GLOBAL HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON METHANE EMISSIONS FROM THE WASTE SECTOR

COP31 PRESIDENCY ACTION AGENDA TARGET

The Global High-Level Dialogue on Methane Emissions from the Waste Sector seeks to contribute to the COP31 Presidency's target of reducing the projected increase in global annual municipal solid waste generation by at least 50% by 2035.

BACKGROUND

Methane mitigation is a key and cost-effective strategy for slowing near-term global warming and can deliver important benefits for air-quality, public-health and food-security. The waste sector represents a particularly important opportunity for near-term mitigation. According to the UNEP Global Methane Status Report 2025, global anthropogenic methane emissions reached approximately 352 million tonnes per year in 2020, with agriculture accounting for approximately 42%, energy 38% and waste 20% of emissions

These emissions in the waste sector arise primarily from the decomposition of biodegradable waste in landfills as well as dumpsites. Without additional action, methane emissions from waste are projected to increase by 13% by 2030 and 56% by 2050 compared with 2020 levels. However, they can be reduced through targeted interventions across the waste hierarchy, including waste prevention, separate collection, recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion and improved landfill management. These measures can reduce methane released from landfills and dumpsites, thereby helping to slow near-term warming while advancing resource efficiency, reducing reliance on virgin raw materials and improving local environmental and public-health outcomes. The International Energy Agency's 2026 Global Methane Tracker also highlights the potential of existing technologies to reduce methane emissions. Expanding the deployment of available solutions, particularly in developing countries, requires greater access to technology, technical expertise and finance.

The UN Secretary-General's Call to Action on Methane has also emphasized the need for accelerated action across the energy, agriculture and waste sectors, including through measures to reduce food waste, improve waste management and capture methane emissions from landfills and wastewater.

Despite growing national attention, stronger sectoral pathways and the inclusion of methane-related measures in climate policies implementation remains uneven. Countries and cities continue to face interrelated constraints, including limited institutional and technical capacity, insufficient access to appropriate technologies, gaps in data and monitoring, difficulties in developing investment-ready projects, and inadequate access to finance.

These challenges are particularly significant where rising waste volumes and the expansion of waste collection are not accompanied by parallel investments in waste prevention, organic-waste diversion, treatment and improved landfill management.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Global High-Level Dialogue on Methane Emissions from the Waste Sector is to accelerate implementation-oriented methane action in the waste sector by helping countries to translate existing national commitments and policies into concrete implementation pathways and establishing stronger international cooperation and a more systematic exchange of practical implementation experience. Building on the momentum generated by United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/161 on promoting zero-waste initiatives, the Dialogue will seek to advance practical cooperation on waste management and methane mitigation.

The Dialogue will:

- Strengthen political ownership and raise the visibility of waste-sector methane mitigation by elevating implementation-focused messages at senior level and positioning waste-sector methane mitigation as a visible delivery priority within the COP31 Action Agenda.
- Accelerate the implementation and scaling of effective methane-reduction measures by supporting policies and projects that prevent biodegradable waste, divert organic waste from landfills and dumpsites, and improve municipal solid waste management.
- Facilitate international cooperation and the exchange of practical implementation experience through experience-sharing, country-to-country matching, capacity building and voluntary technical cooperation.
- Mobilise technical and financial support for high-impact methane-reduction projects by helping connect country and city needs with expertise, technologies, project-development support and potential sources of finance.
- Provide a basis for sustained voluntary cooperation beyond COP31 through regular policy and technical consultations, continued knowledge exchange, project development and investment mobilisation, subject to further consultation.

INITIATIVE OUTLINE

1. Implementation pillars

The Dialogue will be implemented through three complementary pillars designed to translate political commitments into concrete action and measurable methane emission reductions in the waste sector.

Pillar 1	**High-Level Policy Dialogue** Strengthen political ownership and raise the visibility of waste-sector methane mitigation to accelerate policy action.
Pillar 2	**Implementation and Scaling of Methane-Reduction Solutions** Facilitate the exchange, scaling-up, and replication of practical and effective methane-reduction solutions.
Pillar 3	**Barriers and Solutions** Identify common technical, institutional, and financial barriers for implementing methane-reduction projects and develop practical cooperation opportunities.

2. Delivery

Pillar 1: High-Level Policy Dialogue

To strengthen political ownership of methane mitigation in the waste sector, the Dialogue will bring together senior government officials, mayors, international organisations, development banks, financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders. It will provide a platform to assess policy priorities, identify opportunities for international cooperation and promote the integration of methane reduction into waste, climate and circular economy policies.

Pillar 2: Implementation and Scaling of Methane-Reduction Solutions

To support the implementation and scaling-up of methane mitigation measures, this pillar will facilitate the exchange of practical experience and good practices related to the separate collection of biodegradable waste, composting and anaerobic digestion, biogas and biomethane production, landfill gas capture, waste prevention, recycling and resource recovery. It will also promote knowledge sharing on financing models, investment mechanisms, and regulatory and institutional frameworks, with a focus on practical solutions, lessons learned and approaches that can be replicated or scaled up in other countries.

Pillar 3: Barriers and Solutions

To enable the effective implementation of methane mitigation measures, this pillar will examine common barriers related to access to finance, project bankability, technology transfer, operational and institutional capacity, methane measurement, monitoring and reporting, as well as the

availability and quality of data. Furthermore, this will facilitate the exchange of approaches to overcoming regulatory and institutional constraints and creating enabling conditions for the scaling-up of effective solutions.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND PARTNERS

The Global High-Level Dialogue on Methane Emissions from the Waste Sector will be launched under the leadership of the COP31 Presidency of Türkiye, with support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with the participation of interested countries, international organizations and relevant stakeholders. Türkiye will facilitate the establishment of the Dialogue and engagement with prospective partners during the COP31 Presidency.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the Dialogue beyond COP31, its governance and coordination arrangements, including potential secretariat functions and the establishment of a Steering Committee, will be developed in consultation with interested partners and international organizations. In this regard, priority will be given to building on existing international organizations and mechanisms to ensure continuity, effective coordination and access to relevant expertise and resources.

Informed by ongoing consultation and exchange with stakeholders engaged in *Axis 4: Building Resilience for Cities, Infrastructure and Water* of the Global Climate Action Agenda, the Global High-Level Dialogue on Methane Emissions from the Waste Sector will support efforts to advance the Global Climate Action Agenda's objectives.

PARTICIPATION

The Global High-Level Dialogue on Methane Emissions from the Waste Sector will bring together interested countries, international organisations, financial institutions, cities and municipalities, technical and research institutions, private-sector entities and sectoral organisations committed to advancing methane emission reductions in the waste sector.

The Dialogue will remain open to new participants following COP31, with participation based on voluntary engagement and respective priorities, expertise and capacities.

Parties may contribute to the Dialogue on a voluntary basis, in accordance with their respective national circumstances, priorities and capacities, including through the sharing of relevant national policies, practices, projects and lessons learned, participation in technical discussions and working groups, and other forms of cooperation.

International organizations, research institutions, civil society organizations, private-sector entities, technology providers and financial institutions may participate in the Dialogue in accordance with their respective mandates, expertise and areas of interest, including through technical cooperation, knowledge exchange, capacity building, project development and financing support.

Countries and other interested stakeholders wishing to participate in the Dialogue are kindly invited to submit an expression of interest through their respective UNFCCC national focal point, by e-mail to the address indicated below. Participation will be voluntary and will not entail any legal or financial obligations. The same e-mail address may also be used by other interested stakeholders to share their expression of interest.

CONTACT

Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye
Email: dongusel@csb.gov.tr