SUBJECT: Invitation to Participate in the Regional and International Cooperation for Oceans Initiative

On behalf of the COP31 Presidency, I extend my respects to you, and it is my honour to inform you of the following.

As we prepare for the upcoming 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Antalya, our focus is on translating collective climate ambition into concrete and practical action. Through the COP31 Action Agenda, we are placing implementation at the heart of our efforts. Building on the framework of the Global Climate Action Agenda, we designed the COP31 Action Agenda as a practical implementation platform that complements formal negotiations by mobilising voluntary action, partnerships and coalitions among Parties and non-Party stakeholders to accelerate implementation and deliver tangible results across ten priority areas for climate action.

As part of this effort, the COP31 Presidency is honoured to share the attached concept note for the Regional and International Cooperation for Oceans Initiative, a Türkiye-led initiative aimed at establishing a practical cooperation framework for shared sea basins that positions seas and oceans as a strategic climate domain linking adaptation, resilience, biodiversity, finance and sustainable development.

The Initiative responds to fragmented regional climate cooperation on shared seas, where marine science, data systems, adaptation planning and blue finance remain insufficiently connected to implementation-ready projects. Building on the Regional Seas Conventions and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, it will connect governments, research institutions, local authorities, development banks and civil society through shared data and monitoring standards, blue carbon and ecosystem-based solutions, and a blue adaptation finance window with a screened pipeline of pilot projects.

On behalf of the COP31 Presidency, I would like to invite you to support the Regional and International Cooperation for Oceans Initiative. Your cooperation would be highly appreciated as we advance our joint efforts towards COP31 and beyond.

For further information or expression of support, please contact denizcevresi@csb.gov.tr and ecihan.kavlak@iklim.gov.tr.

I look forward to working with you towards a successful COP31 in Antalya.

Murat Kurum
COP31 President-Designate
Minister of Environment,
Urbanisation and Climate Change
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