COP31 Presidency Observer Forum

Advancing Electrification: From Ambition to Implementation

Date : 22 October 2026

Time : 10:00-12:00 (GMT) | 13:00-15:00 (Türkiye time)

Background

COP31 must be a COP of implementation and acceleration of climate action. The COP31 President-Designate and the President of Negotiations have identified a significant set of priorities aimed at accelerating the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals.

UNFCCC NGO constituencies and other expert observer organizations play a key role in all forms of climate action, as implementers and as affected stakeholders. They help to unlock implementation on the ground, link global policy discussions with local expertise and knowledge, and represent stakeholders directly affected by climate impacts and responses. Their practical experience can help identify opportunities for reform and solutions that support both climate ambition and delivery.

In the lead-up to COP31, the COP Presidency will continue to engage closely with NGO constituencies and other expert observer organizations on key priorities to build momentum and to ensure these priorities meet the needs of the global community.

To support this engagement, the COP31 Presidency will hold two forums on key COP31 priorities linked to the acceleration and implementation of climate action. These forums aim to ensure that NGO constituencies have meaningful opportunities to share views and inform Party positions and COP31 outcomes. The forums will also facilitate targeted dialogue between Parties and observer organisations that can help unlock implementation priorities and support robust COP31 outcomes.

This second Observer Forum will focus on electrification, which is a key COP31 Presidency priority for advancing the energy transition while supporting energy security, affordability, energy access and sustainable development, following the first Observer Forum on “Improving Access to Climate Finance, particularly for SIDS and LDCs.”

1. Framing – Electrification

Electrification is central to the transformation of energy systems and to achieving climate and development objectives. Increasing electricity’s share of final energy use across buildings, transport and industry, can contribute to reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency and strengthening energy security. Progress remains uneven across sectors and regions, with significant challenges related to electricity infrastructure, affordability, energy access, policy and institutional capacity, investment and other enabling conditions.

Following the announcements made during New York Climate Week, including the COP31 35-by-35 electrification target, the COP31 Global Electrification Pledge and the Global Electrification Initiative, the focus is increasingly shifting from ambition to implementation.

The Observer Forum will provide an opportunity for Parties and NGO constituencies to discuss the practical conditions required to advance electrification and to identify opportunities, barriers and

priorities across sectors and regions. The Forum will be structured as an interactive, moderated discussion, combining short scene-setting interventions with a panel exchange and contributions from Parties and NGO constituencies. The format is intended to encourage dialogue among speakers and participants, rather than a sequence of standalone presentations.

The discussion will be informed by contributions from the International Energy Agency (IEA), strategic partner of the COP31 Presidency, and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Both organizations have been closely engaged with the COP31 Presidency in the development of its electrification agenda, including the COP31 Electrification Pledge and Global Electrification Initiative.

Following brief scene-setting interventions, the moderator will invite the IRENA and IEA to reflect on key implementation questions and engage with perspectives raised by Parties and NGO constituencies. IRENA will draw on its analysis, ongoing work and practical experience on renewables, electrification and grid enhancement, including its engagement with utilities through UNEZA and the IEA will draw on key findings from its Electrification Special Report, prepared in support of COP31.

The forum is intended to facilitate an interactive and moderated dialogue between Parties and NGO constituencies, allowing participants to exchange perspectives, respond to points raised during the discussion and provide practical input that can inform COP31 discussions and the implementation of the COP31 electrification agenda.

2. Participation

Attendance at this event is open to all Parties and admitted observer organizations.

For constituencies, each group will be invited to nominate a speaker with relevant expertise on electrification to speak on its behalf. This may be the Constituency Focal Point or another nominated expert. For Parties, each Party or Group that intends to intervene should also nominate a speaker.

Details for participants, for both speakers and other attendees, will be provided in due course. Please notify the COP31 Presidency (observers@cop31.tr) and the Secretariat (cool@unfccc.int) of your proposed speaker for the Observer Forum on Electrification.

The discussion will be facilitated by a moderator, who will guide the panel exchange, introduce the guiding questions, invite contributions from Parties and NGO constituencies, and encourage speakers to respond to and build on perspectives raised during the discussion. The moderator will also provide a brief summary of the main messages emerging from the exchange.

3. Guiding Questions and Possible Outcomes

The moderator will use the following guiding questions to structure and facilitate the interactive discussion, inviting participants to respond to and build on perspectives raised during the exchange:

a) What are the main opportunities and barriers to scaling electrification across sectors and regions, taking into account different national circumstances and development priorities and drawing on the practical experiences and perspectives of different stakeholders?
b) What enabling conditions are needed to advance electrification, including in relation to electricity infrastructure, energy access, affordability, policy and institutional capacity?
c) What practical actions could Parties, financial institutions, industry and civil society take before COP31 to accelerate implementation?

d) How can international cooperation, including through existing initiatives, partnerships and implementation efforts, build on respective strengths and complement each other to unlock faster and more practical electrification outcomes towards and beyond COP31?

Possible outcomes include a summary paper from each forum noting recommendations and implementation challenges to support robust COP31 outcomes and enhanced party visibility of NGO constituency priorities through discussions.

4. Programme and Agenda

Time	**Activity**	**Speakers**
10 Mins	**Welcome and COP31 framing on electrification** Welcome remarks, introduction to the objectives of the Forum and framing of electrification within the COP31 agenda	**Dr. Tuğba Dinçbaş**, Director of Action Agenda, Deputy Director of Climate Change, COP31 Presidency, Türkiye (5 mins); **Amanda Wormald**, Head of Net Zero Pathways, COP31 Presidency of Negotiations, Australia (5 mins)
20 mins	**Moderated Panel Discussion** Moderator-led discussion with IEA and IRENA, providing an evidence-based and practical perspective on global electrification and setting the scene for the broader discussion.	**Luciano Caratori** (Moderator), Head of Energy, Industry and Transport, Climate Champions Team **Ricardo Gorini**, Head, Energy and Socio-Economic Outlooks at IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre **Thomas Spencer**, Analyst, IEA
80 mins	**Moderator-led discussion** The moderator will invite interventions and questions from NGO constituencies, Parties, the COP31 Presidency, COP31 Presidency of Negotiations, IEA and IRENA (max 5 minutes each) Speakers will be encouraged to respond to and build on points raised by other participants, allowing for an interactive exchange on practical opportunities, barriers and enabling conditions for electrification across sectors and regions.	**Luciano Caratori** (Moderator), Head of Energy, Industry and Transport, Climate Champions Team NGO Constituencies, Parties, IGOs, COP31 Presidency, IRENA and IEA
10 mins	**Summary of main messages and closing remarks**	**Okan Uğurlu,** Lead Coordinator for Electrification, Action Agenda Team, COP31 Presidency, Türkiye