COP31 Global Electrification Initiative

COP31 PRESIDENCY ACTION AGENDA TARGET

The COP31 Electrification Initiative, supported by the COP31 35-by-35 Electrification Pledge seeks to advance a shared global ambition to increase electricity's share of final energy consumption from approximately 23% in 2026 to 35% by 2035, recognising different national circumstances while accelerating electrification as a key enabler of climate action, sustainable development, and universal access to modern energy services.

BACKGROUND

Accelerating global energy transition requires electrification of end uses, alongside continued progress in clean energy deployment and energy efficiency. The COP28 Global Stocktake established a political foundation by calling for tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030. This momentum was further advanced at COP29 through the Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge, targeting an increase of energy storage capacity of 1500 GW by 2030. Alongside these global efforts, initiatives such as Mission 300 are advancing electricity access and supporting the expansion of electricity systems in Africa. Building on this foundation, greater focus is now needed on accelerating electrification across end-use sectors, while expanding energy access and ensuring that electricity systems remain affordable, reliable and resilient.

The latest evidence shows both the scale of the opportunity and the size of the gap. In a 1.5°C-compatible pathway, analysis by IRENA finds that electricity should represent 35% of final energy consumption by 2035 and more than 50% by 2050, supported by accelerated renewable deployment, grid expansion, storage, and demand-side flexibility. IEA's Electricity 2026 projects global electricity demand to grow by an average of 3.6% annually between 2026 and 2030 period, driven by rising demand from industry, electric vehicles, air conditioning, and data centres.

Against this backdrop of growing evidence on the need for accelerated electrification, alongside rising geopolitical and energy security concerns, the COP31 Presidency is advancing electrification as a key area of its Action Agenda. At the 64th sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB64), a global electrification objective under the COP31 Action Agenda to increase the share of electricity in final energy consumption to 35% by 2035 was launched.

The COP31 Global Electrification Initiative will serve as a flagship initiative of the COP31 Action Agenda, bringing together the global objective with a framework for implementation. The Initiative will convene governments and stakeholders to accelerate electrification across end-use sectors, expand access to modern energy services, strengthen enabling electricity systems, and mobilise the technical, regulatory and financial means required to deliver progress at scale.

OBJECTIVE

The COP31 Global Electrification Initiative is a country-led, multi-stakeholder initiative designed to translate the objective of the COP31 35-by-35 Global Electrification Pledge into practical implementation and sustained international cooperation. Building on the COP31 Presidency's global objective of increasing electricity's share of final energy consumption to 35% by 2035, the initiative seeks to establish electrification as a central pillar of global climate action. It will provide a long-

term platform to support countries in strengthening electrification policies, accelerating implementation across key sectors, enabling infrastructure, and tracking collective progress towards the global electrification objective.

INITIATIVE OUTLINE

1. Implementation pillars

COP31 Global Electrification Initiative will serve as the implementation framework for supporting the ambitions of the COP31 35-by-35 Electrification Pledge. Recognising the diversity of national circumstances, priorities, and development pathways, it will provide countries and partners with flexible mechanisms to advance electrification in ways that align with national climate, energy, and development objectives. The Initiative will be delivered through three mutually reinforcing pillars:

Pillar 1	**Electrification Forum** Strengthening cooperation among governments, initiatives, international financial institutions, development partners, and private investors to support policy development, capacity building, and the exchange of practical experience across sectors such as transport, buildings, industry, and energy access.
Pillar 2	**Tracking Progress** Drawing on existing data and analytical processes to improve understanding of global and regional electrification trends, identify implementation gaps, and highlight effective policy and investment approaches.
Pillar 3	**Enabling Grids** Supporting the development of the grid infrastructure and enabling systems needed to accelerate electrification, including by facilitating investment and finance.

2. Delivery

Pillar 1: Electrification Forum

The Electrification Forum will provide the Initiative's principal platform for implementation support and international cooperation. Through regular dialogues, technical exchanges, annual convenings, and stakeholder engagement, it will bring together governments, initiatives, international organisations and implementation partners, including the European Commission, financial institutions, industry, and technical partners to identify implementation barriers, share practical experience, and advance solutions across buildings, transport, industry, energy access, and electricity systems; including distribution grid-related issues in coordination with D-GRIDs. The Forum, the first of which will be held in Antalya during COP31, will be led by the International Energy Agency (IEA) and will focus on connecting country needs with existing expertise, partnerships, and financing opportunities, while fostering cooperation around nationally determined electrification pathways and investment priorities.

Developed as part of the Forum, an Electrification Policy Toolkit will provide practical guidance, analytical resources, and policy approaches to support countries in developing and implementing nationally appropriate electrification pathways.

Pillar 2: Tracking Progress

A Global Electrification Tracking Mechanism will provide the analytical foundation of the Initiative. Led by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the mechanism will build on existing datasets,

indicators, and analytical methodologies to monitor global and regional electrification trends, assess progress towards the Initiative's objectives, identify implementation gaps, and highlight successful policy and investment approaches. By providing a transparent and accessible evidence base, the mechanism will support accountability, inform decision-making, and maintain political momentum beyond COP31, including with a view to feeding electrification progress into COP32 and beyond.

Pillar 3: Enabling Distribution Grids for Electrification (D-GRIDs)

D-GRIDs will serve as the infrastructure pillar of the Initiative, under the leadership of the Republic of Türkiye's Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MENR), with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Current analysis by IRENA indicates that global grid investment needs to more than double, reaching a cumulative USD 10 trillion by 2035. Recognising that accelerated electrification is contingent on modern, reliable, and sufficiently financed electricity networks, D-GRIDs will focus on strengthening distribution-grid planning, investment mobilisation, digitalisation, system flexibility, resilience, and institutional capacity. Particular emphasis will be placed on supporting developing countries in identifying grid investment needs, improving project readiness, facilitating access to finance, and enabling the integration of renewable energy, energy storage, electric mobility, and expanding electricity access. In doing so, D-GRIDs will support distribution systems that can both enable electrification and use demand-side flexibility to contribute to wider power-system reliability and renewable-energy integration.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND PARTNERS

The COP31 Global Electrification Initiative will be led by the COP31 Presidency and guided by an Electrification Board chaired by the COP31 Presidency. The Board will provide overall strategic direction, oversee implementation of the Initiative, ensure coherence across the three pillars, and facilitate coordination with relevant international initiatives, partnerships, and multilateral processes, including the European Commission. It will bring together participating governments, international initiatives, international organizations, development partners, financial institutions, industry representatives, and future COP Presidencies to ensure continuity in the multilateral process. The proposed meeting cadence is twice a year.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) would serve as Secretariat to the Electrification Board. In this role, the IEA would support coordination across the three pillars, facilitate engagement among participating partners, convene relevant stakeholders, and provide technical and analytical support to the Initiative. The IEA would additionally lead the Electrification Forum and Global Electrification Tracking Mechanism.

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) would lead implementation of D-GRIDs and serve as the pillar's secretariat, coordinating activities relating to distribution-grid investment, planning, modernisation, digitalisation, resilience, and capacity building in collaboration with governments, utilities, financial institutions, and other partners. In addition, IRENA will support the Electrification Forum with a view to elevating distribution grids, and contribute to the Tracking mechanism with existing reporting processes.

All pillars will be delivered through partnerships among participating governments, international organisations, international initiatives, multilateral development banks, development finance institutions, technical organisations, industry stakeholders, and existing electrification initiatives.

Through this collaborative structure, the COP31 Global Electrification Initiative is developed through ongoing consultation and exchange with stakeholders engaged in *Axis 1: Transitioning Energy, Industry & Transport* of the Global Climate Action Agenda and will support efforts to advance the Agenda's objectives.

PARTICIPATION

COP31 Global Electrification Initiative will bring together governments and stakeholders across the electrification ecosystem, providing a platform for cooperation among public, private and civil society actors to accelerate electrification, strengthen enabling electricity systems and expand access to modern energy services.

Participation is expected to include:

- **National governments**, including ministries responsible for energy, climate, industry, transport, buildings and finance, as well as countries seeking to accelerate electrification and expand modern energy access.
- **Cities and Local Administrations**, including regulators, municipalities and regional energy agencies responsible for planning and implementing electrification measures.
- **Financial institutions and philanthropy**, including multilateral and national development banks, climate funds, institutional and philanthropic investors, infrastructure funds and commercial lenders supporting electrification-related investment.
- **Private-sector stakeholders**, including power utilities, grid operators, renewable-energy developers, equipment manufacturers and major electricity users across transport, buildings and industry.
- **International organisations, initiatives and implementation partners**, including relevant international and regional initiatives, partnerships and institutions supporting electrification through policy cooperation, technical assistance, capacity building and implementation
- **Civil society organisations** , including climate-focused organisations, energy-access coalitions, consumer groups and other stakeholders supporting inclusive and equitable electrification pathways.
- **Research, data and knowledge institutions,** including research organisations, analytical institutions and data providers supporting evidence-based decision-making and the monitoring of electrification progress, affordability and energy access.

Participation would be open to both Parties and non-state actors, reflecting the cross-sectoral nature of electrification and the need for coordinated action across policy, finance, infrastructure, technology and implementation to accelerate progress at scale.

Countries interested in joining and supporting the Initiative may formally express their interest through an official communication submitted by their designated UNFCCC national focal point. Other stakeholders, including companies and relevant non-State actors, may formally express their support for the Initiative through a communication from their highest-level authorised representative.

All expressions of interest and support should be submitted to the COP31 Electrification Action Agenda team at cop31electrificationinitiative@iklim.gov.tr The team will provide further information and guidance on the engagement process, including the relevant modalities and next steps.

CONTACTS

COP31 Electrification Action Agenda Team; Email: cop31electrificationinitiative@iklim.gov.tr

Okan Uğurlu, COP31 Presidency Focal Point; Email: okan.ugurlu@iklim.gov.tr