From Climate Planning to Implementation: Understanding the Ask, Enablers and Gaps

Date & Time: 22nd October, 2026 |10:30 AM to 1:45 PM **Venue:** Radisson Blu Atria, Bengaluru

Context

The thirty-first Conference of the Parties (COP31), to be held in Antalya, Türkiye, from 9–20 November 2026, comes at a time when the global climate conversation is increasingly focused on implementation. As countries move into the next phase of the Paris Agreement, greater attention is being placed not only on the ambition expressed through national commitments, but also on the policies, institutions, technologies, capacities, and finances required to translate these commitments into measurable outcomes.

For India, this shift towards implementation is particularly relevant. India has built considerable experience in pursuing climate action within the context of rapidly growing energy demand, urbanisation, industrialisation and development needs. India crossed the milestone of 50 percent of cumulative installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources in June 2025, five years ahead of its 2030 NDC target with the share rising further to 54.44 percent by July 2026. Initiatives such as PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and PM-KUSUM demonstrate efforts to expand clean energy and electrification, while programmes such as GOBARdhan, SATAT, NMSA, NICRA and PM-PRANAM that cover both mitigation and adaptation across energy, agriculture, waste, etc. while also advancing development.

Against this backdrop, the convening aims to bring together diverse perspectives to reflect on India's climate action, understand the civil society ask for COP31. The objectives of this half day session are:

1. **Contribute to CSO Asks for COP31:** Seeking inputs to frame the "Ask" of civil society for COP31. What should be the priorities, what is non-negotiable and what support is required?
2. **Building the Evidence:** Identify and highlight successful actions/case examples from India in driving low-carbon transition and climate action beyond energy sector, including adaptation to climate impacts.
3. **Examining Enablers and Gaps:** Unpack the key factors shaping implementation, gaps that and further support and cooperation needed for the 3 themes
4. **Explore Next Steps & Potential for Cooperation:** Identify shared priorities, next steps and cooperation opportunities such as South-South, South-North, etc.

These objectives will guide parallel breakout group discussions on the following thematic areas: **Electrification for a Low Carbon Transition; Going Beyond Energy Sector Emissions; Resilience and Climate Smart Development**

Three parallel Breakout Groups will dwell into unpacking the following questions for each of the thematic areas:

a. What are the gaps for implementation?
b. What are the existing enablers that are making action possible?
c. What are the next steps to move the needle on implementation?

Agenda

Time	Description
10:00 AM–10:30 AM	**Registration**
10:30 AM - 11:10 AM	**From Planning to Implementation** ● Welcome Address and on "Looking back at previous COPs, Looking ahead to COP31", ***Mr. Srinivas Krishnaswamy, CEO, Vasudha Foundation*** ● Special Address on "Understanding Sub-National Requirements for Scaling Climate Action", ***Shri Srinivasulu IFS, Principal Secretary, Ecology & Environment, Government of Karnataka*** ● Address on "Issues at stake at COP 31" by ***Prof. N H Ravindranath, IISc (Retd.)***
11:10 AM-11:25 AM	Programme walk-thorough by VF Team
11:25 AM - 11:35 AM	**Tea Break** and settling into respective breakout groups
11:35 AM–1:00 PM	**Breakout Session** *(Aided by Evidence Maps & Discussion Boards)* ❖ *Group 1:* Electrification for a Low-Carbon Transition ❖ *Group 2:* Going Beyond Energy Sector Emissions ❖ *Group 3:* Resilience and Climate Smart Development *Design for each Breakout Group:* *1) Ice-Breaker/Game: Introduction + Evidence Mapping (20 mins)* *2) Key Questions for discussion:* a. What are the gaps for implementation? *(20 mins)* b. What are the existing enablers that are making action possible? *(20 mins)* c. What are the next steps to move the needle on implementation? *(20 mins)*
1:00PM- 1:15PM	**Gallery Walk- through** *Participants to explore Evidence Maps and Discussion Boards of other Breakout Groups to:* ● *Identify synergies* ● *Capture key takeaways* ● *Highlight findings that resonate*
1:15PM- 1:45 PM	**Reflections** ● Lightning report-backs *key messages for delivering climate action at scale (5-6 min each group)* ● Open Discussion and Cross-cutting synthesis moderated by VF ● Wayforward- VF
1:45 PM onwards	**Lunch**

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Roundtable Briefing Note

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This note is intended to provide a common starting point for the dialogue. It provides highlights of major developments that have taken place since the beginning of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties, brief descriptions of the thematic areas of discussion and the design for the breakout group session.

I. Why this Conversation?

Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, the global climate process has progressively moved from establishing a framework for climate action towards the harder task of delivering it. Countries have set and updated national climate commitments, while successive COPs have developed the architecture around transparency, adaptation, finance and technology. The challenge now is increasingly about how climate commitments translate into measurable outcomes on the ground.



As the global climate regime has evolved, the focus has increasingly shifted from setting targets towards how they can be implemented. COP31, to be held in Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 November 2026), reflects this shift with **implementation** at the centre of its Presidency's agenda. This COP's priorities include electrification, zero waste and methane reduction, resilient cities, green industrialisation, sustainable agriculture, and stronger financial and institutional mechanisms. Initiatives such as the Climate Implementation Bridge (CIB) seek to accelerate the translation of climate commitments into tangible outcomes, strengthen the connection between climate and development priorities, and identify finance and partnerships required to deliver them.

For India, this implementation question is particularly relevant. India's climate action spans both sectors and scales from national programmes on clean energy, agriculture and waste to state, district, city and local initiatives on low-carbon development and resilience.

At the Fiji Pre-COP, Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, emphasised identifying key gaps, accelerating implementation and strengthening capacity as priorities for COP31. He also called for concrete examples and success stories that demonstrate high-impact mitigation, large-scale adaptation and effective implementation, with a view to understanding what works and what can be scaled.

Building on this, the Roundtable will examine a set of practical questions: **what has worked and why**; **what are the implementation gaps**; and **what more is required to move the needle on delivery and scale?** through **three thematic areas**: *Electrification for a Low-Carbon Transition; Going Beyond Energy Sector Emissions; and Resilience and Climate-Smart Development.*

Civil society organisations, research institutions, academia, philanthropies and other non-governmental stakeholders have contributed to the UNFCCC process by bringing technical expertise and implementation experience into climate negotiations. These actors often serve as a bridge between planning/policy and implementation and can provide practical insights into the conditions that enable implementation, the challenges that arise, and where additional support or cooperation may be required.

This convening will therefore draw on these perspectives to distill practical, evidence-based **messages and asks that can inform engagement around COP31**.

II. How the Breakout Discussions Will Work?

Participants will be invited to join one of the three breakout discussions on the three thematic areas based on their interest, experience or area of work. Each breakout discussion will be facilitated around a common set of questions.

- **Evidence Mapping:** Each breakout group will have a map of India on which participants **can place examples of successful climate action relevant to that theme**
- **Discussion Boards:** Key insights emerging from the discussion will be captured under 3 questions
  - What are the gaps for implementation? (20 mins)
  - What are the existing enablers that are making action possible? (20 mins)
  - What are the next steps to move the needle on implementation? (20 mins)
- **Key Messages and Asks:** Each breakout discussion will distill a set of priority messages and asks emerging from the conversation.
- **Cross-Theme Walk-through:** Participants will review the Evidence Maps and Discussion Boards from the other breakout discussions to **identify synergies, capture key takeaways and highlight findings that resonate across themes.**

III. Thematic Areas for Breakout Groups

1. Electrification for a Low-Carbon Transition

Electrification is critical to India's low-carbon transition and energy security. Electrifying transport, industrial processes and household energy use can reduce fossil-fuel dependence, improve energy efficiency and limit exposure to international fuel-price volatility, particularly as electricity generation becomes cleaner.

Progress is real but uneven. Between 2015–16 and 2024–25, electricity's share of total final energy consumption increased from 18% to 23%. The residential sector recorded an increase from 44% to 53%, while industry's share rose from 14% to 19%. Transport remains significantly less electrified, with electricity accounting for just 2% of its final energy consumption in 2024–25.

The next phase is about end-use demand. Technology is not the main constraint. Scaling electrification requires competitive electricity tariffs, reliable supply, stronger grid infrastructure and better access to finance, along with lower upfront costs. Closer coordination between end-use sectors and power-sector planning will be essential to match rising electricity demand with cleaner generation. This breakout group will explore how to scale proven solutions, what are the policy and implementation gaps, and ultimately how to mobilise the institutional and financial support that accelerates adoption, cuts emissions and strengthens energy security.

2. Going Beyond Energy Sector

Climate action needs to look beyond CO_2 and the energy sector to achieve net-zero. Awareness and action are needed to capitalise on high impact mitigation interventions that can act as “emergency brakes” in curbing climate change. Action on short-lived climate pollutants such as methane and nitrous oxide provide not only rapid climate benefits but also development benefits. While serving as emergency brakes on near-term warming, action on these pollutants can also deliver significant co-benefits for air quality, health, agriculture, waste management and development. With zero waste and methane reduction identified as a priority for COP31, this breakout group will explore how non-CO_2 mitigation can be integrated into the larger climate dialogue and the hurdles that need to be tackled for scaling action.

3. Resilience and Climate Smart Development

Climate resilient development requires a diverse range of interventions, from infrastructure and ecosystem-based measures to policy reforms, institutional strengthening, and capacity building. This complexity is particularly relevant for India, where adaptation is largely pursued through integration into development. Since the Global Goal for Adaptation has advanced in the last few years, with COP31 focusing on translating commitments to actions, there is a need to understand existing gaps, draw lessons from what has worked and how to scale it. This breakout group will explore how climate intelligence, locally led adaptation and low carbon, climate resilient development can deliver measurable adaptation outcomes, and how finance, technology and institutional partnerships can enable implementation across sectors and geographies.

IV. What We Hope to Take Away

- **CSO Asks for COP31:** Distill key priorities, non-negotiables and support needs.
- **Evidence from India:** Highlight successful examples of climate action and lessons for scaling.
- **Enablers and gaps:** Identify what is helping implementation and where constraints persist.
- **Cooperation opportunities:** Highlight areas for South–South, South–North and other forms of collaboration.