

SLOCAT ‘At a Glance’ Briefing Note

Transport at COP31: Ambition to Action

9 to 20 November 2026 · Antalya, Türkiye · COP31 Blue Zone · SLOCAT

Why Transport, and Why Now

For decades, transport was treated primarily as a source of emissions. It is now increasingly recognised as a principal enabler of a resilient, prosperous and low-carbon economy.

16.3%

Transport accounts for 16.3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, **the second-largest and fastest-growing major source.**

95%

of the energy the transport sector consumes still comes from **fossil fuels.**

25% by 2035

The **transport energy demand reduction** committed to by eleven governments at COP30.

35% by 2035

The COP31 Presidency **electrification target** for the share of final energy demand met by electricity.

Transport is the backbone of access to jobs, education, healthcare and markets, and is pivotal to trade, tourism, logistics corridors and regional integration. As a critical enabler of Nationally Determined Contributions and the Sustainable Development Goals, transport sits at the intersection of climate action, energy security, economic development, social inclusion and resilience, making it central to the COP31 agenda.

Reducing transport emissions and fossil fuel dependence will require a combination of Avoid and Shift measures, including compact and integrated land use, reduced travel demand, greater use of public and shared transport, active mobility, modal shift and more efficient freight and logistics systems, alongside Improve measures such as vehicle electrification powered by renewable energy, sustainable and low carbon fuels, greater energy and vehicle efficiency, digitalisation, and progress in harder to abate segments including maritime, aviation and heavy duty transport.

The Road to COP31

A series of decisions across recent Conferences of the Parties has progressively elevated transport from a sectoral issue into a **systemic lever for climate mitigation and adaptation.**

COP27

Launch of Low Carbon Transport Urban Sustainability (LOTUS)

COP28

The First Global Stocktake marked the first explicit recognition of transport in a negotiated outcome.

COP29

A quantified climate finance goal advanced, strengthening resources for sectoral transition.

COP30

The Baku to Belem Roadmap launched alongside a Transport Declaration endorsed by eleven governments.

COP31

An electrification target of 35 per cent by 2035 launched, ahead of the second Global Stocktake.

The COP31 Moment

COP31 offers an opportunity to **move transport from political ambition towards coordinated implementation**. Building on the [COP30 Transport Declaration](#), COP31 marks the next step towards a clearer global framework for transport action through the launch of the Global Goal and Targets for Transport process and the initiation of a multi-stakeholder Transport Stocktake, both coordinated by SLOCAT.

This is reinforced by the COP31 Presidency's [35x35 target](#), with transport demand management and electrification imperative to advancing this target, alongside a new transport initiative to be launched at COP31.

Taking place in the first year of the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport and ahead of the second Global Stocktake, COP31 provides an important opportunity to align these processes, strengthen accountability and build momentum for implementation over the decade ahead.

COP31 Priority Themes

The Presidency's vision is operationalised through ten interconnected priorities. Transport is a cross-cutting solution that enables each one.

- **Clean Energy Transition and Electrification:** Reducing transport energy demand, strengthening the transport-energy nexus: Electrifying transport, improving efficiency and shifting travel and freight to lower-carbon modes.
- **Zero Waste and Methane Reduction:** Circular vehicles and infrastructure, efficient logistics and reducing material and energy demand.
- **Climate Resilient Cities:** Public and freight transport, walking and cycling, and resilient, integrated urban mobility.
- **Green Industrialisation:** Low-carbon freight, logistics and industrial supply chains supporting a competitive green economy.
- **Youth and Education:** Safe, affordable access to education, alongside skills and workforce development for the transport transition.
- **Food Security:** Reliable, efficient and resilient transport and logistics connecting producers, markets and communities.
- **Oceans and Seas:** Green ports, cleaner shipping and low-carbon maritime corridors.
- **Dynamic and Resilient Health Systems:** Safe, accessible and resilient transport supporting healthcare access, emergency response and healthier communities.

- **Rio Synergies:** Integrated transport systems that reduce emissions while supporting nature, land restoration and biodiversity.
- **Climate Implementation Bridge:** Turning transport commitments into policies, projects, investment and implementation.

A Coordinated Transport Presence

Transport at COP31 spans four connected and complementary forums:

- **Transport Ministerial:** A dedicated convening of transport ministers, supported by the International Transport Forum, to secure political commitments in week one.
- **Transport and Energy Day (10 Nov):** Sessions, clinics and roundtables that translate commitments into action plans and project pipelines. Transport themes will also be represented on Resilient Cities day (12 Nov).
- **Transport Pavilion:** A Blue Zone space sustaining engagement throughout COP, deepening connections and conversations between ministers, financiers and other stakeholders.
- **Transport Across Side Events and Formal Negotiations:** Dedicated sessions, discussions and networking spaces across relevant side events and pavilions, bringing the transport community together to share priorities, showcase progress and build connections. Strengthening relations and coalitions with negotiators to voice transport priorities across negotiations.

What This Presence Can Achieve

- **Secure high-level political commitments:** Ministerial declarations and government pledges aligned with the emerging Global Goal and Targets for Transport.
- **Translate commitments into implementation:** National plans, budgets, procurement reform, investment pipelines and documented case studies.
- **Operationalise the energy transition:** Showing how transport, including public transport, freight and electrification, can accelerate the wider clean energy transition and contribute to the 35x35 target.
- **Mobilise finance and bankable pipelines:** Connecting projects with development banks, climate funds and private investors.
- **Advance equity, access and just transition:** Affordable, safe and accessible transport, and support for workers in transition.
- **Build a coordinated, multi-year legacy:** Governance that tracks commitments and carries momentum to COP32 and the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport.

Inside the Transport Pavilion

Building on the success of the first Transport Pavilion in the COP Blue Zone at COP30 in Belém, which hosted 34 technical panels, involved 48 partner organisations and engaged 2,000+ participants, the COP31 Transport Pavilion will bring together governments and policymakers, international organisations, private sector companies, development banks and investors to support the transition towards sustainable, low-carbon transport.

The **COP31 Transport Pavilion** will provide a dedicated Blue Zone home for transport engagement throughout COP31, bringing together national and city governments, project owners, financiers, industry and the wider transport community. Designed as a continuous hub for dialogue, showcasing and connection, the Pavilion will combine exhibition booths, a micro session amphitheatre for 20 to 40 participants, project clinic rooms and a live demonstration zone within a footprint of approximately 50 to 100 square metres.

Beyond the main Transport Day programme, the Pavilion will provide space for implementation-focused activities, matchmaking, smaller roundtables and magnifying the issues and needs around access and equity, including gender, people with disabilities, rural access and last mile solutions.

Why Support Transport @ COP31

- **Elevate transport within the climate agenda:** A coordinated transport presence will raise the sector's visibility and coherence across both the UNFCCC negotiations and the COP31 Action Agenda, creating stronger connections between political discussions, commitments and action.
 - Impact: Political traction: Commitments: Implementation: Results
- **Connect policy with investment:** Connect political commitments with the policies, projects, procurement and financing needed to deliver them, bringing decision makers, project owners and financiers into the same implementation ecosystem.
 - Impact: Investment mobilisation: Projects financed: Pipelines strengthened: Delivery accelerated
- **Showcase credible solutions:** The Transport Pavilion will put practical solutions at the centre, from public and active transport to freight, logistics, electrification, renewable energy and harder-to-abate sectors, alongside concrete policies, projects and business models.
 - Impact: Solutions at scale: Proven models: Wider adoption: Faster replication
- **Enable cross-sector collaboration:** Create connections across energy, industry, cities, health, food systems, tourism and logistics, reflecting the role transport plays across the Presidency's priorities and the wider climate agenda.
 - Impact: Integrated action: Stronger partnerships: Joined-up action: Greater impact
- **Build a lasting legacy:** Link the Global Goal and Targets for Transport, the Transport Stocktake and implementation efforts with the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport and the second Global Stocktake.
 - Impact: Lasting legacy: Commitments tracked: Progress sustained: Action continued.

COP Legacy

COP30, Brazil → COP31, Türkiye → COP32, Ethiopia
UN Decade of Sustainable Transport, 2026 to 2035

COP30 in Brazil resulted in a landmark COP30 Transport Declaration - a global effort signed by 11 countries to reduce energy demand from transport and shift to renewables by 2035, along with the first-ever transport pavilion in Blue Zone- a transport marker in COP space. Concurrently, a forthcoming roadmap to transition away from fossil fuels was announced, alongside a call to triple finance for adaptation in developing countries and 5+ Plans to Accelerate Solutions in the transport sector under the new Action Agenda

COP31 in Türkiye has the potential to also leave a lasting legacy: a clearer global direction for transport, stronger regional cooperation, and tangible advances in sustainable, low-carbon transport for decades to come. Furthermore, progress at COP31 will build momentum for COP32 in Ethiopia, accelerating implementation of sustainable transport solutions ahead of Global Stocktake 2, in support of and in tandem with the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport.

We invite your organisation to join SLOCAT in making Transport at COP31 a defining platform for the global transport community.

Reach out to us to join the efforts for Transport @ COP31

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**Join us to accelerate the
transformation of transport
systems and services
towards inclusive, healthy,
green and resilient solutions
for people and the planet.**



Get in Touch



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