TRANSITION AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS (TAFF)

Overview

Transitioning away from fossil fuels (TAFF) is the COP28 commitment to move away from coal, oil and gas in energy systems "in a just, orderly and equitable manner". Not a UNFCCC process plan yet: a roadmap was kept out of the COP30 decision, and Brazil's COP30 Presidency is preparing a voluntary one outside the negotiations. TAFF is not a formal agenda item at COP31 (Antalya, 9–20 November 2026); the question is whether this momentum picks up in the formal outcomes.

Negotiation Goal

TAFF has no mandate or agenda item of its own, so the goal is about whether and how it appears in COP31 outcomes.

- **Roadmap:** the voluntary COP30 Presidency roadmap is expected around COP31. Supporters want it recognised in COP31 outcomes; others want it kept outside the negotiations.
- **Formal vehicles:** the MWP decision, the UAE Dialogue, the launch of GST 2, the Global Implementation Accelerator and Belém Mission to 1.5 reports (both due at COP31), and the expected Presidency cover decision.
- **Electrification pledge:** the voluntary "35 by 35" pledge (electricity from about 20% to 35% of final energy demand by 2035). It is open whether it is tied to fossil fuel language.
- **Mandate:** the UAE consensus (COP28, para 28) is the only agreed basis; GST 2 runs to 2028.

GCE Objectives

GCE wants COP31 to turn the COP28 pledge into a time-bound, accountable and fair pathway aligned with 1.5°C.

- **Anchor the roadmap in the UNFCCC:** a formal COP31 reference and follow-up process with milestones and support for developing countries, not voluntary action alone. The EU should champion this.
- **Accelerated, 1.5°C-aligned phase-out by 2030, with clear pathways in ambitious NDCs to 2035.**
- **Electrification** as part of the pathway, not a substitute: back "35 by 35" only alongside faster renewables and efficiency and a managed fossil fuel phase-out.
- **Fair burden-sharing and grant-based finance:** public, grant-based finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, linked to the Belém-Antalya Mechanism.
- **Subsidies, youth voice and transparency:** time-bound subsidy reform, meaningful youth participation in roadmaps, and transparency on fossil fuel industry influence.

Status Quo

TAFF has moved faster outside the formal negotiations than inside them. Already agreed or in place:

- **COP28 (2023):** the UAE consensus (para 28) agreed to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, alongside tripling renewables, doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030 and phasing out inefficient subsidies. No plan or timeline.
- **COP30 (2025):** more than 80 countries backed a roadmap call, but opposition kept it out of the Mutirão decision. The COP30 President promised voluntary roadmaps on fossil fuels and deforestation instead; the decision launched the Global Implementation Accelerator, the Belém Mission to 1.5 and the UAE Dialogue.
- **Santa Marta (April 2026):** 57 countries attended the first conference on TAFF, co-hosted by Colombia and the Netherlands; no negotiated outcome.
- Since then fossil fuels were discussed informally, not negotiated, in Bonn (June). At the Pre-COP in Fiji (October) Pacific states announced a regional roadmap. France, the Netherlands and Germany have published national roadmaps.
- **NDCs:** of 146 updated NDCs by August, 101 mention moving away from fossil fuels but only 12 say how (BOGA analysis).

Still open heading into COP31:

- Whether and how the global roadmap is recognised, what it says on production, and whether a follow-up process is created.
- Whether COP31 texts repeat, strengthen or dilute the UAE consensus wording on fossil fuels.
- Who finances developing-country roadmaps, and whether 35 by 35 stays voluntary or enters a formal decision.

Key Terms & Acronyms

TAFF	Transition away from fossil fuels
UAE consensus	the GST 1 decision (COP28); para 28
Mutirão decision	COP30's main decision (1/CMA.7)
TAFF roadmap	voluntary COP30 Presidency roadmap, developed outside the negotiations
Santa Marta process	conference and coalition convened by Colombia and the Netherlands; second conference in 2027 (Tuvalu and Ireland)
35 by 35	COP31 Presidency pledge for electricity to supply 35% of final energy demand by 2035
UAE Dialogue	space to discuss implementing GST 1 outcomes (2026–2027)
GST 2	Second Global Stocktake (2026–2028)
BOGA	Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance

Key Stakeholders

- **Presidencies:** Türkiye hosts and prioritises electrification; Australia (Chris Bowen) leads the negotiations; Brazil's COP30 Presidency writes the roadmap.
- **Backers:** Colombia, the Netherlands, Tuvalu, Ireland, Pacific states, AOSIS, LDCs, the EU and the UK. More than 80 countries joined the COP30 call, including Australia and Norway.
- **Opponents and producers:** Saudi Arabia, Russia and India reportedly opposed a roadmap at COP30. Russia calls gas a legitimate transition fuel; Norway stresses low-emission gas.
- **Developing-country positions:** many want any roadmap anchored in equity, common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR-RC) and finance; developed countries stress science and national roadmaps.
- **Coalitions:** BOGA, Powering Past Coal Alliance, COFFIS (subsidies) and Santa Marta participants.
- **Observers and technical bodies:** YOUNGO, civil society, unions, Indigenous Peoples and industry observers; the IPCC for science; the IEA and IRENA for energy analysis.

Expected Challenges & Fault Lines

- **Political:** producers and exporters versus importers and island states; production as well as demand; attempts to reopen the Dubai wording; 1.5°C and IPCC references.
- **Technical:** scope of "energy systems" and "unabated"; links to NDCs and GST 2; what counts toward 35 by 35.
- **Finance:** developing countries need support to plan and deliver a transition, and support schemes are only starting.
- **Procedural:** no agenda item means no mandate for negotiated text; consensus lets any Party block language; late Presidency texts; linkages to the MWP and finance.
- **Credibility:** several champions and hosts face criticism over their own fossil fuel policies (Australia's exports, Brazil's oil expansion, Türkiye's coal power).

What to watch out for

- **Where it happens:** no dedicated contact group. Follow MWP consultations, UAE Dialogue sessions, the GST 2 launch, Presidency consultations and Heads of Delegation meetings in week two, plus the roadmap launch.
- **Progress:** draft text that references the roadmap or repeats para 28
- **Stalling:** text on electrification or renewables without the words fossil fuels, heavy "voluntary" and "national circumstances" qualifiers, fights over 1.5°C or IPCC references
- **Compromise language:** "takes note of" or "welcomes" the roadmap as a voluntary initiative; cross-references to the UAE consensus instead of new wording; a high-level round table on national roadmaps (dropped from the COP30 Mutirão draft) could return.

Links to Other Streams

- Mitigation Work Programme
- GST 2 and UAE Dialogue
- **Just transition:** the Belém-Antalya Mechanism and JTWP review
- **Climate finance:** the Article 9 work programme, Veredas Dialogue and Baku-to-Belém Roadmap