



# DIPLOMATS FOR *climate*

## Newsletter December 2025

Dear colleagues --

I write to provide an update on recent activities of Diplomats for Climate. The board met in Sydney on 28 November and discussed possible activities for 2026. Graeme, Janaline, Kate, Maria, Richard and I attended, and we had a lively discussion on potential activities and opportunities for next year. Key priorities include green industrial collaboration with ASEAN and other regional countries, the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, reform of the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions in Australia's trade agreements (FTAs) and Australia's role as President of Negotiations for the 31st meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP31).

### **Green industrial collaboration with ASEAN and other regional countries**

As Richard highlighted in the October newsletter, Diplomats for Climate had preliminary discussions with DFAT, the Australian Embassy Tokyo and the Osaka Expo 25 team in 2024, seeking to encourage the government to focus on clean energy and decarbonisation of heavy industry through the Australian government's [Future Made in Australia](#) initiative. Going ahead, we intend to focus on dialogue with regional countries and forming partnerships with likeminded regional organisations and networks that share our commitment to the clean energy transition and decarbonisation. As well as Japan, there are growing opportunities to strengthen engagement with ASEAN partners, South Korea and India, all of which are seeking to decarbonise industrial supply chains but face significant structural and financing barriers.

We see an opportunity to advance dialogue on green industrial policy — including clean aluminium, green iron, ammonia, hydrogen and critical minerals — as countries in the region seek to build low-carbon supply chains.

### **Fossil fuel subsidies**

Diplomats for Climate will also continue to work with partners to push the government to meet its international obligations to eliminate all inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by reforming the diesel fuel rebate.

## **Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)**

We will also support advocacy for reviewing the ISDS provisions in Australia's FTA's, given their potentially negative effects on climate policy and domestic decarbonisation measures. ISDS provisions can provide a basis for companies to pursue legal action against states when they implement measures to address climate change and to protect the environment. The [EU and the UK](#) have exited one of the world's potentially most damaging ISDS regimes, the Energy Charter Treaty. According the EU, the treaty is '[not compatible with the EU's climate and energy goals under the European Green Deal and the Paris Agreement](#)'. There are ISDS provisions in ten of Australia's free trade agreements (FTAs), which are listed [here](#), exposing Australia to claims from foreign companies and foreign countries to claims from Australian corporations. For further background on ISDS, please see [here](#).

## **COP31**

We also plan to focus on potential contributions to the public debate on COP31 and, through our connections in DFAT and other agencies, seek to achieve outcomes that are as ambitious as possible at the conference. COP31 will be hosted by Türkiye over the period 9-20 November 2026 and there will be a World Leaders Summit held in Antalya in conjunction with the COP. Türkiye will perform the role of COP President and Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, will lead the negotiations. Australia will appoint ministerial and other co-facilitators for the various negotiation tracks. Further details on the agreement with Türkiye can be found [here](#).

In partnership with the Pacific, Australia will also preside over a pre-COP meeting for leaders and others with a focus on climate impacts in the Pacific. In addition, there will be a session focused on the climate finance requirements of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and to encourage commitments to the [Pacific Resilience Facility](#), which aims to assist 'vulnerable Pacific people' exposed to climate and disaster risks, including women and girls, children, the elderly and those with disabilities.

Our key priorities for COP31 include progress towards a global agreement for the phase-out of fossil fuel use and ambitious outcomes with respect to climate finance, including implementation of key decisions taken at COP30, held in Belém, Brazil, over the period 9-21 November 2025. Key outcomes of COP30 included agreement to triple finance for adaptation by 2035 and to advance actions to enable the scaling-up of finance from public and private sources for developing countries for climate action to at least USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035. The parties also emphasised the 'urgent need to remain on a pathway' to mobilise at least USD 300 billion per year by 2035 for climate action, with developed countries taking the lead. For a thoughtful analysis of the key outcomes of COP 30, please see [here](#). The texts of the decisions of the Belém Climate Change Conference can be found [here](#).

We will also seek to promote increased contributions by the Australian government, other countries and potentially non-state actors to key multilateral climate finance mechanisms, such as the [Green Climate Fund \(GCF\)](#) and the [Fund for responding to Loss and Damage \(FRLD\)](#).

## Funding

In November 2025, Diplomats for Climate was fortunate to auspice a grant of \$150,000 from Fortescue Metals Group to support advocacy work, policy development and stakeholder engagement to promote full implementation of Australia's international climate obligations and ambitious outcomes at COP31. Most of the funding will go to programs run by partner organizations, but it will also enable Diplomats for Climate to cover its operational costs for the next couple of years. Fortescue is a leader in Australian industry efforts to reach net-zero emissions and is working towards achieving 'real zero' by 2030 and [investing USD 6.2 billion to eliminate the use of fossil fuel in its iron ore operations in Australia](#).

We would very much welcome your suggestions on our activities and priorities for 2026. Please contact us at: [info@diplomatsforclimate.org](mailto:info@diplomatsforclimate.org)

We would also be very grateful for your support through substantive responses on the policy front and any financial contributions you might wish to make. You can [donate through our website through this link](#).

We will also continue to provide regular updates through our website:  
<https://www.diplomatsforclimate.org>

As we head towards the end of 2025, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family and friends all the best for the festive season and the year to come.

With best wishes,

Ruth

Ruth Adler  
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