



Statement from the Climate Network:

Türkiye must aim to reduce emissions starting today

11 September 2025, İstanbul - The Climate Network, which brings together 15 civil society organisations working in the field of climate change in Türkiye, emphasised at a press conference that Turkey's upcoming 2035 climate target must be set to reduce greenhouse gas emissions starting today.

Türkiye is Europe's most vulnerable country to the effects of climate change. In our country, where we are experiencing the negative effects of climate change every day in the form of floods, droughts and fires, we need an effective climate target that will make us more resilient to the climate crisis and ensure the protection of our rich biodiversity and natural systems.

At the same time, an ambitious climate target will ensure that the just transition for society takes place in a timely manner by making the decarbonisation of economies mandatory.

Türkiye will soon submit its nationally determined contribution (NDC) for 2035, known in society as the climate target, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat.

Türkiye had committed to increasing emissions

In its climate target submitted in 2022, Türkiye had set a target of reducing emissions by 41% from the increase by 2030. This means that greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase in the current growth scenario used as a reference by Türkiye, and the climate target envisages a reduction based on this growth scenario. This reduction target from the increase actually means **that emissions will increase by more than 30% by 2030**.

In a joint statement, the Climate Network pointed out that there are no civil society organisations specialising in climate change in the Climate Change and Adaptation Coordination Board (İDUKK), which is the most authoritative body in the climate policy-making process, and stated that the Climate Network should be a member of the İDUKK.

The following were listed as necessary elements of Türkiye's climate targets, in line with the 1.5-degree threshold and the 2053 net-zero goal:

- **Phasing out fossil fuels:** Türkiye needs to start reducing its emissions today to combat the climate crisis. A date should be announced for phasing out coal consumption in electricity generation

and an end date for new investments in gas and oil should be announced. Misleading solutions such as nuclear energy, hydrogen production from nuclear energy, and carbon capture and storage should be avoided. Fossil fuel subsidies should be phased out by 2030. The capacity of the transmission and distribution network should be developed.

- **Just transition:** A "Just Transition Mechanism" should be established by 2030 to ensure that vulnerable groups are not "left behind", including measures for labour transition in fossil fuel sectors and energy poverty.
- **Nature conservation:** The share of protected areas should be increased to 30% by 2030, and at least 30% of degraded ecosystems (forests, wetlands, agricultural land, etc.) should be restored.
- **Food security:** The share of agroecology and regenerative agriculture practices (including organic farming) within existing national agricultural land should be increased to 10%. Water consumption in agriculture should be reduced by 50% through proper crop planning and water-saving irrigation systems.
- **Combating forest fires:** Traditional fire prevention methods should be implemented in light of new climate projections, and the training and equipment needs of forest firefighting organisations should be strengthened in line with the new fire regime.
- **Health:** Per capita green space should be approximately doubled through ecosystem-focused solutions. Planning should be undertaken for populations experiencing health problems due to exposure to heatwaves. All air pollutants should be measured and monitored, and pollution exemptions granted to fossil fuel-fired power plants and industrial facilities under environmental legislation should be removed.

Editor's note:

- **What is "net zero"?**

Net zero emissions means that the amount of greenhouse gases accumulated in the atmosphere as a result of human activities (fossil fuel use, deforestation, waste management, livestock farming, etc.) is balanced by the amount of reduction achieved through human activities (restoration of sink areas, nature-based carbon sequestration and capture, etc.).

On the other hand, the term "carbon neutral" means that the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) released into the atmosphere is balanced by the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) captured by sinks.

In other words, while the concept of **carbon neutrality** refers only to the balancing of CO₂ emissions, **net zero emissions** refers to the balancing of all greenhouse gas emissions, including CO₂. Since CO₂ accounts for 76% of total greenhouse gas emissions, greater emphasis is placed on CO₂ reduction in the fight against the climate crisis.

- **What are agroecology and regenerative agriculture practices?**

Agroecology is a science, movement and practice approach that brings together sustainable agricultural practices and social movements, improves the environment and minimises external input requirements, encourages cooperation between producers, civil society, researchers and institutions, and is based on ecological and social principles. Agroecology addresses the root causes of problems related to the sustainability of food systems

and promotes resilient regions through holistic and long-term solutions.

Regenerative agriculture is a system of agricultural principles and practices that increase biodiversity, enrich soils, improve watersheds, and enhance ecosystem services. It aims to reverse current global atmospheric accumulation trends by capturing carbon in the soil and above-ground biomass.

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