

Pre-COP Explainer

Pre-COP: What is it and why is it important?

From 5-8 October, Fiji, Tuvalu and Australia are partnering to deliver the official COP31 Pre-COP ministerial meeting and Leaders' event. These events will bring global climate decision-makers to the Pacific ahead of COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, providing an opportunity to build momentum for negotiations while showcasing Pacific leadership, perspectives and climate action.

What is Pre-COP

Pre-COP is a preparatory meeting held before the annual UN climate conference, known as COP. It brings together a smaller group of countries, usually around 30 to 50, to discuss the key issues that will be negotiated by the full group of 196 countries at COP.

Typically attended by officials, the Pacific Pre-COP meeting will bring together Ministers, investors and industry leaders from around the world. It is designed to help countries test ideas, understand each other's priorities, identify areas of disagreement and find possible landing zones for agreement before formal COP negotiations begin.

Key dates and locations

Pre-COP: 6 – 8 October 2026 | Fiji
Pre-COP Leaders' event: 5 – 6 October 2026 | Fiji & Tuvalu
COP31: 9 - 20 November 2026 | Türkiye

Why Pre-COP in Fiji?

Hosting the Pre-COP in Fiji places the Pacific at the centre of global climate diplomacy. It gives participating countries the opportunity to hear directly from Pacific representatives, engage with Pacific-led solutions and keep the region's priorities front of mind before COP31.

Why a Leaders' event in Fiji and Tuvalu?

Tuvalu will host selected leaders and senior representatives from right across the globe for a special high-level segment of the Pre-COP.

Invited Leaders and their representatives will witness firsthand the impact of climate change and adaptation solutions on the atoll nation of Tuvalu, one of the countries most exposed to the accelerating effects of climate change.

In Fiji, Leaders will convene for a Pre-COP plenary. These events in Fiji and Tuvalu will profile critical climate priorities for Small Island Developing States and the leadership of the Pacific with broad resonance to the global community.

Why do these events matter for the Pacific?

Our region is at the frontline of the climate crisis, the single largest threat to the lives, livelihoods, culture and security of Pacific communities.

Hosting Pre-COP is a chance for Pacific nations to influence global climate negotiations before key decisions are made at COP31. They provide a platform to strengthen action on things critical to the region's future, including keeping 1.5°C within reach, enhancing access to climate finance, elevating the ocean-climate connection and amplifying Pacific leadership.

Pre-COP is an opportunity for the Pacific to show the world we are on the frontline of climate change and climate solutions. That we are leaders in resilience, adaptation, and ocean stewardship.

What will the events focus on?

The Pre-COP in Fiji will focus on the major issues countries need to work through before COP31. These are expected to include accelerating climate action, keeping 1.5°C within reach, improving access to climate finance, supporting Paris Agreement implementation and ensuring the energy transition is fair and leaves no one behind.

The stakeholder program alongside Pre-COP will provide industry, civil society and other stakeholders the opportunity to progress key issues ahead of COP31. Importantly, this program will highlight crucial investment opportunities for the Pacific and advocate for improved access to climate finance for Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, including the Pacific.

The Leaders' event in Fiji and Tuvalu will focus on Pacific climate impacts, Pacific-led responses and the need for practical global action that supports climate-vulnerable countries.

How does Pre-COP work?

The formal Pre-COP usually runs for two to three days. Australia, as President of Negotiations for COP31, will preside over Pre-COP and will invite countries to exchange views, narrow differences and identify possible areas of agreement before COP.

The program typically includes plenary sessions, smaller breakout discussions and bilateral meetings between attending countries.

Pre-COP may also include side meetings, stakeholder events or an informal workshop for senior negotiators to continue discussions.

What will the physical event look like?

Pre-COP is smaller than COP. Invitations are limited to a select group of countries, with consideration of different regions and negotiating groups. Country delegations are typically

led by a minister or head of delegation, supported by officials. World leaders typically do not attend Pre-COP meetings.

The smaller format is deliberate. It allows ministers, senior officials and key negotiators to speak more directly, test positions and build the trust needed to make progress at COP31. Selected observer organisations will also be invited. Civil society, youth, First Nations groups, industry, academia and community organisations may participate through side events or stakeholder programming.

Who will attend?

Attendance at Pre-COP is expected to include ministers and senior representatives from invited countries, Pacific leaders and officials, Türkiye, UN representatives and selected observers.

Stakeholder programming is also expected to include civil society, industry, academia, First Nations, youth and community organisations.

Venue information

Fiji has a strong track record of successfully hosting major regional and international events. It is one of the best-suited locations in the Pacific, with the infrastructure required to support a ministerial-level meeting of this scale.

Pre-COP requires secure meeting facilities, accommodation, communications and logistics for participants from across the world. The venues were selected on their ability to deliver these requirements and support an effective event.