

Webinar -Towards COP31: Building the Arab Civil Society Position on Climate Justice

Date: 24 September 2026

Time: 15.00-17.00 Beirut Time

The 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be hosted by Türkiye in Antalya on 9-20 November 2026. All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at COP and at their annual sessions, the Parties review the implementation of the Convention and any related legal instruments, assess global progress and take the decisions necessary to promote an effective and coordinated response to climate change. COP31 identifies spaces for civil society engagement including for participating in the event, organizing side events and monitoring. On the way to COP31 the Arab NGO Network for Development will organize a 2h webinar bringing together civil society representatives from the region to foster a shared understanding of how climate justice can be rethought in ways that are more grounded, coherent, and responsive to the region's current realities.

For the Arab civil society, climate justice goes beyond the technical or environmental dimensions of climate change. It lies at the core of sustainable development, social justice, food and water security, access to resources, stability, and peace. While investing in sustainable and just energy transitions is essential, it is equally important to recognize historical responsibilities and unequal contributions to climate change. Current global climate governance must also be situated within broader power asymmetries shaped by fossil fuel dependency, unequal financial structures, and geopolitical interests. The current global and regional context — marked by war, energy volatility, and economic pressures — is reshaping both climate challenges and policy responses across the Arab region. Every conflict, on top of the socio economic damage, squanders precious and diminishing resources, with the destruction of aquifers, and the further deterioration of dated infrastructure, which further contributes to pollution and energy inefficiency.

In this context the webinar will elaborate on:

- What are the key outcomes of the latest UN climate negotiations—including COP30 and the Bonn Climate Conference—and what priorities are expected to shape negotiations at COP31?
- How can Arab civil society strengthen its engagement ahead of COP31? What lessons can be drawn from COP30 and recent climate negotiations to develop a stronger, more coordinated regional advocacy agenda and common position on climate justice?
- What shifts in thinking, policy, and advocacy are needed to position climate justice as a transformative agenda that addresses structural challenges such as extractivism, militarization, unequal resource governance, debt, and unjust climate finance?
- In light of the current geopolitical context (war, energy volatility, and deepening inequalities) how should climate justice be understood in the Arab region today?

The discussion will contribute to identifying common priorities and messages that can inform a collective Arab civil society position ahead of COP31 and strengthen coordinated regional advocacy on climate justice within global climate negotiations.

Agenda

Speaker	Discussion
Moderator Rami Abi Ammar ANND	Welcome by ANND Objectives of the webinar and expected outcomes (towards a common Arab civil society position for COP31)
Chee Yoke Ling TWN	Setting the Scene: The Road to COP31 Overview of the international climate agenda, key outcomes from COP30 and the Bonn Climate Conference,
- Habib Maaoulouf Journalist - Mohamed El Agati -AFA	Climate Justice in the region Unpacking political-economic and structural dimensions of climate justice in the region and in light of war, energy volatility, shrinking civic space, and deepening inequalities, how should climate justice be understood in the Arab region today?
Q&A and Discussion	
Lebanon Tunisia Jordan Egypt	Reflections from National COPs launched What policy reforms or alternative approaches could be adopted at the national level to address climate injustices?
Sanaa Moussalim Environmental Researcher	Towards COP31 How can Arab civil society strengthen its engagement ahead of COP31? What common priorities and advocacy messages should shape a
Q&A and Discussion	
Closure	