



Global Compact
Network Australia

LEADERSHIP TRIP TO COP31

Preliminary Workshop Outline

5 – 8 November 2026

Antalya, Türkiye

UNITING BUSINESS FOR A BETTER WORLD

About the Leadership Trip Workshops

The UN Global Compact Network Australia-led workshops are designed to equip executives with the insights and confidence needed to navigate a rapidly changing business landscape. Participants will explore the opportunities, risks and strategic choices that will define business success in the decade ahead, gaining a clearer perspective on what matters most for their organisation and industry.

With the UN's Climate Change Conference, COP31, on the horizon, the opportunity extends far beyond simply attending. Through expert-led discussions and practical insights, executives will deepen their understanding of the global climate and sustainability landscape, identify the key signals and developments to watch during COP31, and learn how to translate emerging trends into strategic action and business value. Participants will leave informed, inspired and better prepared to lead through change and translate insights into meaningful organisational action.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the leadership journey, participants will:

- Develop a practical understanding of COP31 and its implications for business.
- Strengthen their ability to navigate complex international forums and stakeholder environments.
- Build connections with a network of sustainability and business leaders.
- Return with a clear framework for translating global climate developments into organisational action and long-term value creation.

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER

Welcome Dinner | Antalya

Kick off the journey with a welcome dinner and networking opportunity with fellow sustainability and business leaders.

- Welcome reception and program briefing
- Guest speaker(s) (TBC)

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER

Leadership Session 1: A COP31 Overview for Business (45 min)

Business leaders face a rapidly evolving climate policy landscape where commercial strategy is increasingly shaped by international climate diplomacy. This year in Antalya, COP31 will place a particular emphasis on business engagement for climate action, as businesses, governments, investors and markets accelerate the transition from climate ambition to implementation.

This session provides an overview of the COP process, traces the role of business in shaping and responding to global climate outcomes and action items, identifies the policy and market signals expected to emerge from COP31, and begins discussion on how to translate climate science into commercial strategy, investment and long-term resilience.

Objectives

- Build a shared baseline understanding of the role of the private sector in delivering successful COP outcomes, while also demystifying the COP process via its key institutions, negotiation priorities and action agenda items.
- Develop an understanding of the latest climate science and emerging global priorities, including the implications of the IPCC AR6 findings and future AR7 focus areas.
- Identify and explore key policy areas of focus for business alongside priority COP31 negotiation items and Action Agenda topics.

Outputs

- Develop individualised business priorities for COP31 items.
- Begin scoping tangible actions for private sector implementation, as input to the final session.

Speakers

Dr Evan Center, Head of Environment and Climate, UN Global Compact Network Australia

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER

Leadership Session 2: Diplomacy for Executives at Large Conferences — Navigate COP31 (45 min)

COP31 brings together government leaders, negotiators, investors, businesses, industry associations, multilateral institutions and civil society organisations in one of the world's most complex diplomatic environments. For business leaders, success at COP is not simply about attendance — it is about understanding where decisions are made, where influence is exercised, and how to build relationships that advance organisational objectives.

This session provides a practical playbook for navigating COP31 effectively, helping executives maximise their time, identify strategic engagement opportunities, and represent their organisation with confidence in high-profile international settings.

Objectives

- Prepare leaders to navigate COP31 effectively and efficiently.
- Equip executives with practical diplomacy, engagement and networking skills.
- Build understanding of the formal and informal environments where influence is exercised at COP.
- Enable participants to develop a clear engagement strategy aligned to organisational priorities and outcomes.

Outputs

- A personalised COP31 engagement and navigation approach aligned to organisational priorities.
- Increased confidence and capability in executive-level diplomacy, networking and representation at international climate forums.

Speakers

TBC

SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER

Session 3: Trends & Impacts for Sustainable Business — From Global Signals to Business Action (80 min)

COP31 will generate a wide range of signals for business, from emerging policy priorities and investment trends to shifting expectations around climate mitigation, adaptation, business resilience and corporate leadership. For many executives, translating global developments into practical actions that strengthen business performance and long-term value creation can prove particularly challenging.

This session helps executives take COP31 back to their own organisations by building on earlier discussions regarding the latest sustainability trends, climate science, policy items and sustainability frameworks. In doing so, it equips leaders with the tools to assess risk, build resilience and identify opportunities for strategic advantage. Through practical examples, case studies and leadership frameworks, participants will examine how climate action can be embedded across operations, value chains and decision-making processes.

Objectives

- Deeper dive into the major climate, economic and geopolitical trends influencing sustainable business.
- Capture the latest AI and green technology insights for driving sustainability initiatives.
- Strengthen executive capability to assess climate-related risks, opportunities and resilience needs.
- Explore how partnerships and value-chain engagement can accelerate climate action and business outcomes.
- Equip leaders to translate COP31 insights into organisational strategy, governance and leadership.
- Build confidence in applying foresight, scenario planning and systems thinking to a shifting geopolitical landscape.

Outputs

- A practical framework for translating COP31 insights, climate trends and emerging risks into organisational strategy and action.
- Enhanced capability in resilience planning, systems thinking, partnership development and executive leadership for a low-carbon, climate-resilient future.

Speakers

Dr Susanne Etti, General Manager – Climate, Intrepid Travel

Dr Evan Center, Head of Environment and Climate, UN Global Compact Network Australia

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER

Closing Dinner

Join fellow participants for a closing dinner to reflect on key insights from the journey and identify opportunities for continued collaboration and leadership action.

Speakers

Melda Çele, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network Türkiye

Kate Dundas, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network Australia