Cop31 must deliver climate progress that people can see is real, host says
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The Cop31 summit must produce progress, "a tangible outcome ... that people can see is real", its host has said as scores of world leaders and representatives of close to 190 countries gather in Turkey for the UN climate talks.

The high-stakes meeting begins on Monday, as countries around the world grapple with the strongest El Niño weather system on record, supercharged by fossil fuels, which is set to take hundreds of thousands of lives and cause damage costing trillions of dollars.
Friction is expected between the rich and poor worlds over who pays for the impacts of the climate crisis, and the slow pace of cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Temperatures have broken records this year, surpassing the limit of 1.5C above preindustrial levels aimed for in the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Adão Soares Barbosa, the chair of the Least Developed Countries, a negotiating group of 44 nations, said: "Keeping 1.5C within reach by minimising the duration and magnitude of the overshoot, delivering accessible and predictable climate finance, strengthening adaptation, and addressing loss and damage [caused to poor countries by extreme weather] are not political choices but matters of survival. The credibility of the Paris agreement will be measured not by promises made, but by commitments fulfilled, and lives protected in vulnerable countries."
Unusually, the talks will have dual hosts: they will take place in the Turkish city of Antalya but the formal negotiations will be presided over by Australia, following a compromise reached last year over their competing bids. Chris Bowen, Australia's climate and energy minister and president of negotiations for Cop31, told *the Guardian* in an interview: "We need a tangible outcome focused on implementation [of emissions cuts and finance] that people can see is real. We need progress, it needs to be a step forward on previous Cops."
Australia also wants a "strong, ambitious outcome" to raise the plight of low-lying countries in the Pacific region for whom the climate crisis poses an existential threat. "We need to finally elevate some of the issues so important to our Pacific family," Bowen said.

But climate advocates and more than 500 scientists in Australia said Australia must stop approving coalmines and gas projects if it wanted to escape the charge of hypocrisy.

The summit will have a notable absentee, with the US refusing to send a delegation for the second year in a row. The Trump administration wants no part of "extremist climate policies" embraced by other countries, according to a White House spokesperson. Donald Trump expressed glee shortly before the US midterm elections about the huge profits made by oil and gas companies due to the Iran war, which he started and has caused an increase in living costs around the world. "I don't give a damn," the president said at a recent rally in Georgia. "I'm going to say it: we're making a frickin' fortune."

However, a group of 20 Democratic members of Congress have made the trip to Antalya, buoyed by their party's stunning success in the US midterms last week that will enable them to stymie Trump's attempts to dismantle pollution rules and withhold financial support for clean energy.