



Climate Network's Expectations for Türkiye's New Climate Target (NDC)

Türkiye is in the process of preparing its new nationally determined contribution (NDC) for 2035 under the Paris Agreement. This process presents an important opportunity not only to update emission reduction targets, but also to build a more resilient, fair and inclusive development path in the face of the climate crisis.

As the Climate Network, with the united voice of 15 civil society organisations working in the field of climate change in Türkiye, we demand that the new NDC be supported by ambitious climate targets and concrete policy tools. This document presents the network's joint assessments and expectations for the new NDC, offering recommendations that will strengthen Turkey's climate action and increase its contribution to the global climate struggle.

About the Climate Network

The Climate Network was established by bringing together institutions from different fields of expertise working on climate change mitigation in Türkiye. The members of the network are:

Buğday Ekolojik Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği (Buğday Association for Supporting Ecological Living)

Avrupa İklim Eylem Ağı (Climate Action Network Europe)

ClientEarth

Doğa Derneği (Nature Association)

Greenpeace Türkiye

Hukuk Doğa ve Toplum Vakfı (HUDOTO, Law, Nature and Society Foundation)

İklim Değişikliği Politika ve Araştırma Derneği (Climate Change Policy and Research Association, İDPAD)

İklim için 350 Derneği (350.org Türkiye)

Mekanda Adalet Derneği (Spatial Justice Association, MAD)

Sürdürülebilir Ekonomi ve Finans Araştırmaları Derneği (Sustainable Economy and Finance Research Association, SEFiA)

Temiz Hava Hakkı Derneği (Right to Clean Air Association, THHD)

Türetim Ekonomisi Derneği (Regenerative Economy Association)

Türkiye Erozyonla Mücadele, Ağaçlandırma ve Doğal Varlıklar Koruma Vakfı (TEMA Foundation - The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats)

WWF-Türkiye

Yeşil Düşünce Derneği (Green Thought Association, YDD)

Fosil Yakıtların Ötesi (Beyond Fossil Fuels)



The key elements expected to be included in the new climate target:

- A science-based reduction target reflecting the most ambitious levels possible, aligned with the 1.5-degree target and consistent with the findings of international courts on the matter,
- Concrete measures to achieve the Paris Agreement's global adaptation goal,
- A just transition,
- A holistic approach to combating climate change, preventing land degradation, protecting biodiversity and nature, and preventing pollution in the face of the triple crisis facing the planet,
- Public participation, access to information and justice,
- Finance: regulations & mechanisms to ensure access not only for businesses but also for vulnerable sections of society, transparent management and fair distribution of revenues from carbon pricing mechanisms, transparency of state aid and support & ending fossil fuel subsidies, development of a framework for corporate sustainability reporting obligations.

Participation

- Legal regulations should be put in place to ensure the timely, informed and effective participation of civil society in order to guarantee the implementation of a decarbonisation pathway in line with the 1.5°C threshold. As a first step in this regard, the Climate Network, representing 15 civil society organisations working in the field of climate, should be included as a member of the Climate Change Adaptation Coordination Council.

Mitigation

The 2035 greenhouse gas reduction target should be determined through scientific methods;

- In order for Türkiye's nationally determined contribution to be "scientific" and "reliable", it must first be based on a realistic pathway, taking into account the reference scenario, historical emission trends and developments since 2015.
- The 2035 greenhouse gas reduction target should be science-based. In this context, it should be consistent with the 1.5-degree threshold and Turkey's 2053 net-zero target, and Türkiye should aim to reduce its emissions starting today.

However, within the scope of the NDC:

- there should be no room for offsetting (especially international offsetting). If national offsetting is allowed, guarantees such as transparency, additionality, permanence, prevention of double counting, and accurate and reliable calculation of emission reductions and removals should be clearly established.
- Reduction obligations should not be dependent on high-risk technologies/misguided solutions (coal, natural gas, hydrogen derived from nuclear energy, Carbon Capture Storage (CCS), geoengineering, nuclear energy, etc.).



- The 2030 greenhouse gas reduction target should be revised in line with the 1.5-degree threshold and Turkey's 2053 net-zero target.
- It should include measurable, ambitious and realistic sectoral sub-targets and measures.
- Exemptions from environmental legislation granted to fossil fuel-fired power plants and industrial facilities for greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions should be removed,
- Sectoral strategies and sectoral national emission caps should be established for the decarbonisation of key sectors such as energy, transport and industry.
- A date and phase-out plan should be announced for the elimination of coal consumption in electricity generation.
- A date should be announced for ending coal use in industry, coal mine expansions, and new investments in gas and oil in the energy sector.
- The transmission and distribution network must be upgraded to accommodate 120 GW of wind and solar energy capacity.
- Biodiversity and ecosystem restoration, protection of forest areas and seagrass beds, and doubling of carbon sink capacity should be targeted.

Just energy transition

A Just Transition Mechanism should be established by 2030.

- This mechanism should be designed to address various areas such as labour transformation in fossil fuel sectors and the green transformation of the local economy, decarbonisation of energy consumption in homes, measures related to energy poverty, and the principle of ensuring that vulnerable groups are not "left behind".

Adaptation

Combating drought and disasters

- Rainwater retention capacity should be increased by at least 50% in at least 10 major cities through nature-based solutions implemented using the sponge city approach.
- Water wastage should be prevented by implementing proper crop planning in agriculture and transitioning to water-saving irrigation systems, with agricultural irrigation reduced by at least 50%.



Health

- Through ecosystem-focused solutions, the amount of active green space per person should be increased from 12.6 m² to 20 m².
- The proportion of the population exposed to heat waves and the proportion of the population experiencing health problems due to exposure should be determined by 2028. A target should be set for the reduction in the proportion of the population exposed to heat waves and experiencing health problems by 2030.
- Non-CO₂ pollutants should be included in the NDC with measurable, trackable criteria.
- The NDC should include quantified targets for the benefits of the greenhouse gas reduction measures committed to in the NDC on air quality and human health.

Nature conservation and biodiversity

- The target of increasing the share of protected areas to 30% by 2030 should be part of the NDC, National legislation and monitoring processes for the implementation of the 30*30 Target should be in place by the end of 2026 at the latest,
- The restoration of at least 30% of degraded ecosystems (forests, wetlands, agricultural land, etc.) should be included in the NDC.

Agriculture and food security

- The share of agroecology and regenerative agriculture practices (including organic farming) within the country's existing agricultural land should be increased to 10%.

Forestry

- Areas with increased fire risk under the new fire regime must be identified by 2026.
- By the end of 2026, an up-to-date inventory of traditional fire prevention methods in high-risk areas should be compiled, and the implementation of these methods in light of new climate projections should commence in 2027.
- The size of the forest firefighting organisation, training and equipment capacity needs to strengthen adaptation capacity should be determined by 2027,
- and this capacity should be established by 2028.

Financing

Subsidies for fossil fuels should be phased out by 2030.