ANTALYA HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

COP31 PRESIDENCY ACTION AGENDA TARGET

The Antalya High-Level Dialogue on Children, Youth and Climate Resilience positions children and youth as agents of change, recognizing that raising public awareness and advancing climate education for all by 2035 is essential to building climate resilience. The Dialogue will mobilise actors to contribute to this discussion and present practical multi-sectoral solutions that can advance progress on this goal.

BACKGROUND

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to child and youth development in the 21st century. Nearly every child on earth – defined as any person below the age of 18 – is exposed to at least one major climate hazard – drought, heat, flooding, fire, storms – and 1.1 billion children face three or more of these threats at once (UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Report, 2026). Climate shocks are disrupting education, threatening health, undermining livelihoods, and shaping future opportunities in ways that are more long-lasting for children and youth. More than 171 million students globally – or 1 in 10 – from pre-primary to upper secondary age had their schooling disrupted by climate hazards in 2025 (UNICEF, 2026).

Despite these disproportionate impacts, children and youth have not been systematically reflected in climate science, policy, or finance, leaving their specific risks and needs insufficiently addressed. This gap was formally recognized in the first-ever mandated Expert Dialogue on the disproportionate impacts of climate change on children and relevant policy solutions (Decision 1/CMA.5, para 182), convened by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation in response to the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake.

Building on this recognition, momentum is now emerging across the UNFCCC process. References to children are increasingly reflected in key negotiation and implementation workstreams, including the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Just Transition Work Programme, Action for Climate Empowerment, and Loss and Damage. These developments signal a growing understanding that addressing the impacts of climate change requires a multi-sectoral approach to human and social development, spanning education, health, water and sanitation, food security, energy, and green jobs and skills. This is also reflected in the COP31 Action Agenda, including the COP thematic day on **'Children, Youth, Education and Skills'** (14 November), which recognizes that climate resilience cannot be achieved without investing in people, and in particular in children and youth.

Important signs of progress are also emerging at the national level. The latest generation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) shows a marked increase in meaningful references to children and youth, with stronger commitments across social sectors such as education, health, water and sanitation, food security and nutrition, and social protection.

Evolving adaptation processes, including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), similarly reflect the needs and vulnerabilities of children: every submitted NAP mentions children and youth in some capacity, and nearly every NAP contains multiple sectoral commitments responsive to the needs of

children. This alignment was further strengthened at COP30 in Belém through Decision 12/CMA.7 on the Global Goal on Adaptation, which adopted the Belém Adaptation Indicators for measuring progress towards the targets of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience. Importantly, the framework explicitly recognizes that the indicators may, where appropriate, be disaggregated by social categories, including age, vulnerability, disability, socioeconomic status, and children and young people, providing a stronger basis for assessing whether adaptation actions and outcomes effectively address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of children and youth.

The Government of Türkiye has been at the forefront of these developments. At the international level, it has co-chaired the UNFCCC Expert Dialogue on Children and Climate Change and has actively advanced calls to integrate child-focused mandates across the negotiations, including through its engagement in the Group of Friends for Children and Climate Action.

At the national level, Türkiye has established a strong model of child- and youth-inclusive climate governance. Through its collaboration with UNICEF, the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change has institutionalized youth participation through the nationwide Youth Climate Envoys Platform, enabling the structured engagement of young people in climate policy processes. Child and youth inputs, alongside targeted measures to address the distinct impacts of climate change on their lives and futures, have been reflected in key national policy instruments, including child-responsive sectoral commitments in Türkiye's updated NDC 3.0 and its Long-Term Climate Strategy.

With the NDC 3.0 cycle concluded in 2025, the focus must now shift decisively from policy commitments to implementation. Delivering on these pledges will require sustained investment, cross-sectoral coordination, and concrete measures, both to protect children from climate impacts and safeguard their development, and to empower children and youth to contribute meaningfully to climate solutions and decision-making.

OBJECTIVE

Building on its commitments and these emerging global and national trends, the COP31 Presidency will lead and convene the Antalya High-Level Dialogue on Children, Youth and Climate Resilience. The Dialogue is a flagship initiative of the COP31 Presidency, delivered as part of Axis 5: Fostering Human and Social Development of the Global Climate Action Agenda. The Dialogue will place children and youth at the centre of human and social development and climate resilience.

The Dialogue is a defining legacy of the COP31 Presidency, bridging high-level political commitment with concrete action, and translating priorities for children and youth into practical delivery through data, partnerships, and sectoral implementation beyond COP31. Progress under the Dialogue will be captured, with a short synthesis report feeding into global discussions and processes, including the second Global Stocktake (GST2), where relevant.

INITIATIVE OUTLINE

1. Implementation pillars

The Dialogue will deliver through three mutually reinforcing pillars, led by the COP31 Presidency with the support of UNICEF and participating partners.

Pillar 1	**Political Convening and Continuity** Convene the first High-Level Dialogue at COP31 and establish it as an annual platform with a rotating thematic focus based on the priorities of each incoming Presidency, sustaining political focus, commitments and advocacy on children, youth and climate resilience through 2028.
Pillar 2	**Evidence and Risk-Informed Policy** Present and encourage the application of child climate risk data and comparable tools, such as UNICEF's Child Climate Risk Data, complemented by evidence on essential-service access, energy reliability and green skills, to identify priority needs and inform implementation of NDCs, NAPs and sectoral investment plans.
Pillar 3	**Partnerships and Sectoral Delivery** Facilitate partnerships and commitments across priority sectors under Human and Social Development and capture progress through a short synthesis report feeding into global climate processes and discussions.

2. Delivery

Preparatory programme in 2026
A range of preparatory work has taken place throughout the year across governments, youth organisations, UN agencies and civil society – including consultations to help shape the Dialogue's agenda and outcomes; advocacy and awareness efforts to elevate the focus and voices of children and youth across the COP31 Action Agenda; and facilitation of partnerships and commitments on children, youth and climate resilience as part of fostering Human and Social Development. This builds on child- and youth-focused discussions and dialogues held throughout the year, including at the 64th sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB 64).

First Dialogue at COP31
The first High-Level Dialogue on Children, Youth and Climate Resilience will take place during COP31 (9-20 November 2026), hosted by Türkiye in Antalya.

Annual platform through 2028
Each year, the Dialogue will adopt a distinct thematic focus, spanning the sectors most affected by climate change, including health, education, water and sanitation, food security, and energy, aligned with evolving progress under the Global Climate Action Agenda. The aim is for the Dialogue and its subsequent work to continue through 2028, providing a sustained platform through which the Presidency can convene stakeholders around the needs and priorities of children, youth and climate resilience.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND PARTNERS

The planning and coordination of the Dialogue will be led by the COP31 Presidency, with the support of UNICEF, in collaboration with the Climate Champions Team and the COP31 Presidency Youth Climate Champion, building on initiatives and progress made to date.

Incoming Presidencies will be invited to collaborate in sustaining the Dialogue beyond COP31, with the COP32 and COP33 Presidencies engaged in shaping and hosting subsequent editions.

Engagement with stakeholders under *Axis 5: Fostering Human and Social Development* of the Global Climate Action Agenda further supports alignment with the broader Global Climate Action Agenda objectives.

PARTICIPATION

The Antalya High-Level Dialogue on Children, Youth and Climate Resilience will bring together governments, UN agencies, multilateral development banks and climate funds, youth and children's organizations, academia and education institutions, and civil society. Partners can engage according to their areas of interest and expertise, whether through political commitment, technical and evidence contribution, sectoral delivery, financing, or the facilitation of child and youth participation.

The COP31 Presidency will work through the existing engagement architecture of the COP31 Action Agenda, with participation channelled through Human and Social Development, or coordinated directly by the Dialogue organizers where a more direct route is required.

Parties wishing to participate in the Dialogue are kindly requested to submit their request through their respective UNFCCC national focal point, by e-mail to the address indicated below. The same address may also be used by other interested stakeholders to express their support of the Dialogue.

CONTACT

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