

**ISTANBUL DECLARATION**  
**of the First D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Environment**  
**Preparing for COP31: Advancing Climate Implementation through International Cooperation**  
**Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, 17 July 2026**

We, the Ministers responsible for Environment, Climate Change and related portfolios of the Member States of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), namely the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Türkiye, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, met in Istanbul on 17 July 2026 at the First D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Environment, hosted by the Republic of Türkiye in preparation for the Thirty-First Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),

**Reaffirming** our full commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the UNFCCC, and the Paris Agreement, as applicable, including in particular to the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,

**Reiterating** that the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement constitute the primary international framework for addressing climate change,

**Welcoming** the UNFCCC COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, as an opportunity to accelerate and mobilize all stakeholders to promote solutions and further strengthen the resilience of ecosystems to the consequences of climate change,

**Emphasizing** that sustainable development and poverty eradication remain the first and overriding priorities of developing countries, and that climate action should be pursued in a manner that supports the development priorities, economic growth, and social well-being of developing countries,

**Recognizing** that climate change represents one of the defining global challenges of our time, disproportionately affecting developing countries through increasing climate-related disasters,

**Acknowledging** that effective climate action is inseparable from sustainable economic development and contributes directly to improving the quality of life of our people through enhanced food security and water resilience, healthier environments, affordable and reliable energy, resilient infrastructure, sustainable cities, green employment opportunities and inclusive economic growth,

**Recalling** the successful hosting of COP27 by Egypt and COP29 by Azerbaijan, and welcoming the Republic of Türkiye's leadership as host and President of COP31 in Antalya, thereby underscoring the growing contribution of D-8 Member States to global climate governance,

**Commending** the COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste as an important initiative to advance global efforts to reduce methane emissions from the waste sector, promote sustainable waste management, as well as address food waste and loss, facilitate financial support, and contribute to climate change mitigation and sustainable development,

**Recalling** the commitments and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement and relevant regional and global environmental agreements; as D-8 member countries, we will continue to enhance cooperation and coordination by drawing on our knowledge-sharing, expertise and experience in combating the effects of climate change on marine and coastal areas,

**Acknowledging** that COP31 presents an important opportunity to accelerate the full, effective and balanced implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, with a focus on translating existing commitments into action, strengthen international cooperation, enhance climate finance, and promote practical and inclusive solutions,

**Recognizing** further the strategic importance of South-South cooperation, technology transfer, innovation, knowledge-sharing and sustainable investment in supporting resilient and low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways.

Hereby declare that:

1. We express our full support to the Republic of Türkiye in its role as COP31 Presidency and reaffirm our readiness to contribute constructively to an ambitious, balanced, inclusive and implementation-oriented outcome in Antalya.
2. We underline that COP31 should mark a decisive shift from commitments to implementation, ensuring that commitments and decisions agreed under the Convention and the Paris Agreement are translated into practical and concrete actions and tangible benefits for peoples and communities.
3. We welcome the COP31 Presidency's Climate Implementation Bridge initiative as an important platform to align climate ambition with sustainable development, and to support developing countries in transforming climate priorities into investable, bankable and implementable projects. We further recognize the importance of country-led and demand-driven approaches that strengthen the climate-development nexus by better aligning national priorities with investment opportunities and public and private sources of finance, with the Climate Implementation Bridge as a complementary initiative that builds on existing national and international partnerships and mechanisms.
4. We reaffirm that adaptation is an urgent priority for D-8 Member States and call for strengthened international support for implementing adaptation actions based on the national adaptation plans, climate-resilient infrastructure, water resilience, ocean preservation, food security, drought and desertification, sand and dust storms, extreme weather events such as floods, coastal erosion, forest fires, sea level rise due to glacial melting as well as disaster risk reduction and early warning systems including through implementation of the global goal on adaptation and the COP28 Framework for Global Climate Resilience.
5. We agree to initiate work on a D-8 Adaptation Action Framework 2026–2030, to promote cooperation on resilience-building, technical exchange, capacity development and access to adaptation finance.
6. We reaffirm that loss and damage represent one of the most urgent challenges confronting vulnerable developing countries. We therefore call for the timely and adequate capitalization and effective operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund with simplified, equitable and needs-based access procedures, rapid disbursement mechanisms and predictable long-term financing. We further encourage enhanced technical cooperation among D-8 Member States in climate risk assessment, disaster preparedness, early recovery, resilient reconstruction and disaster risk financing.

7. We reaffirm that a just, orderly and equitable transition should serve as a catalyst for sustainable development by promoting energy security, industrial competitiveness, economic diversification, decent work, social inclusion, poverty reduction and technological innovation. Such transition should respect national circumstances and development priorities while ensuring that no country, community or worker is left behind. We further emphasize that just transition requires enhanced international cooperation and adequate, predictable and accessible means of implementation for developing countries, including finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building.
8. We recognize clean electrification, renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport, among others, as important pathways for climate action. With this understanding we welcome COP31 Presidency's 35% electrification objective by 2035, while emphasizing the need for adequate, predictable and accessible finance, technology transfer and capacity-building for developing countries.
9. Recalling the successful convening of the D-8 High-Level Energy and Urban Development Dialogue held during the Thirteenth World Urban Forum, we reaffirm the importance of integrating climate resilience, clean energy and sustainable urban development policies. We encourage cooperation in developing climate-resilient cities through integrated sustainable urban planning, energy-efficient and climate resilient buildings, green infrastructure, reusing treated wastewater, smart mobility, clean electrification of transport and public services, sustainable cooling, resilient housing and nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approach and strengthened local governance. We further encourage cooperation to mobilize finance for city-level climate action and resilient urban infrastructure.
10. We recognize the importance of protecting biodiversity, forests, wetlands, marine and coastal ecosystems and natural carbon sinks while promoting nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation that simultaneously strengthen resilience, support sustainable livelihoods and contribute to climate mitigation.
11. We welcome the COP31 Presidency's Turquoise Nexus as a platform for advancing resilient and sustainable food systems. We encourage strengthened cooperation in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable water utilization, reusing treated wastewater, drought management, combating desertification, sustainable land restoration to safeguard food security and rural livelihoods.
12. We further resolve to actively strengthen the participation of young people and women farmers through improved access to finance, capacity-building, and skills development.
13. We recognize that waste generation and pollution remain major environmental challenges for developing countries, with significant impacts on public health, ecosystems and sustainable development. We reaffirm the importance of integrated waste management, resource efficiency and circular economy approaches including zero-waste initiatives, and welcome the annual observance of the International Day of Zero Waste, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, to promote sustainable consumption and production.
14. We recognize the growing importance of the Global Zero Waste Movement in advancing sustainable consumption and production and commend the leadership of H.E. Mrs. Emine Erdoğan, First Lady of the Republic of Türkiye, whose Global Zero Waste Initiative has elevated this agenda under the auspices of the United Nations. We further recognize that circular economy and sustainable waste management contribute to reducing methane emissions, improving resource efficiency and supporting climate mitigation, and encourage enhanced cooperation among D-8 Member States in advancing zero-waste practices, innovation and the exchange of best practices. In this regard, we

welcome the idea of the establishment of the Global Zero Waste and Methane Fund, envisaged to be developed in cooperation with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition under the United Nations Environment Programme, with the aim of transforming the United Nations Zero Waste Initiative into an international financing mechanism to address the financing gap for waste mitigation, methane reduction and resource-efficiency projects, and envisage the Istanbul Financial Center as the implementation and operational hub of the Fund.

15. We recognize the urgent need to substantially scale up climate finance to support developing countries in implementing ambitious mitigation and adaptation actions. We welcome the agreement on the New Collective Quantified Goal at COP29 to mobilize at least USD 300 billion per year by 2035, as well as the aim to scale up climate finance to at least USD 1.3 trillion, while noting that adaptation financing needs alone are projected to reach USD 194–366 billion annually by 2030.

16. We therefore call for enhanced, predictable, accessible and affordable climate finance, including grants, concessional financing, blended finance, green bonds, Islamic finance instruments, risk-sharing mechanisms and private capital mobilization, while stressing that developed countries should fulfil their commitments by taking the lead in mobilizing climate finance for developing countries under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. We further encourage D-8 Member States to strengthen cooperation in developing joint climate investment pipelines, regional bankable projects, knowledge-sharing and innovative financing mechanisms capable of attracting international climate finance and private investment. We further recognize that progress towards climate goals cannot be made without significantly enhancing international cooperation and supporting the financial, technological and capacity-building needs of developing countries.

17. We welcome the COP30 decision calling for efforts to at least triple adaptation finance by 2035 in the context of the Baku Finance Goal. Against this backdrop, we call on all donors to fully implement their climate finance commitments made at COP29 and COP30, ensuring that financial resources are predictable, accessible and responsive to the needs and priorities of developing countries.

18. We encourage stronger engagement of the private sector, development finance institutions, chambers of commerce, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), academia and civil society in advancing practical climate solutions, green investment and sustainable business models across D-8 Member States. In this regard, we encourage D-8 Member States to promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Baku Climate Coalition for SMEs' Green Transition by enhancing SMEs' access to sustainable finance, technology, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing, which may enable them to accelerate their green transition and contribute to resilient, low-emission economic development.

19. We recognize the strategic role of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in advancing green growth, green jobs, and encourage the development of green MSMEs, sustainable entrepreneurship, circular production and climate-resilient supply chains.

20. We underline the importance of climate education, scientific research, digital technologies, public awareness, traditional knowledge and knowledge of local communities and capacity-building in strengthening long-term climate action and environmental stewardship.

21. We emphasize the growing role of digital technologies, artificial intelligence, satellite observation systems, climate information services and early warning systems in enhancing climate resilience, environmental monitoring and evidence-based policymaking and underline the need to support the developing countries. In this regard, we encourage strengthening multilateral and regional cooperation on data and information sharing, technology transfer and capacity-building.

22. We welcome the idea of the establishment of a D-8 Environment and Climate Cooperation Platform, to facilitate policy dialogue, technical cooperation, information exchange and engagement on matters of mutual interest.

23. We task the D-8 Secretariat to develop a practical roadmap for D-8 environmental cooperation, based on the Member States' requirements, including, but not limited to, adaptation, loss and damage, just transition, climate finance, circular economy, resilient cities, clean energy, green economy and environmental education.

24. We reaffirm the importance of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in advancing climate implementation, technology cooperation, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building among developing countries.

25. We agree to continue consultations among D-8 Member States ahead of COP31 and beyond, with a view to enhancing coordination, identifying common priorities and strengthening the collective contribution of D-8 to the Antalya outcomes and beyond.

26. We reaffirm our determination to ensure that the voice and priorities of developing countries are effectively reflected in the outcomes of COP31 and work towards practical, inclusive and implementation-oriented solutions that advance both climate ambition and sustainable development.

27. We launch the "Istanbul Initiative for Climate Action and Sustainable Development" as a voluntary framework to strengthen cooperation among D-8 Member States in advancing climate resilience, sustainable development, green investment, technology cooperation and implementation-oriented partnerships towards COP31 and beyond.

28. We express our full support for the organization of the fourth UNFCCC Climate Week by the Republic of Azerbaijan and recognize it as an important platform for strengthening international cooperation, exchanging best practices and reaffirm our readiness to actively participate in and contribute to its successes.

29. We appreciate D-8 Secretariat for coordinating and facilitating the meeting.

30. We express our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the First D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Environment and for their leadership in advancing a constructive, inclusive and implementation-focused COP31.

Adopted in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 17 July 2026.