From a US$100 billion pledge to a US$1 trillion addressable value

A results-based delivery vehicle for the COP31 cover decision · Pavilion proposal · 12 November 2026, Antalya

To: To: the COP31 Presidency, the President of Negotiations (Australia), and all country pavilions — with a specific request to the United Kingdom, Türkiye, Spain, Germany, Japan and Iran delegations

This proposal does not ask for a trillion-dollar budget. It asks for a credible way to make an existing trillion-dollar-scale economic value measurable, verifiable and countable toward the climate-finance goals already agreed.

1. What the US$100 billion pledge taught us

In 2009 in Copenhagen, developed countries pledged to provide and mobilise US$100 billion a year by 2020. The OECD confirmed the goal was met for the first time in 2022 (US$116bn) — two years late — and reached US$136.7bn in 2024. Yet only about 29% was grants, loans were counted at face value, and there is no common accounting method. The lesson is not about the size of the number: it is that a pledge is not delivery, and an announced figure is not a disbursed, verified one.

The successor goals are larger: at least US$300bn/yr of public finance by 2035 and at least US$1.3tn/yr of total flows (NCQG, COP29; Baku-to-Belém Roadmap). But new multi-year pledges at COP31 are reported at about US$11.7bn/yr, roughly 70% below the earlier pace. The gap between promise and verified delivery is now the central problem.

2. What 'reaching one trillion' actually means

The figure is an addressable economic value, not money on the table. UNEP estimates food loss and waste costs the global economy about US$1tn a year and causes 8-10% of global emissions. Commercial studies put the waste-management market at US$1.3-1.6tn/yr. UNEP/ISWA estimates a net annual gain of US$108.5bn from circular measures. Collection alone absorbs 60-70% of waste-management costs, and 15-20 million informal workers collect roughly 58% of the plastic that is recycled.

A larger envelope of roughly US$2tn/yr is plausible once hidden, uncollected and unmanifested waste and externalities are included — but no authoritative source publishes that figure, and the published categories overlap and must not be added together. It is a hypothesis to be tested by measurement, not a claim. Likewise, ~US$8tn/yr is an independent estimate of total global climate investment needs, not a UN target.

Key figures (every number with its source)

#	Figure	What it is	Status	Source
100	US$100bn/yr	Copenhagen 2009 pledge: developed countries to provide/ mobilise US$100bn a year by 2020 for developing countries	Pledge	source
116	US$116bn (2022)	Goal met for the first time in 2022 — two years late (OECD)	Delivered, late	source
136.7	US$136.7bn (2024)	Third consecutive year above target; grants only ~29% of the total; loans counted at face value	Delivered, contested	source
300	US$300bn/yr by 2035	New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG, COP29 Baku): public and mobilised finance for developing countries	Agreed goal	source
1.3	US$1.3tn/yr by 2035	NCQG call for total public + private climate-finance flows; Baku-to-Belem Roadmap to 1.3T	Agreed goal (aspirational)	source
11.7	US$11.7bn/yr		Reported	source

#	Figure	What it is	Status	Source
		New multi-year pledges announced at COP31 — roughly 70% below the earlier pace		
1	~US$1tn/yr	UNEP: annual economic cost of food loss and waste; 8-10% of global GHG emissions	Estimated loss, not revenue	source
1.3-1.6	US$1.3-1.6tn/yr	Waste-management market size, 2026 commercial estimates	Market size, not a fund	source
60-70	60-70%	Collection share of total solid-waste-management costs (World Bank)	Verified	source
108.5	US$108.5bn/yr	UNEP/ISWA: potential net annual gain from zero-waste and circular measures	Estimated	source
100M	US$100M	XPRIZE Carbon Removal (2021-2025): paid only against verified results; Mati Carbon won US$50M in April 2025	Precedent	source
2	~US$2tn/yr	Hypothesis: total addressable value once hidden/unmanifested waste and externalities are counted	UNVERIFIED — hypothesis only	source
8	~US$8tn/yr	Independent analytical estimate of TOTAL global climate investment needs by 2035 — NOT a UN target	Do not attribute to UN	source

3. The delivery vehicle — concrete structure

We propose a **Waste-to-Value Results Facility** (working name): not a new UN fund, not a treaty body, and not a US$1tn budget. It is a thin, voluntary, results-based facility hosted by an existing accredited institution (a multilateral development bank, a UN agency programme, or a neutral non-profit special-purpose vehicle) with an independent fiduciary agent.

Governance: a small board of participating Parties, cities, informal-worker cooperatives, one independent MRV auditor and civil society; a public payment ledger; annual report to the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance so that verified flows can be reflected in reporting toward the US$1.3tn/yr goal.

Capital stack (small catalytic capital only): extended producer responsibility fees, methane and carbon credit revenues, green public procurement commitments, blended finance and XPRIZE-style milestone prizes. No new assessed contributions and no new obligations for Parties.

Payment triggers: milestone tranches released ONLY against independently verified outcomes — tonnes of previously uncollected waste newly collected and manifested, tonnes of organic waste diverted from landfill, tonnes of CO2-equivalent methane avoided, and verified substitution of virgin material. A ceiling price per verified tonne keeps the facility auditable.

Measurement layer: digital waste manifest, weigh-at-source, chain of custody, AI-assisted food-waste measurement in commercial kitchens (documented reductions of 20-53%), third-party verification, open aggregated data, no personal data.

Safeguards: no double counting with existing climate finance, additionality tests, worker-safety and consent requirements, KVKK/GDPR compliance, and a published baseline before any payment.

4. Two delivery windows

Window A — Food and AI: measurement/MRV, demand forecasting and dynamic pricing, safe surplus redistribution, cold-chain and post-harvest sensing, then verified tonnage and methane converted into milestone payments and NDC indicators. Evidence is strong in foodservice, fresh retail and manufacturing; 60% of waste occurs in households, where evidence is weaker — this window is explicit about that limit.

Window B — Collection and hidden waste: because collection is 60-70% of costs, the first payments go to route optimisation, fill-level sensors, transfer stations, digital manifests and fair integration of informal workers

through cooperatives, voluntary ID with consent and documented per-tonne payments. This window turns 'unmanifested' waste into data and tests the ~US$2tn hypothesis with a published baseline.

5. What we ask your pavilion to do

- **(a)** Nominate one focal point to receive the full draft and the source-linked fact-check sheet.
- **(b)** Consider co-sponsoring one sentence in the presidency-led cover decision (due 20 November) recognising results-based waste-to-value finance as an implementation pathway toward the agreed US$1.3tn/yr goal, without creating new obligations or reopening agreed text.
- **(c)** Join a 12-month pilot with cities and businesses already in the #OneBillionChallenge, with five published KPIs: % of waste weighed, % with a digital manifest, % of informal collection registered, tonnes of methane avoided, cost per tonne.
- **(d)** Allow independently verified flows to be reflected in reporting toward the finance goal, subject to the Standing Committee on Finance's accounting rules.

> **Sixty-second pavilion pitch**
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> In 2009 the world pledged 100 billion dollars a year and delivered it two years late. Today the agreed goal is 1.3 trillion a year by 2035, while new pledges here are down about 70 percent. We are not asking for a trillion-dollar budget. Waste already represents a trillion-dollar-scale economic value — but most of it is uncollected, unweighed and unverified. Our proposal is a small, voluntary results-based facility that pays only against independently verified tonnes and methane avoided, counts those flows toward the 1.3 trillion goal, and asks for one sentence in the cover decision being drafted now. Would your delegation nominate a focal point to review the draft?

6. Status and guardrails

Independent draft. Not a UN position, not endorsed by XPRIZE, the COP31 Presidency, any government or any company. No fund exists, no money has been pledged, no submission has been filed and no email has been sent. Only a Party (a government) can file a formal UNFCCC submission; this document is written so a delegation may adopt, amend or decline it.

Do not say 'a US$1tn budget', 'the UN needs US$8tn', 'we can bring US$2tn', or 'the US$2tn hidden-waste figure is verified'. Every figure must be given with its source on the same page.

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Sources

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