

Feminist Climate Justice

Advocacy & Action

WEDO's COP31 Overview

GUIDE TO COP31

Advocacy & Action

About This Guide

This guide outlines WEDO's key messages and negotiating priorities for COP31, highlights the delegation and partners we're supporting on the ground, and shares where you can find us throughout the two weeks in Antalya.

Use it to align strategies, amplify feminist leadership, and ensure that COP31 outcomes deliver coherence, accountability, and care for people and planet.

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> **"We do not need another COP that celebrates implementation in principle while leaving power, resources and responsibility unchanged. From Antalya toward Addis Ababa, implementation must mean fulfilling obligations, financing justice and shifting economies from extraction toward care."**
>
> ***Bridget Burns, WEDO Executive Director***

1. Introduction

Implementation is a Political Choice

COP31 convenes in Antalya, Türkiye, at a defining moment for international climate cooperation. A decade into the Paris Agreement era and one year after the adoption of the Belém Gender Action Plan, governments are calling this an implementation COP. Yet UNEP's latest analysis warns that the world is on course to exceed 1.5°C of warming, with potentially irreversible consequences for communities, ecosystems and livelihoods. **At precisely the moment when international cooperation is most urgently needed, geopolitical tensions, attacks on rights and a retreat from international obligations are placing the global climate regime under extraordinary strain.**

At the heart of this crisis is a broken political bargain. Countries pledged progressively stronger action on climate, shared responsibilities and the finance needed to make that action possible. Instead, commitments remain unfulfilled, even as governments demonstrate extraordinary capacity to mobilize public resources for military expansion, security and other political priorities. **The crisis is not simply an implementation gap, but a crisis of political choices about what we value, what we protect and whose futures we invest in.**

For feminist movements, these failures are not surprising. We have long understood that the climate crisis is rooted in systems of extraction, inequality, colonialism, patriarchy and concentrated power. Moving from extraction to care requires transforming these systems, not simply managing their consequences. It also means reimagining resilience, investing in preparedness, public services, care and collective capacities before disasters strike.

Yet the future is not predetermined. Recent elections remind us that political power remains contested, that collective organizing can shift political realities, and that openings for change can emerge even in the most difficult moments.

We engage in multilateral institutions not because they are sufficient, but because feminist movements have created openings within them. Our task is to turn those openings into power, defending hard-won commitments while building the solidarity and collective action needed to transform our future.

2. WEDO at COP31

Advocacy. Analysis. Coordination.

For over three decades, the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) has worked to place women's rights, gender equality, and environmental integrity at the center of global climate policy. At the UNFCCC, WEDO brings deep technical expertise across all areas of feminist analysis in the negotiations, from finance, adaptation, and technology to just transition and data.

At COP31 in Antalya, WEDO continues to bridge advocacy, analysis, and coordination, linking feminist movements on the ground with the decision-making spaces that shape climate governance and implementation. WEDO supports the coordination of the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC), which serves as the political voice for women's rights and feminist advocates into the UNFCCC process. We also run the Women Delegates Fund, providing capacity strengthening and travel support to women from Global Majority countries to engage in the negotiations on behalf of their delegations.

Gender Climate Tracker

WEDO's Gender Climate Tracker is a go-to resource for anyone following gender equality in global climate policy, providing data, analysis, and trends across UNFCCC decisions and national commitments.

Download the app or browse the updated website for country-specific resources, insights, precedent language, and regularly updated stats on women's participation as decision-makers in the negotiations.

Gender and Environment Data Alliance (GEDA)

As Parties work to implement climate action, gender and environment data remains essential to ensure these strategies are evidence-informed, inclusive, and participatory. WEDO will continue to work with partners in the Gender and Environment Data Alliance (GEDA) to showcase evidence and data creation methods, and to prepare for the second Gender and Environment Data Conference that is expected to be held just ahead of COP32 in Addis Ababa.

3. Key Messages

Four connected priorities for COP31

Priority 1 | Implement the Belém Gender Action Plan

Adopting the Belém GAP was an important political achievement in the face of organized anti-gender pressure. Its nine-year timeframe offers a pathway to sustained action, but the test is now national implementation, dedicated resources, and political accountability. WEDO is prioritizing four linked tracks: the March 2027 national assessments; outreach, awareness and mobilization; guidelines on women environmental defenders; and nationalizing the GAP through concrete government plans and civil-society engagement.

Priority 2 | Shape a just transition from extraction toward care

A just transition must be about much more than jobs and technology. It must shift economies away from fossil fuels and exploitation toward care and wellbeing, protecting workers, informal and unpaid care work, land rights, public services and human rights. COP31 is an important opportunity to influence the design of the UNFCCC just transition mechanism so that its mandate, governance and support reflect these goals. WEDO is also engaging the wider transition debate through energy democracy, ownership, community consent, TAFF and the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative.

Priority 3 | Build alliances for health, adaptation, and feminist resilience

As climate shocks intensify, preparedness cannot mean shifting responsibility onto the communities carrying the greatest burdens. Through the Global Feminist Convening: Reimagining Resilience in Istanbul before COP31, and through work on sexual and reproductive health and rights, community health, disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and locally led adaptation, WEDO will deepen alliances that can produce commitments and influence implementation from COP31 toward COP32.

Priority 4 | Tell the truth about climate finance and build international solidarity

The climate finance challenge is not simply a shortage of resources. It is also a retreat by the Global North from their longstanding, legal international obligations that make cooperation credible by guaranteeing support to address a crisis caused by those who benefitted from high-carbon development. Governments continue to mobilize vast sums for militarization and other domestic priorities while presenting adequate public climate finance as impossible. WEDO will call for predictable, new, and additional grant-based finance and challenge the debt, tax, and trade structures that constrain equitable action. Our ambition is to advance a wider agenda for an international solidarity economy and the fiscal policy enablers of a just transition.

4. Negotiation & Implementation Priorities

A. Belém GAP Implementation

COP31 will mark the first year of implementation of the Belém Gender Action Plan. For the last several months WEDO has focused on four key areas of work across more than 90 deliverables to support a strong foundation for action under the GAP. They link UNFCCC deliverables to the national institutions, evidence, relationships and movements that can give them meaning and power.

1 | Deliver meaningful national assessments by March 2027

A key Belém GAP deliverable calls for national assessment work on emerging issues at the intersection of gender and climate. WEDO is helping make this an opportunity for substantive learning and policy change, rather than a narrow reporting exercise. We are supporting visibility, partnerships and rigorous contributions that connect expertise from ministries, researchers, national gender and climate change focal points, grassroots groups and civil society. Due March 2027, we aim to use this milestone to build national momentum, a strong evidence base and an ongoing implementation pathway. Activities include:

- As part of the UNFCCC's Gender & Climate Impact Collective, WEDO has supported a process to create tools to support key stakeholders in understanding

the national assessment deliverable, including an Options Paper with proposals on how to complete the submission, as well as key information notes on named emerging issues around care work, violence against women and girls, and health.

- At COP31, WEDO will work with partners to showcase these tools, including through: 1) a High-level dialogue at COP31 on the Belém GAP hosted by UN Women at the Australian Pavilion on **Tuesday, 10 November 2026, 5.00 p.m**; 2) A session with UNFPA on **Saturday, 14 November, 9:00-10:00** entitled "Unpacking Deliverable A.3.9: Operationalizing National Assessments on Climate, Health, Care, and Violence Against Women and Girls at COP31" in the SDG Pavilion, and 3) a two hour workshop on the afternoon of **14 November.** This is in addition to several pre-COP workshops that have already taken place.
- In addition to the nexus issues of health, violence against women and girls, and care work explicitly named in the Belém Gender Action Plan, the national assessment deliverable calls for evidence on other emerging issues. WEDO will support and amplify efforts to address important gaps in the GAP, including Out For Sustainability's work to provide guidance on integrating LGBTQI+ issues into national assessments, as well as working with the Women's Land Rights Initiative to amplify emerging evidence and research on women's land rights and land tenure at the intersection of climate and gender.

2 | Expand awareness, outreach and mobilization for the Belém GAP

Through the **#ActontheBelémGAP** campaign and related movement-building activity, WEDO and WGC partners are translating UNFCCC language into practical opportunities for national advocacy. This involves two mutually reinforcing strands:

- Focal-point and stakeholder engagement: connecting with National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points, relevant ministries, grassroots organizations and civil society within countries to expand on the scope and mandate of deliverables, identify political opportunities and establish implementation relationships.
- Public awareness and collective mobilization: enabling localization of the GAP through tailored messaging, convening dialogues, organizing cross-constituency actions and encouraging advocates to demand action and resources from their governments.

IN ACTION: In May 2026, WGC members engaged counterparts in 35 countries and met directly with 19 government representatives across five continents. A decentralized mobilization on September 17 involved more than 90 gatherings, demonstrating how implementation can become a matter of public accountability, solidarity and collective organizing.

3 | Advance guidelines for women environmental defenders

WEDO and partners are supporting the GAP-mandated work around national and regional consultations and guidelines for the support, protection and safe participation of women environmental defenders in meetings and events at all levels. Consultations must be designed with participants' safety and wellbeing at their center, including confidential and trauma-informed approaches where appropriate. The goal is guidance that can shape practice within and beyond UNFCCC spaces.

- Contribute to the strengthening of the consultation methodology with defenders and the organizations that support them.
- Connect protection, safe participation, meaningful representation and accountability.
- Translate eventual guidance into practical expectations for governments, convenors and institutions.

4 | Nationalize the GAP: make commitments part of government action

The Belém GAP establishes 27 activities and 98 associated deliverables, including 17 activities and 38 deliverables primarily requiring implementation at national and subnational levels. Its success will depend on governments translating these commitments into concrete policies, institutional arrangements, budgets and accountability mechanisms.

At COP31, WEDO will share its new guide, **From Belém Gender Action Plan to National Gender-Responsive Climate Action**, which provides practical guidance for governments to integrate GAP commitments into existing climate policies and planning processes, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and national budgeting frameworks. This will also be a key focus of the workshop on November 14th.

SPOTLIGHT: Women's Land Rights and Climate Action

While the Belém Gender Action Plan creates an important opportunity to examine the intersecting impacts of gender and climate change, it does not explicitly reference women's land rights or land tenure. This is a significant gap. Women's access to, control over, and security of land are fundamental to their livelihoods, economic autonomy, food security, and capacity to adapt to climate change. Insecure land tenure can also expose women and communities to displacement, dispossession, and further inequalities through land-based climate interventions.

WEDO is working to ensure that women's land rights become a more visible and integral part of gender-responsive climate action. Through collaboration with the Women's Land Rights Initiative, the Women and Gender Constituency, and land rights advocates, we aim to strengthen the inclusion of land rights and tenure in national assessments under the Belém GAP. At COP31, WEDO will convene partners to build stronger connections between women's land rights and climate justice movements, with the goal of translating national evidence into coordinated advocacy at SB66 and toward COP32.

B. Just Transition Mechanism

At COP30, Parties advanced a mandate for a just transition mechanism. At COP31, the challenge is to make it real, make it representative, and design it to deliver a just transition on the ground. WEDO will advocate for a mechanism that can support implementation at country level while remaining grounded in rights, representation, gender equality and a transformation of extractive systems, institutions and power relations. For WEDO, just transition work is inextricable from an end to fossil fuels. Thus, our just transition work also looks beyond the UNFCCC negotiations to movement-wide efforts to advance an equitable, managed phaseout of fossil fuels, including strategizing towards the 2nd meeting of the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels (TAFF) conference. Activities include:

1 | Direct advocacy in the Just Transition negotiations with the WCG

WEDO, in collective with the WGC, will advocate for a just transition mechanism that advances international cooperation, operationalises the just transition principles established at COP30, coordinates just transition work happening globally, and provides the knowledge building and technical and financial support for just transition

implementation. We will also advocate for a participative and representative mechanism structure, including a formal position for rightsholder constituencies within the governance. Read the WGC mechanism proposal here.

2 | Strategizing on people-powered solutions to transition away from fossil fuels

Providing critical coordination capacity towards feminist organizing around the TAFF, strengthening interlinkages between feminist work on just transition under the UNFCCC and the ongoing Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels conference process, and showcasing gender-just climate solutions.

3 | Centering care over extraction

WEDO will showcase its newest advocacy brief, as part of our work in the Climate and Care: Knowledge for Action Collective and will co-organise a roundtable at the Care Pavilion, bringing together practitioners, communities and decision-makers from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and tracing the climate-care nexus from the community to the multilateral level.

C. Adaptation, Health and Disaster Risk Reduction

At COP31, WEDO will advocate for gender-responsive adaptation that invests in people, public systems and the conditions that make resilience possible. Within the negotiations, this includes advancing the implementation of the Global Goal on Adaptation through progressing plans to utilize the work and decisions from the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, ensuring civil society are key implementing partners beyond simple mentions. We will continue to call for increased, accessible adaptation finance that is invested in existing climate finance mechanisms and directed to locally led climate solutions. WEDO prioritizes ensuring adaptive capacity is reached through intersectional approaches and uplifting principles of Locally Led Adaptation. Beyond the negotiating rooms, we will focus on building stronger alliances across climate, health, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), care and disaster risk reduction.

WEDO will bring key insights and recommendations from the **Global Feminist Conference: Reimagining Resilience**, which we are co-hosting in Istanbul from 5–7 November, immediately ahead of COP31. This work will inform our advocacy for locally led

adaptation, effective early warning systems, ecosystem-based approaches and disaster preparedness shaped by the knowledge and priorities of frontline communities.

We see this as part of a longer advocacy arc from Antalya to Addis Ababa. COP31 offers an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and build momentum toward COP32 in Ethiopia, particularly around gender-responsive adaptation, community health, care and locally led resilience. Our goal is to move beyond recognizing these intersections toward coordinated action, investment and implementation that strengthens resilience on the ground.

D. Climate Finance: Telling the Truth and Rebuilding International Solidarity

Climate finance will remain a central point of contention at COP31, as developing countries confront declining international assistance, persistent barriers to accessing resources, and uncertainty as well as a lack of trust over the promised delivery of existing commitments. Discussions in Antalya will include progress toward the USD 300 billion annual finance goal agreed at COP29; how developed countries are providing high-quality, public finance directly; efforts to triple adaptation finance; and the upcoming replenishment of the Green Climate Fund, the largest multilateral climate fund. Efforts to even hold some of these discussions are contentious, with the potential for disagreement readying many for an “agenda fight” to kick off COP and highlighting gaps in trust and differences in plans to achieve the Paris Agreement goals.

Beyond pragmatic questions of scale and access lies a deeper political challenge: the Global North’s retreat from international obligations and the principles of equity, historical responsibility and solidarity that underpin the global climate regime. With each attempt to justify the ways they are and are not providing climate finance, governments reveal worldviews predicated on the same extractive capitalism approaches that created our current climate chaos, continuing to empower private actors as well as the multilateral development banks, exploiting and commodifying natural resources rather than protecting them, and propping up dangerous and unproven technologies.

For WEDO, **telling the truth about climate finance means recognizing that the failure to deliver adequate resources is not simply a technical or financial problem, but a question of political priorities.** Governments continue to mobilize extraordinary public resources for defense, security and other priorities, even as commitments to international climate cooperation are increasingly treated as unrealistic or unaffordable.

We must resist the normalization of this retreat and reaffirm that international redistribution and collective responsibility remain essential to climate justice.

At COP31, WEDO will continue to advocate for predictable, accessible, public and non-debt-creating climate finance, while defending gender equality, human rights, transparency and accountability within existing financial mechanisms. At the same time, we will work with partners to deepen a broader political narrative around an **international solidarity economy**, connecting climate finance advocacy with movements for debt and tax justice, corporate accountability, and alternative approaches to marshalling and redistributing public resources.

SPOTLIGHT: Transforming climate finance means transforming the system

Current funding structures are often restrictive and inaccessible to the grassroots actors driving real change. Feminist funding models, like the Gender Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund, demonstrate how to move money faster and more fairly: through participatory, rights-based, and flexible mechanisms that redistribute resources, build capacity, and shift power toward women-led and community-led climate action

Visit the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) website for more resources on collective priorities in the COP31 negotiations.

5. Key Events & Initiatives

Women Delegates Fund (WDF)

WEDO's Women Delegates Fund (WDF) strengthens women's participation and leadership in the UNFCCC by providing travel support, technical training, and peer networks for delegates from developing countries. **From 2009 through 2026, the WDF has supported 491 trips for 214 women from 73 countries to attend 44 UNFCCC sessions**, with more than 500 women trained in technical language and negotiation skills through its signature Night Schools. Since 2017, WEDO has also hosted and co-hosted regional workshops for Pacific Women Leaders, building lasting capacity and advancing gender balance in climate decision-making.

Night School at COP31

On November 5 and 7, WEDO will host its Night School in Antalya. This two-night offering of the WDF program will train climate negotiators on the legal frameworks of the UNFCCC, the intricacies of delegation coordination, and key upcoming agenda items for COP31. Night two of the training will involve a full evening of simulated negotiation, where delegates will work within regional blocks to respond to a draft text on the Just Transition Mechanism. **With delegates from 41 different countries registered so far, WEDO expects to welcome over 70 delegates to Night School to take part in the introductory and advanced tracks of this longstanding capacity-building initiative.** With dedicated time for networking and peer exchange, we hope to strengthen not only practical negotiation skills and knowledge, but relationships between women climate leaders.

Women and Gender Constituency

WEDO will co-lead the work of the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) at COP31, supporting coordination across key thematic areas and ensuring strong, cohesive feminist advocacy throughout the negotiations. **Together with partners, WEDO will help organize Gender Justice Day on November 16, amplifying collective calls for rights-based and gender-responsive climate action, and above all, for the implementation of the Belém Gender Action Plan.** The team will also support daily caucus briefings, open to all gender and feminist allies and advocates, held at **9:00 AM in Side Event Room 2,** providing updates, strategy discussions, and opportunities for collaboration across movements.

WEDO Press Conferences

Date	Time	Title	Location
12 Nov 2025	15:30	**Reimagining Resilience: Preparedness Is Feminist Work**	Press Conference Area
13 Nov 2025	14:00	Women and Gender Constituency: **Implementing the Belém GAP**	Press Conference Area
17 Nov 2025	14:30	Women and Gender Constituency: **Regional Feminist Leadership**	Press Conference Area
19 Nov 2025	12:00	Women and Gender Constituency: **Status of Negotiations**	Press Conference Area

WEDO Events **Partners*

Date	Time	Title	Location
10 Nov 2026	17:00-17:45	**Implementing the Belem Gender Action Plan** *UN Women*	Australian Pavilion
11 Nov 2026	TBC	**Strengthening implementation and integration of the GAP and Belém Health Action Plan** WEDO/GEDA speaker/moderator invited - Tara *George Institute*	Global Futures Pavillion
13 Nov 2026	15:00 - 16:30	**Integrating SRHR into Climate Policy, Planning, and Programming: Evidence from the Front Lines** *SRHR Coalition side-event*	Side Event Room 7
14 Nov	9:00-10:00	**Who Cares in a Changing Climate? Voices from the Global South to to Climate Policy** *Avina, Barranquilla+20, PSI, DharmaLife, GI-ESCR*	Care Pavilion, Green Zone
14 Nov 2026	9:00-10:00	**Unpacking Deliverable A.3.9: Operationalizing National Assessments on Climate, Health, Care, and Violence Against Women and Girls at COP31** *UNFPA*	SDG Pavilion
15 Nov 2026	17:00–18:30	**"Positioning Care at the Centre of Climate Action: From Recognition to Response and Resourcing"** *UN Women, IDRC, Global Alliance for Care*	TBD
15 Nov 2026	14:30-15:30	**Advancing equitable and effective adaptation action: Why intersectionality matters** *IISD, WEDO, Out4Sustainability*	SDG Pavilion
18 Nov 2026	13:15-14:45	**Multidimensional factors in the Belém Gender Action Plan (GAP): Advancing equitable climate action** *Out for Sustainability (OUT4S), Alziras Institute, Prakriti Resources Centre (PRC), WEDO*	Side Event Room 9 - SAFRANBOLU

6. Delegation Highlights

Our delegation to COP31 reflects both the organization's deep technical expertise within the UNFCCC process and our commitment to amplifying frontline feminist leadership. Alongside our core policy team, seasoned advocates who have engaged in climate talks for several years, WEDO is supporting frontline advocates that embody the priorities and messages we are advancing at COP31.

To connect with any member of our delegation, please contact:

comms@wedo.org | **+1 202-455-0182**

WEDO Advocacy Team at COP31



GENDER

Bridget Burns
Executive Director, WEDO (USA)
bridget@wedo.org | **+1-914-310-3270**

Dates in Antalya: 10–18 November
Key topics: Gender Equality (GAP), Fossil Fuels, Finance, Just Transition



GENDER

Mwanahamisi (Mishy) Singano
Director, Policy, WEDO & WGC Co-Focal Point (Tanzania)
mwanahamisi@wedo.org

Dates in Antalya: 9–20 November
Key topics: Gender Equality (GAP), Global Stocktake, Just Transition, Adaptation, Biodiversity



FINANCE

Tara Daniel
Associate Director, Policy, WEDO (USA)
tara@wedo.org

Dates in Antalya: 9-14 November
Key topics: Climate Finance, Green Climate Fund, SRHR, Health



ADAPTATION

Alex Gordon
Manager, Policy & Development, WEDO (USA)
alex@wedo.org

Dates in Antalya: 9–14 November
Key topics: Adaptation, Feminist Funding



JUST TRANSITION

Sinéad Magner
Coordinator, Policy & Programs, WEDO (Ireland)
sinead@wedo.org

Dates in Antalya: 9-20 November
Key topics: Just Transition, Women Delegates Fund



GENDER

Claudia Rubio Giraldo
Coordinator, Policy & Programs, WEDO (Dominican Republic)
claudia@wedo.org

Dates in Antalya: 9-20 November
Key topics: Gender Equality (GAP), Gender and Enivironment Data

7. Resources

Critical Conversations

Critical Conversations is a new interview series from WEDO that expands the lens on just transition to include feminist, decolonial, and grassroots perspectives.

Supply Chain Solidarity with Thea Riofrancos

READ or WATCH

Thea Riofrancos, a political scientist and researcher, explores the global lithium sector, and how the politics around energy and extraction have changed, particularly after COP30 in Brazil.

Multilateralism: "No Just Transition is Isolated" with Katie Swan-Nelson

READ or WATCH

Katie Swan-Nelson, a Scottish just transition advocate at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), offers grounded insights on macroeconomic challenges, international cooperation, and the imperative of linking national strategies with global frameworks.

Community Consent in the Extraction Economy with Diana Vela Almeida

READ or WATCH

Diana Vela Almeida, an Assistant Professor at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University, combines feminist geography, political ecology, and political economy to study how green capitalism within the energy transition agenda perpetuates colonialism and the exploitation of reproductive labor that underpins the energy transition globally.

Other Key Readings

- *Integrating Care into Global Climate Policy Processes: A Guide for Advocates* (2026): The first WEDO-developed advocacy brief through our work in the Climate and Care: Knowledge for Action Collective offers a practical roadmap for care advocates to engage in key climate policy processes, make the case for care as essential climate infrastructure, and deliver on a gender-just transition.

- *From Assessment to Action: GAP National Assessment Support Tools* (2026): Tools to support Parties in preparing submissions under Deliverable A.3.9 of the Belém GAP, which invites Parties and other stakeholders to submit findings from national assessments on issues related to gender and climate change at the nexus of other key emerging issues including health, violence against women and girls, and care work.

- *Moving the Money: Advancing Gender-Responsive Climate Finance* - Learning Series (2026): A five-part learning series for advocates, activists and movement leaders to build knowledge, strengthen strategy, and take action for a more just and gender-responsive climate finance system.

- *GEDA Small Grants Impact Report* (2025): An overview of the pilot round of the Small Grants Program of the Gender and Environment Data Alliance, featuring projects in Afghanistan, Ghana, Costa Rica, Uganda, and Sri Lanka, in which partners worked to fill data gaps in their respective contexts and elevate the work of excluded actors through participatory methodologies.