UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
& ENVIRONMENT

United Nations
Climate Change

COP31
TÜRKİYE
ANTALYA

WGEO
WORLD GREEN ECONOMY
ORGANIZATION



THE ROAD TO COP31 ROUNDTABLE

PRIVATE SECTOR CONSENSUS AND KEY OUTCOMES

From Priorities to Participation Positioning Business for COP31

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The World Green Economy Organization (WGEO) convened the Road to COP31 Roundtable in collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and the UNFCCC Secretariat, bringing together government representatives, international organizations and private-sector leaders to examine how businesses can approach COP31 in Antalya with greater clarity and purpose.

The discussion reflected different levels of readiness among participating companies. Some confirmed plans to attend COP31, others were still assessing the value of participation, while some questioned whether international travel could be justified against cost, emissions and competing business priorities.

Despite these different perspectives, a clear point of convergence emerged: the value of COP31 for business will depend less on simply being present and more on having a defined purpose for being there.

Participants highlighted that physical presence becomes particularly valuable when it provides access to conversations, decision-makers and counterparties that are difficult to reach through normal business channels. With governments, regulators, utilities, investors, international organizations and business leaders concentrated within the COP ecosystem, Antalya can provide opportunities for direct engagement that may be difficult to replicate remotely.

This distinction between attendance and purposeful participation became central to the discussion. Companies were encouraged to consider which meetings, stakeholders and outcomes would make participation worthwhile and what tangible results would demonstrate internally that their presence at COP31 had delivered value.

From Ambition to Implementation



A strong thread throughout the discussion was the continued evolution of the COP process from climate ambition towards implementation.

The Consul General of the Republic of Türkiye positioned COP31 as an “Implementation COP”, focused on turning commitments into outcomes that can be built, financed and delivered. His remarks emphasized why business belongs in this conversation, highlighting the role of finance, technology and partnerships in advancing implementation. He also recognized the precedent established by the UAE through COP28 in bringing business, finance and governments more directly into the wider COP process.

From the UAE perspective, the discussion reinforced the importance of maintaining the momentum built through COP28 and continuing to translate climate ambition into implementation, investment and economic opportunity.

The conversation reflected the UAE’s broader approach of recognizing that implementation requires close engagement between government and the private sector. Businesses bring investment, technology, innovation and delivery capabilities that can support the translation of climate priorities into practical and scalable solutions.

As the international climate process moves towards Antalya, this creates an opportunity for UAE-based businesses not only to follow developments at COP31, but to contribute capabilities and experience, build international partnerships and identify areas where solutions can be taken from ambition to implementation.

Continued government-business dialogue will therefore remain important: enabling companies to better understand evolving priorities and opportunities while ensuring that the experience, capabilities and practical considerations of the private sector remain part of the implementation conversation.

What Does COP31 Need to Deliver for Business?

The roundtable recognized that companies are becoming increasingly deliberate about how they allocate time and resources to major international platforms.

For some participants, the case for attending COP31 was already clear. Others questioned whether travel, cost and associated emissions could be justified when information and many discussions can increasingly be accessed remotely.

Rather than dismissing these considerations, the discussion highlighted an important distinction: the strongest case for physical participation is not access to information, but access to people.

For companies considering Antalya, the question therefore becomes: Who do we need to meet, what do we need to discuss, and what needs to come out of that meeting?

The moderator captured this directly by asking participants to identify the three meetings they would want guaranteed in the Blue Zone. The discussion deliberately shifted attention away from negotiation tracks and towards counterparties - governments, regulators, utilities, investors, buyers and potential partners.

What Companies Need from COP31

ACCESS WITH PURPOSE	Companies need greater clarity before arriving in Antalya on who they should engage with and why those conversations matter.
THE RIGHT COUNTERPARTIES	Value can come from reaching the ministry, regulator, utility, investor, buyer, technology partner or other stakeholder required to advance a specific priority.
BUSINESS RELEVANCE	Engagement needs to connect with real corporate priorities, including market development, energy, water, technology, investment, regulation, partnerships and project delivery.
MEASURABLE OUTCOMES	Companies increasingly need to demonstrate what participation generated - whether a strategic introduction, partnership, project opportunity, pilot, market insight, government engagement or another identifiable next step.
A REASON TO BE PHYSICALLY PRESENT	Cost, travel and emissions are legitimate considerations. The case for physical participation becomes stronger when being present provides access to high-level relationships and conversations that cannot be replicated as effectively remotely.

This reflects the moderator's central proposition that, unlike COP28 in the UAE, "Antalya is an away game": the value cannot simply be assumed; it needs to be designed.

The Role of WGEO: From Presence to Purpose



The discussion pointed towards a practical role for WGEO in helping businesses move from general interest in COP31 to structured engagement.

WGEO's Blue Zone Pavilion in Antalya is being developed not simply as a visibility platform, but as a convening space where governments, investors, international organizations, companies and solution providers can engage around defined priorities and potential partnerships.

Through targeted dialogues, bilateral engagement, sector-focused roundtables and solution discussions, WGEO can help participating organizations identify who they need to meet, what conversation they need to have and what outcome they want to pursue.

The objective is to move beyond networking towards structured collaboration - connecting problems with solutions, companies with relevant counterparties, and dialogue with pathways for implementation.

WGEO encourages companies to engage directly with the team ahead of Antalya to explore how their organizations can participate and contribute through the COP31 programme and Blue Zone Pavilion.

Roundtable Consensus



COP31 participation should not be measured by presence alone. Its value lies in being in the right room, with the right stakeholders, around a clearly defined business or implementation objective.

Companies will make different decisions on whether and how to participate in Antalya. The roundtable recognized those differences rather than assuming that one model of participation will suit every organization.

At the same time, there was recognition of the particular value of physical presence when it provides access to decision-makers, partners, markets, investment and conversations that cannot easily be replicated elsewhere.

The task ahead is therefore not simply to encourage companies to attend COP31. It is to help businesses determine:

- **What do we need from COP31?**
- **Who do we need to engage with?**
- **What meaningful outcome do we want to bring back from Antalya?**

WGEO will continue working with interested companies ahead of COP31 to help answer those questions and translate them into a focused engagement strategy for Antalya.