives, technical partners, delivery mechanisms and financing actors will be mapped against these needs. Partner engagement will remain country-led, with governments determining the partners and support arrangements most appropriate to their priorities. The BRIDGE itself is not a financing mechanism. Financing and de-risking solutions will be identified and mobilised, as appropriate, through existing public, development, concessional and private financing institutions and instruments, based on country and pipeline needs.

Component 1	**Robust National Architecture and Capacity Enhancement** This component strengthens the strategic and institutional foundations for implementation. It addresses planning, prioritisation, capacity and fragmentation gaps by translating strategies into prioritised investment logic and strengthening core national systems.
Component 2	**Support for Aggregation and Development of Project Pipelines** Moving beyond technical design, this component seeks to translate priority climate and development actions into implementable programmes, investment opportunities and, where appropriate, investment-ready and bankable project pipelines. It addresses the structural lack of well-prepared and investment-ready projects by strengthening project preparation, feasibility, and pipeline formation.
Component 3	**Finance Design and Capital Mobilisation** The third component connects structured project pipelines with appropriate sources of capital. It addresses constraints related to bankability, investability and scale, as well as elements of the enabling environment and risk profile, by engaging financial actors, improving structuring, risk allocation, and access to appropriate capital.

2. Delivery

Entry Stage

Confirm country demand and readiness through direct government requests, UN programming and diagnostic insights, or referral from Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), NDC Partnership, Country Platforms Hub or other relevant partners. Support is anchored by the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment, and relevant sectoral line ministries.

Component 1 I Robust National Architecture and Capacity Enhancement

- **Climate–development diagnostic & high-level priority mapping**: Identifying gaps, trade-offs, synergies, and priority sectors across NDCs, NAPs, and LT-LEDS, aligned with national development plans. It will help to define the wider national context in which climate action is being delivered, including, where relevant, macroeconomic pressures, political-economy factors, and other circumstances that may affect implementation readiness, investment viability or the sequencing of priorities.
- **Early finance and implementation actor engagement**: Bringing relevant MDBs, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), national and other public development banks, climate funds, project developers and, where appropriate, private finance into the process from the outset to identify financing constraints and investor requirements, to early test implementation and financing assumptions while keeping country priorities authoritative.
- **Climate–development coherence & investment framing**: Translating diagnostics into a coherent and prioritised implementation and investment proposition aligned with national development frameworks, including macro-economic growth models with climate linkages.
- **Capacity, data and transparency systems**: Capacity enhancement studies, roadmaps for implementation systems, digital infrastructure, and national implementation architecture are key areas of focus. Two capacity plans, tailored to gaps identified through country diagnostics, are outlined: one for climate analytics (modelling, reporting and data systems capacity), and another for project development and approval.
- **Potential outputs**: Strategic diagnostic report; climate analytics and reporting capacity roadmap; project development and approval capacity roadmap; ecosystem briefing pack for partners.

Component 2 I Support for Aggregation and Development of Project Pipelines.

- **Prioritise investment opportunities**: Identifying priority investment areas based on strategic diagnostics, national priorities, implementation potential and climate/development impact, with investor attractiveness considered where relevant.
- **Improve readiness, bankability and de-risking**: Assessing technical and financial feasibility, revenue and business models, and demand/offtake arrangements where relevant, alongside project-specific and country-level risks and barriers, including relevant policy, regulatory, market and macro-financial constraints, and identifying appropriate de-risking options, including measures to enhance return profiles at a given risk level (e.g. fiscal incentives, subsidies, cost-reduction measures) to improve overall investment attractiveness. Estimating financing needs, analysing current financing approaches, and determining the gap to be addressed.
- **Aggregate projects into investment-ready portfolios**: Bundling projects into investable portfolios using standardised project data, structuring methods, and risk-return metrics to improve scale, comparability, and investor appeal. This lowers transaction costs, supports due diligence and valuation, enhances investment readiness, and strengthens financial and impact

reporting. Activities are aligned with Project Preparation Facilities (PPFs), country platforms, and MDB pipelines to improve coherence, interoperability, and coordination across actors.

- **Potential outputs**: Country-owned shortlist of priority sub-sectors/measures, based on integrated analytical approaches (e.g., MACCs, CBA, co-benefit analysis, etc.) and consultation processes; pipeline development plan; feasibility, risk, and de-risking outputs; capital requirement and financing gap assessment; due diligence and valuation packages; reporting frameworks and data packages; investor materials including teasers; standardised and aggregated investment portfolios.

Component 3 I Finance Design and Capital Mobilisation

- **Structure fit-for-purpose financing solutions**: Identifying financing approaches aligned with pipeline characteristics and financing needs, drawing, as appropriate, on grants, concessional finance, public, private and development finance, blended finance, risk-sharing mechanisms and other innovative financing approaches to improve risk–return profiles and mobilise capital. Where relevant, this may include approaches that strengthen local financial intermediation and access to local-currency financing. Supporting the packaging of project portfolios into investment opportunities and, where appropriate, exploring options to improve scale, alignment with investor requirements, and access to capital.
- **Connect pipelines with public and private capital**: Facilitating connections between investment pipelines and potential financing partners through market sounding and targeted engagement. Supporting dialogue around investment opportunities and helping align financing needs with investor interests, mandates, and risk-return considerations, including engagement with providers of debt, equity, and blended finance solutions.
- **Engage financial institutions and investors**: Building relationships with national and international financial institutions including national and other public development banks, local financial institutions, public and private investors, financial institutions, and capital market actors to strengthen market awareness, foster collaboration, and identify opportunities for future participation in climate investment portfolios and financing initiatives.
- **Potential outputs**: A structured methodology for testing selected climate investment packages with relevant capital providers; investor market-sounding summary; investor engagement, including investor roundtables; national financial institution engagement plan; innovative finance option papers; case studies and replicable templates through knowledge products.

Exit Stage

Integrate implementation progress into national systems and partner programming so results inform Biannual Transparency Reports (BTRs) / National Inventory Reports (NIRs), future NDC updates, national development plans, budgets and country-platform routines. The BRIDGE will initially be rolled out in a geographically balanced cohort of interested countries, focusing on selected priority sectors, which are further specified through clearly defined sub-sectors and asset classes to ensure targeted, scalable, and investment-relevant interventions.

OPERATING MODEL

The BRIDGE will operate through country-owned implementation arrangements, building on existing national institutions, coordination mechanisms, and delivery systems. Engagement will be modular and demand-driven, enabling countries to enter the process at different stages depending on the maturity of their climate and development strategies, institutional capacities, investment planning processes, project pipelines, and financing arrangements. Entry points and support

priorities will be informed by the BRIDGE diagnostic of the climate-development nexus, ensuring that interventions respond to country-specific implementation needs and opportunities. Country pathways will remain adaptive to evolving national circumstances. Participating governments will provide strategic leadership for the country process, designate relevant national focal institutions, validate priority implementation areas, facilitate engagement across relevant ministries and national stakeholders, and guide the alignment with existing partners and support arrangements. Existing national analyses, pipelines and coordination mechanisms will be used wherever possible to avoid duplication.

At country level, operationalisation will begin with rapid scoping of implementation needs and existing support, followed by the development of a country-owned workplan and alignment of relevant partners. The BRIDGE will not operate as a gatekeeper for partner engagement: governments will determine which institutions and initiatives are best placed to respond to identified priorities, while the BRIDGE facilitates visibility, connections and complementarity across the ecosystem. The process will leverage ongoing support, identify and fill critical gaps, and avoid duplication by connecting existing initiatives and institutions around country-defined priorities. Throughout implementation, government leadership will remain central, with activities aligned with national objectives and designed to generate approaches that can be replicated and scaled. Progress will be assessed against country-specific implementation milestones, including confirmation of government ownership, priority investments and preparation needs, responsible institutions, relevant financing partners, and the next decisions required to advance each opportunity.

The COP31 Presidency and UNDP will support the operationalisation of BRIDGE through “Climate Promise: Forward”, leveraging established delivery infrastructure across the United Nations system. The BRIDGE has been developed through broad consultation with relevant partners, including MDBs, DFIs, climate funds, country platforms, private sector actors, and knowledge partners, and will continue to draw on their respective mandates and comparative advantages in its implementation. Engagement with stakeholders under *Axis 6: Unleashing Enablers and Accelerators* of the Global Climate Action Agenda further supports alignment with the broader Global Climate Action Agenda objectives. Climate Promise: Forward provides an enabling and delivery backbone for country engagement and integrated technical support; it does not define the boundaries of the BRIDGE partner ecosystem. Implementation will draw on UN and non-UN partners, existing country platforms, Action Agenda initiatives, financial institutions, technical partners and other relevant actors according to country context.

GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIC STEERING

The BRIDGE will be supported by a lean global governance arrangement designed to provide strategic direction, political guidance and continuity across successive COP Presidencies, while preserving country ownership and avoiding the creation of a new operational layer.

A BRIDGE Global Steering Committee will initially bring together the COP30, COP31 and COP32 Presidencies. The Steering Committee will provide strategic guidance, help maintain political momentum, review progress and lessons emerging from implementation, and support continuity of the initiative across successive COP cycles.

The Steering Committee will not take operational or financial decisions on behalf of participating countries. Operational decision-making authority will remain with participating governments,

including decisions on national priorities, investment opportunities, implementation partners and financing arrangements.

Relevant institutions, including UNFCCC, UNDP, participating countries, MDBs, development partners, donors and private finance actors, may be engaged as observers or resource partners, as appropriate. Technical and implementation partners may also provide inputs on investment readiness, implementation constraints, existing initiatives and opportunities for coordination.

UNDP, through Climate Promise: Forward, will support the delivery and coordination of BRIDGE activities, while implementation will draw on the broader ecosystem of national institutions, UN and non-UN partners, financial institutions and technical partners according to country needs.

PARTICIPATION

The BRIDGE seeks to engage a broad range of partners across the climate, development, and finance ecosystem to build on existing national and international implementation platforms as well as strengthen capacities already in place rather than creating new institutions or parallel structures. The BRIDGE will bring together national governments, relevant subnational and local institutions, development partners, financial institutions and other finance-sector actors, project developers, civil society, academia and knowledge partners. Participation will be driven by country needs rather than a fixed institutional configuration. The BRIDGE is therefore not structured around a formal membership or supporter model. Countries engage on the basis of expressed government interest and nationally identified implementation needs, while other organisations and stakeholders may contribute relevant expertise, implementation support, technical assistance or financing capabilities in response to country-defined priorities. Countries interested in engaging with the BRIDGE, as well as organisations and other stakeholders interested in contributing relevant capabilities, are invited to express their interest through the dedicated BRIDGE contact channel (cop31bridge@iklim.gov.tr).

INDICATIVE ROADMAP TO COP31

Following the announcement of the first BRIDGE cohort in New York during the High Level Week of 81st session of the UN General Assembly, work towards COP31 will focus on four indicative stages: (i) country engagement and establishment of country-level working arrangements; (ii) rapid scoping, diagnostics and priority mapping; (iii) development of country-owned implementation arrangements; and (iv) second cohort engagement, with lessons from the first cohort informing further refinement and expansion of the BRIDGE approach towards and beyond COP31. By COP31, the first cohort is expected to have advanced country-level diagnostics and priority mapping and established country-owned implementation arrangements according to national circumstances. The initial thematic focus of the BRIDGE will be electrification, providing a practical entry point for testing the approach while allowing country-specific priorities and circumstances to determine the scope of support.

CONTACT

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