

COP31: Fairtrade's position

October 2026

Implementation must reach the farm

COP31 in Antalya (9–20 November 2026) is framed by the Türkiye Presidency as an implementation COP. Fairtrade agrees, on one condition: implementation must reach the farm. The more than two million small-scale farmers and workers in the Fairtrade system contribute least to the climate crisis, yet already carry its heaviest costs through drought, erratic rainfall, heat and floods.

COP30 called for efforts to at least triple adaptation finance by 2035, but producers need support now. Since COP27, Fairtrade has called for a fair and fully funded transition. At COP31, we ask Parties to deliver it through four asks, with producer organisations treated as partners in climate planning, finance, implementation and governance, not only as beneficiaries.

Our four asks to parties

1. Climate finance that producer organisations can access directly.



Climate finance should be judged by what reaches the farm, not only by volumes pledged. On Finance and Trade Day (13 November), we ask Parties to open direct-access windows for producer organisations in the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage. Applications should be simpler and approvals faster, and finance should come at lower cost with flexible repayment, designed with women and young farmers. The adaptation finance commitment needs a clear baseline and interim milestones before 2035. Public finance from developed countries must be honoured, not replaced by private capital.

2. Regulation that does not shift compliance costs onto smallholders.



Since COP27, Fairtrade has supported binding due diligence and deforestation rules, such as the EU Deforestation Regulation and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, to tackle the root causes of environmental degradation. The costs of traceability, geolocation and compliance, however, must not fall on the producers who earn the least. The UNFCCC dialogue on trade and climate change opened at SB64 on 13 June 2026 and continues at SB66 and SB68. It should assess the impacts of these measures on smallholders and SMEs, and identify accompanying measures: funding and technical support for producer organisations, prices that reflect compliance costs, and trade agreements bound by human rights, ILO conventions and the Paris Agreement.

3. Living incomes and living wages at the heart of adaptation and the just transition.



Farmers cannot invest in adaptation, and workers cannot withstand climate shocks, on incomes below the cost of a decent life. As Parties develop the just transition mechanism agreed at COP30, we ask that it explicitly cover small-scale farmers and agricultural workers in small producer organisations, on hired-labour plantations and in contract production. It should treat living incomes and living wages as transition outcomes, address generational renewal and gender equality, and include producer organisations in its governance.

4. Producer organisations as partners in agriculture's next phase under the UNFCCC.



The Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security ends at COP31, with key elements left unresolved at SB64. On Food, Agriculture and Health Day (9 November), we ask Parties to commit to a successor mandate focused on implementation and means of implementation. It should recognise agroecology and diverse production systems and give farmer and producer organisations a formal role.

The same applies across COP31: producer organisations should help shape the food and agriculture indicators of the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Turquoise Nexus Initiative that the Presidency and FAO plan to launch, and the COP30 Presidency's deforestation roadmap. Under Article 6, farming communities must steer agricultural carbon projects and receive a fair share of their revenues.

What we ask of business

Companies sourcing from smallholders must share the costs of adaptation, mitigation and regulatory compliance instead of pushing them down the supply chain. That means paying fair prices that support living incomes and living wages, and making long-term sourcing commitments. It also means co-investing with producer organisations through the COP31 Action Agenda, rather than running parallel programmes around them.

No climate justice without trade justice

Farmers and workers are part of the solution to the climate crisis when they are paid fairly and supported to act. An implementation COP will be judged by what changes on the farm.