



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



STATE OF PLAY AT BONN SB64 MIDWAY MEDIA BRIEF

Week One Analysis - 64th Subsidiary Bodies, Bonn, Germany.
Implementation challenges across all negotiating tracks: Just Transition,
Adaptation, Fossil Fuel Phase-out & Climate Finance.



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About the Bonn Sessions (SB64)

The **Subsidiary Bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, the **Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)** and the **Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)**, convene annually in Bonn to undertake the technical and procedural groundwork that underpins decisions taken at the **Conference of the Parties (COP)**. The **sixty-fourth** sessions of the **Subsidiary Bodies (SB64)** bring together Parties, observer organisations, and civil society to advance negotiations on adaptation, mitigation, climate finance, and the Just Transition Work Programme, among other agenda items, ahead of **COP31 in Antalya**.

As the principal intersessional negotiating space within the **UNFCCC** process, the **Bonn** sessions are widely regarded as a bellwether for the political will and technical readiness that Parties bring into the **COP**. This midway brief takes stock of the **first week** of **SB64** and assesses the extent to which discussions are translating into negotiated outcomes.

Youth Watching, The Climate Changing

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Key Negotiating Tracks Referenced in this Brief

- A. **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)** - UAE-Belém Work Programme on Indicators under the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.
- B. **Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP)** - including discussions on the proposed Belém-Antalya Mechanism (BAM) and implementation pathways for just transitions.
- C. **Mitigation and Energy Transition Discussions** - including follow-up work related to the Global Stocktake and pathways for transitioning away from fossil fuels.
- D. **Climate Finance** - including discussions relevant to the **New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG)**, adaptation finance, and means of implementation for developing countries.
- E. **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** - in the context of implementation, ambition, and alignment with Global Stocktake outcomes.

Week One: Same Problem Everywhere, Implementation

The **opening week** of the Bonn sessions has underscored the growing risk that **COP31** may fail to deliver **substantive climate action** commensurate with the scale of the environmental crisis. While **Parties** have, over successive sessions, **reiterated the framing of “implementation COPs,”** the proceedings in Bonn this week have been dominated by dialogues, presentations, roadmaps, and **voluntary initiatives**, with comparatively limited movement toward concrete, negotiated outcomes. The central question animating the media brief is the extent to which this intersessional work will translate into binding decisions at **COP31**.

Relevant UNFCCC Frameworks and Decisions

UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience (GGA)
Decision 3/CMA.5 → UAE Just Transition Work Programme
Decision 1/CMA.5 → First Global Stocktake Outcome
NCQG Decision adopted at COP29
Paris Agreement Articles **4, 7, 9, 10, and 11**

Substantive discussion during the first week centred on negotiations under the **agenda items on Adaptation, the Just Transition Work Programme, climate finance, and the transition away from fossil fuels**. These items continue to surface the same structural challenge: **securing the financial support**, technical assistance, and international **cooperation** required to **operationalise commitments** already agreed. Developing country Parties have stressed the need for vigorous institutional mechanisms capable of driving implementation. At the same time, several Parties have proposed **comparatively lighter-touch modalities** centred on dialogue, workshops, reporting, and coordination, an approach that **risks delaying decision-making**.

Concerns regarding **transparency** and **participation** have also featured prominently. Several negotiators, journalists, and civil society representatives were unable to attend briefings owing to visa-related complications, compounded by reported reductions in access to UNFCCC press facilities. **The week closed with a strong call from observers for a process that is more just, inclusive, transparent, and accessible to all stakeholders.**

Just Transition: Developing a Mechanism, or Just Lecturing?

Ahead of **COP31**, negotiations on the **Just Transition Mechanism** opened under the mandate of the **Just Transition Work Programme established at COP30**. The mechanism is now formally referenced as the **Belém-Antalya Mechanism (BAM)**. Citing **COP30's shortfall** in clearly communicating agreed modalities, Parties from the Global South are advocating for a framework that captures:

- *Mobilised finance for just transition pathways*
- *Support for the development and implementation of national and local plans*
- *Sharing of technological capacities and facilities*
- *Meaningful participation of workers and frontline communities*
- *Targeted assistance to developing country Parties in operationalising just transition pathways*

Other Parties have taken a **divergent position**, proposing that this week's deliberations be consolidated with a view to reaching a final, informed decision at **COP31 in Antalya**. Proponents of this approach maintain that **workers and frontline communities, who have invested considerable effort in shaping the Just Transition Mechanism**, should be presented with a **comprehensive negotiating text** containing robust options for implementation and delivery at COP31, expressing concern that **continued reliance** on dialogue-based formats has yet to yield operational outcomes.

Adaptation: Beyond Indicators

Deliberations on adaptation exposed the **persistent gap** between technical procedure and on-the-ground reality. **Developing country Parties reiterated that adaptation action and**

adaptation finance are inextricably linked. Much of the week's technical work centred on indicators, the composition of relevant task forces, and reporting frameworks, even as unresolved political questions deepened concerns surrounding the **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)**.

Through the **G77** platform, developing countries called for a threefold increase in **adaptation finance by 2035**, asserting that meaningful progress on adaptation cannot be **decoupled from financial cooperation**. Negotiators emphasised that adaptation assurances must extend beyond **vulnerability assessment** alone to encompass the direct provision of resources and support to **affected communities**.

There is a clear expectation among Parties that **COP31 should not conclude without a comprehensive, well-documented agreement on the Global Goal on Adaptation**.

Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels: The Electrification Target

During the first week, one of the **key developments** was the **COP31 Presidency's announcement of a major "35% by 2035" global electrification goal**. This aims to **increase the share** of final energy demand met by electricity from just over **20% today to 35% by 2035**. Developed with the **IEA** and **IRENA**, the target serves as a practical step forward in the global energy transition framework, aligned with COP28's goal to triple renewable energy capacity and COP29's focus on grid modernisation and energy storage. The **existing gap, about 20%**, highlights the **significant acceleration needed between now and COP31 to reach a meaningful global electrification pathway**.

Work on the **COP30 Presidency's roadmap for a Just and Equitable Transition away from fossil fuels** is progressing. Early discussions **show increasing acknowledgement** that finance, equity, and Just Transition principles must be integrated into the energy transition. However, **concerns** remain about the **roles of carbon markets, private finance**, and other elements, which some Parties see as **potentially distracting from the main goal of phasing out fossil fuels**.

Entering the **second week**, the **emphasis** will be on **ensuring that the electrification target is supported by the necessary structural and financial backing** so that developing country Parties can follow their own pathways. Additionally, focus will be on **how national roadmaps align with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the Global Stocktake, and broader implementation efforts**.

Climate Finance: The Answer Beneath Every Question

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Since the **adoption** of the **climate finance goal at COP29**, widely regarded by developing country Parties as **inadequate**, the core obligations and principles underpinning climate finance provision have come under **sustained pressure**. Notably, there remains no **dedicated agenda item, nor an effective negotiating forum**, addressing the public finance commitments of developed country Parties specifically. The issue nonetheless recurs across nearly every other agenda item under discussion.

Deliberations on Adaptation, Just Transition, and the fossil fuel transition consistently return to the same underlying questions: **who will provide the finance, what its quality and accessibility will be, and how Parties can access it in practice**. The first week exposed a persistent gap between the commitments made and the resources required to fulfil them.

Absent **tangible** progress on **securing public finance from developed country Parties**, other negotiating tracks risk reducing to exercises in planning for outcomes that Parties lack the means to deliver. Without **substantive commitments** on the **means** of implementation, it is difficult to credibly speak of an “era of implementation.”

Looking Ahead to Week Two of SB64

The **first week of SB64** has illustrated a common **thread running across multiple negotiating tracks**. While Parties broadly concur on the **importance** of adaptation, a just transition, and reduced reliance on fossil fuels, the more contentious question concerns the **financing and implementation** required to deliver on these objectives.

The second week will **indicate whether Parties are prepared** to advance on these fronts and engage substantively with the **means of implementation** needed to operationalise existing agreements, or whether **Bonn** will remain, in large part, *a forum for dialogue on climate action rather than its execution*.

References

- I. [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#). SB64 Provisional Agendas and Daily Programmes.
- II. [UNFCCC Webcast Archive and Presidency Consultations](#), Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB64), June 2026.
- III. [Statements delivered by negotiating groups and Parties during SB64](#), including G77 and China, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and the European Union.

- IV. **Decision 1/CMA.5** – Outcome of the First Global Stocktake.
- V. **Decision 3/CMA.5** – UAE Just Transition Work Programme.
- VI. **UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience** (Global Goal on Adaptation).
- VII. **Paris Agreement (2015)**.
- VIII. **Earth Negotiations Bulletin** (IISD Reporting Services), Bonn Climate Change Conference SB64 Coverage.
- IX. **UNFCCC NDC Synthesis Reports and Nationally Determined Contributions Registry**.