COP31

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE?

MEDIA BRIEFER | ANTALYA, TURKIYE | 9–20 NOVEMBER 2026



How to use this briefer

This is intended as a working resource for journalists, not a negotiating text or a comprehensive policy statement. It separates what the treaties say, what governments are discussing and what DCJ and its member groups are calling for.

Inside this briefer

A reporting guide to the negotiations, the questions behind the headlines, and climate justice concerns raised by DCJ and its members.

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1. COP31 AT A GLANCE

A reporting guide to the negotiations, the questions behind the headlines, and climate justice concerns raised by DCJ and its members.

The story in one minute

COP31 will be a test of implementation. Countries already recognise the need to cut emissions, strengthen resilience and support communities experiencing climate loss and damage. The central dispute is over who takes responsibility, who provides the resources, and whether negotiated commitments translate into action.

For the Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice (DCJ), climate ambition and equity cannot be separated. Countries with the greatest historical responsibility and capability must cut emissions first and fastest, while providing finance, technology transfer and capacity-building support to developing countries.

A central issue at COP31 is whether developed countries will fulfil their obligations under Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement to provide climate finance to developing countries. For DCJ, public, grant-based finance must not be replaced by loans that deepen debt, promises to mobilise private investment or speculative future carbon removals that delay real emissions cuts.

Five questions to watch out for at COP31

1. **Climate finance:** Will developed countries fulfil their obligations under Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement by providing the required, public grant-based finance, rather than substitute private mobilisation for their obligations?

2. **Emission cuts and equity:** Will developed countries cut emissions first and fastest, in line with their historical responsibility, rather than relying on speculative carbon removals to delay real action?

3. **Adaptation and loss and damage:** Will climate finance move beyond promises and procedures to delivering required and timely support to developing countries and communities without adding to their debt burdens?

4. **Just Transition:** Will the Just Transition Mechanism and energy transition plans deliver meaningful participation, finance and technology for workers, communities and developing countries?

5. **Wider climate justice agenda:** Will governments address false solutions, trade barriers, militarism and corporate influence while protecting people's rights and avoiding new burdens on the Global South?

Who is running COP31?

The conference runs from 9th to 20th November 2026 in Antalya. Turkiye hosts and presides over COP31, while Australia serves as President of Negotiations under their partnership arrangement.

About DCJ

The Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice (DCJ) is a global network of more than 200 climate justice and human rights organisations, grassroots groups and movements, with strong representation from the Global South.

Working at local, regional and international levels, DCJ advocates climate action grounded in equity, historical responsibility, human rights and people-led solutions. Its members work to ensure that the voices and demands of communities are reflected in international climate negotiations.

This briefer brings together key positions, concerns and resources from DCJ and its members to help journalists understand the issues at stake at COP31.

Three distinctions journalists should keep clear-

- **Public provision vs mobilisation.** Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement concerns resources that developed countries **'shall'** provide. Discussion of finance "mobilised" from other sources does not erase that obligation.

- **Climate action vs burden shifting.** A global energy, mitigation or trade target is not automatically equitable. Ask who has the capacity, finance and technology to implement it.

- **Proposals vs agreed outcomes.** Finance work programmes, adaptation targets, any cover decision and voluntary "action agenda" announcements have different legal and political status. Check the adopted decision before describing a proposal as an agreement.

2. CLIMATE FINANCE: ARTICLE 9.1 AND DELIVERY

Climate finance is an obligation, not charity

Under Article 9.1 of the 2015 Paris Agreement developed-countries ***"shall provide financial resources"*** to assist developing countries with mitigation and adaptation. It is an obligation, not charity. Climate finance is a responsibility rooted in historical emissions and climate debt, not charity.

DCJ is calling for a stronger commitment to providing adequate, predictable, public and grant-based finance that does not add to developing countries' debt. Climate finance must reach countries and communities that need it, rather than remain a series of promises and discussions.

Private investment and loans cannot be counted as substitutes for the public grants developed countries owe. Developing countries must not be forced into debt to confront a crisis they did little to cause.

What COP31 must deliver

At COP31, a key question is whether developed countries will take concrete steps to fulfil their climate finance obligations or continue to shift the focus towards attracting private investment and other sources of finance. COP30 established a two-year climate finance work programme. At COP31, DCJ wants concrete accountability for developed countries' obligation to provide finance under Article 9.1, not another round of talks about attracting investors.

Money promised ≠ money delivered

At COP29, governments agreed to a climate finance goal of at least US$300 billion annually by 2035, with developed countries taking the lead. They also called for scaling up finance from public and private sources to at least US$1.3 trillion a year by 2035.

DCJ rejected the US$300 billion goal as grossly inadequate. Developing countries need climate finance on the scale of **trillions, not billions**. These headline figures and promises to mobilise private investment cannot replace developed countries' obligation to provide public, grant-based and debt-free finance.

At COP31, DCJ calls for:

- Demand new and additional, predictable public grants, with clear reporting of what has actually been provided and disbursed.
- Scale up debt-free support for mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and just transition, reaching communities without delay.
- Make polluters pay, end harmful fossil fuel subsidies and change debt and tax rules to free up resources for climate action.

What to watch: Whether the work programme leads to measurable public-finance commitments; whether private mobilisation is presented as a substitute; and which countries provide grants rather than loans.

3. 1.5°C, EQUITY, SCIENCE AND OVERSHOOT

Real emissions cuts, with developed countries moving first and fastest

Cutting emissions quickly and fairness go hand in hand. DCJ wants deep, immediate, and long-term cuts, with developed countries leading the way and giving developing countries the money and tools they need to act.

Climate justice does not mean having the same targets for countries with very different responsibilities and resources. Any political declaration or emissions targets at COP31 must be based on historical responsibility and assistance needed by developing countries.

Why assumptions on overshoot and carbon-removal matter

The UNEP's 2026 Emissions Gap Report illustrates the scale of the gap from current pledges and explains the risks of exceeding 1.5°C before warming could be brought down. DCJ rejects using false solutions of carbon removal to justify fossil fuel expansionism or delays in cuts today.

The cuts must come first. Large-scale removals carry unresolved risks involving land, water, permanence and communities. Speculative technologies cannot stand in for real reductions now.

Science must include the Global South

After the IPCC's 65th session was suspended without agreement on the timetable for its next major assessment, DCJ called for both scientific urgency and genuine Global South participation.

Researchers need the time and resources to shape and review assessments. Climate action cannot wait for the next report.

- Cut emissions at source now, instead of relying on offsets or promises of future removals.
- Apply equity, historical responsibility and differentiated capabilities to mitigation and support.
- Ensure Global South scientists can meaningfully participate in IPCC assessments.

What to watch: Developed-country emissions cuts, any attempt to justify delays through overshoot or removals, and whether scientific decision-making is inclusive.

4. ADAPTATION, LOSS AND DAMAGE: THE NEPAL CASE

Communities need finance before and after disaster strikes

Adaptation helps people prepare for floods, droughts, heatwaves and other climate-induced disasters. Loss-and-damage finance supports those facing harms that cannot be avoided, including destroyed homes, livelihoods and cultural heritage. DCJ demands new, public, grant-based finance for both, without adding to developing countries' debt.

The adaptation funding gap

Adaptation finance is insufficient and precarious. DCJ demands for needs-based targets, secure public financing, and access for communities on the front lines. Without a baseline in place, the promise to triple adaptation finance is empty on when it will come in time and scale.

Adaptation must be local led, like health and water systems and early warnings, resilient housing, food sovereignty, and Indigenous stewardship. The Global Goal on Adaptation is important, but we need money and implementation and not only indicators.

Nepal: setting aside money is not the same as delivering it

Following Nepal's devastating August floods, the Loss and Damage Fund Board provisionally set aside US$21.6 million on 22 October 2026. But Nepal must still submit a funding request and complete further procedures. DCJ welcomed the decision but warned that families need support now, not more delays. The amount also falls far short of Nepal's recovery needs.

A separate US$36.1 million Green Climate Fund project to protect Nepalese communities from glacial floods took **more than seven years to secure approval**. First submitted as a concept note in February 2018, it was approved in July 2025 and work on implementation only began in March 2026. While the project does not cover the area affected by the August 2026 floods, the long approval process raises serious questions about whether climate finance can reach vulnerable communities in time to prevent disasters.

DCJ calls for:

- Substantial, new and additional grants for Adaptation Finance and the Loss and Damage Fund, delivered quickly.
- Accessible, debt-free adaptation and loss-and-damage finance without unnecessary delays.
- Real decision-making power for frontline communities, Indigenous Peoples, women and other rights-holders.

What to watch: Whether Nepal receives funding promptly, whether the Fund has adequate resources and whether finance reaches affected communities.

5. JUST TRANSITION, FOSSIL FUELS AND ELECTRIFICATION

A just transition must change who benefits and who decides

At COP30, governments agreed to develop a Just Transition Mechanism, often referred to as the Belém Antalya Mechanism (BAM). DCJ sees this as an important step, but at COP31 the focus must move from process to delivery. The mechanism must provide real support, accountability and participation, not just more discussion.

Workers, Indigenous Peoples, farmers, women and other affected communities must have a real role in shaping and governing it. A just transition is not only about energy jobs. It must also address food systems, care, transport, public services and the impacts of critical mineral extraction.

A rapid, fair and funded transition away from fossil fuels

DCJ calls for a rapid, equitable and fully funded phase-out of fossil fuels. Developed countries must move first and fastest, stop expanding fossil fuels, and provide finance and technology for developing countries' transitions.

The **shift** away **from fossil fuels must not create new sacrifice zones** or hand more power to corporations over land and energy.

Electrification without equity is not enough

Electrification will be a major issue at COP31. But more electricity alone is not enough. For DCJ, the transition must be based on renewable energy that is affordable and accessible, without pushing the social and environmental costs onto marginalised communities.

The key questions are simple: who benefits, what powers the system, who pays and who decides? Developing countries need finance and technology, not new unfunded demands. Fossil gas and other false solutions must not be presented as part of a just transition.

- Make BAM work, with rights-holders involved in decision-making and public, debt-free support for implementation.
- Put energy sovereignty, decent work, public services, and Indigenous and gender rights at the centre.
- Require developed countries to lead the fossil fuel phase-out and support equitable transitions elsewhere.

What to watch: Whether BAM delivers real finance and decision-making power, whether fossil fuel expansion is challenged, and who gains or losses from new electrification plans.

6. CARBON MARKETS, GEOENGINEERING AND THE OCEAN AGENDA

False solutions cannot replace cuts to pollution

DCJ rejects carbon markets and offsets that allow polluters to claim climate progress while continuing to emit. Carbon credits under Article 6 must not replace real emissions cuts or shift risks onto communities.

Large carbon-removal projects can threaten land, water, livelihoods and community rights. Indigenous Peoples and local communities must have control over their territories, including the right to free, prior and informed consent.

Not all technologies are the same

Carbon dioxide removal (CDR) takes CO_2 from the atmosphere, while carbon capture and storage (CCS) captures it at an emissions source. Solar geoengineering seeks to alter Earth's energy balance, while carbon credits are market instruments. These approaches differ, but none should justify continued fossil fuel extraction or delayed emissions cuts.

Oceans are not a laboratory for climate fixes

DCJ's opposition to false solutions extends to proposals to manipulate oceans to remove carbon or cool the planet. These include ocean fertilisation, altering ocean chemistry, sinking biomass and marine cloud brightening.

In October 2026, the International Maritime Organization adopted frameworks to assess marine geoengineering research, recognising environmental risks and uncertainties.

Oceans sustain ecosystems, fisheries and coastal communities. They must not become testing grounds for speculative technologies or new carbon markets. DCJ and allied movements call for precaution, protection of marine ecosystems and respect for coastal and Indigenous communities' rights.

DCJ calls for:

- Real emissions cuts, not offsets or speculative carbon removals.
- An end to land grabs and the commodification of forests, oceans and communities.
- Protection of marine ecosystems and community rights, with independent scrutiny of geoengineering proposals.

What to watch: Expansion of carbon markets, reliance on future removals and the environmental and social risks of ocean-based proposals

7. THE WIDER CLIMATE JUSTICE AGENDA

Climate justice is about rights, resources and power

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Climate justice goes beyond the negotiating agenda. DCJ challenges the extraction, inequality, militarism and corporate power that fuel the climate crisis and shift its costs onto the Global South. People's rights, public resources and control over decisions are central to this struggle.

Palestine, solidarity and the global energy embargo

DCJ stands with Palestinian movements demanding self-determination, human rights and an end to occupation and environmental destruction. It calls for a global energy embargo on Israel and an end to fossil fuel supply chains sustaining military operations in Gaza.
The destruction of homes, farmland, water systems and livelihoods is inseparable from climate justice. DCJ demands accountability from governments and companies involved in these energy supply chains as well as in being complicit in the ongoing genocide

Militarism, fossil fuels and public spending

War and military operations consume fossil fuels, generate emissions and devastate ecosystems. Governments continue to spend vast sums on weapons and war, with global military spending reaching US$2.887 trillion in 2025, up 2.9% in real terms from the previous year, while failing to meet their climate finance obligations. DCJ calls for redirecting public resources away from militarism and harmful fossil fuel subsidies towards climate action.

Debt, trade rules and technology justice

Debt repayments leave developing countries with fewer resources for climate action. DCJ demands debt justice, fairer tax rules and an end to unilateral climate-related trade barriers that shift costs onto the Global South.
The Belém Technology Implementation Programme must deliver accessible technology and practical support. Intellectual-property rules must not prevent developing countries from pursuing a just transition.

Food sovereignty, forests and Indigenous rights

DCJ calls for food sovereignty, agroecology, farmers' rights and community control over land and forests. It rejects carbon-market schemes that turn forests into tradeable assets at the expense of Indigenous rights, livelihoods and food systems.

Feminist justice, care and civic space

Women, workers, Indigenous Peoples and frontline communities must shape decisions, not merely be consulted. A just transition must protect care work, public services, environmental defenders and the right to protest.

Keeping big polluters out (KBPO) of climate policymaking

DCJ opposes the influence of fossil fuel companies and other major polluters over climate negotiations. At COP30, research by the Kick Big Polluters Out (KBPO) coalition identified more than 1,600 fossil fuel lobbyists at the talks, roughly one in every 25 participants.

KBPO is preparing fresh research for COP31 on the presence and influence of big polluters at the negotiations. DCJ demands stronger conflict-of-interest safeguards, transparency and an end to corporate capture of climate policymaking.

What to watch: Movement-led demands, fossil fuel links to war, debt and trade barriers, Indigenous and civic rights, and corporate influence over COP31 decisions.

READ MORE DCJ's wider justice agenda • DCJ Palestine solidarity demands • DCJ people's agenda

8. QUESTIONS JOURNALISTS SHOULD ASK

Reporting beyond the negotiating headlines

What would real progress on finance look like? New, additional and predictable public grants from developed countries, with transparent reporting of what has been provided and disbursed, not just claimed as mobilised.

Is equity an excuse for slower emissions reductions? No. DCJ calls for rapid cuts now, with developed countries taking the lead and providing the support that enables others to transition fairly.

What is the practical test for the Just Transition Mechanism? Whether affected people gain genuine decision-making power and whether countries can access public finance, technology and implementation support.

Has the Loss and Damage Fund already paid Nepal? As of the 22 October Board decision, no. US$21.6 million was provisionally set aside, with a new request and further approvals still required. That is not money received by affected families.

Is rising electrification always evidence of climate progress? Not if the electricity comes from fossil fuels, excludes energy-poor communities or imposes costs for grids, extraction and infrastructure on the Global South.

Do carbon markets or future removals make fossil fuel cuts less urgent? DCJ rejects that logic. Claimed future removals cannot justify delayed emissions reductions, new fossil fuel expansion or rights violations.

Why do oceans, Palestine and military budgets belong in a COP31 briefer? Because climate justice also concerns human rights, fossil-fuelled conflict, environmental destruction and where governments choose to spend public money.

Whose voices are missing from the story? Ask whether negotiators are hearing from Indigenous Peoples, grassroots movements, women, farmers, workers, fishers and the communities whose lives are most affected.

Useful distinctions when checking claims

- Pledged, approved, disbursed and received finance are different stages.
- A voluntary presidency initiative is not an adopted negotiating decision.
- A carbon credit is not proof that emissions fell; an announced carbon-removal plan is not a delivered emissions cut.
- An adaptation project protecting a particular region is not evidence that money reached victims of a different disaster.

9.MEDIA CONTACTS AND SOURCE DESK

Interviews, quotes, briefing requests, visual assets, and more

Covering COP31? DCJ can connect you with climate justice experts, campaign representatives, grassroots movements and frontline voices from the Global South and beyond.

Our communications team can help with interviews, expert comments, background briefings and updates on key civil society actions, mobilisations, press conferences and other media opportunities throughout COP31.

Media contacts
Juliah Kibochi | juliah.dcj@gmail.com
Sidharth Pandey | sidharth.dcj@gmail.com
DCJ Communications | dcj.comms@demandclimatejustice.org

Spokespersons and media resources

Request a COP31 spokesperson - Interviews with DCJ representatives, member organisations, campaigners and community voices across regions and languages.

Photos and videos for your coverage- Access COP31 photos, videos and other visual materials

➔ For the latest statements, research and campaign updates, visit the DCJ website.
➔ Get real-time updates on key climate justice actions, press briefings, expert reactions and media opportunities.**Join DCJ's COP31 Media whatsapp Group**

Additional resources:

1. What to expect at Climate Talks in Antalya
2. Who shapes climate science? The equity question facing the IPCC
3. Civil Society reacts to Loss and Damage Fund's board decision on Nepal
4. IPCC-65 suspended without agreement on key decisions, DCJ calls for urgency and equity in climate science
5. COP31 must deliver: Developed countries must honour their climate finance obligations, not make more empty promises
6. DCJ position on false solutions
7. DCJ COP31 just transition demands
8. DCJ fossil fuels and false solutions position
9. DCJ position on false solutions
10. HOME Alliance marine toolkit

[Editor's note: The issues highlighted in this briefer are illustrative, not an exhaustive list of DCJ positions, members' campaigns or COP31 agenda items. The test of COP31 is whether developed countries deliver public climate finance and lead on emissions cuts, and whether frontline communities have a real say in the transition away from fossil fuels.**]**