FROM PLEDGES TO ACTION: BIOENERGY FOR A SECURE ENERGY TRANSITION

WBA POSITION FOR COP31

Since February 2026, the closure of the Strait of Hormuz has caused what has been called the largest oil supply disruption on record[1]. Oil prices reached their highest levels in years, and fuel markets for diesel and jet fuel came under severe pressure[2]. Import-dependent countries responded with emergency stocks, fuel subsidies, and rationing[3]. Although these measures tried to ease the shock's consequences, they did not reduce the exposure behind it.

The fuel crisis has also put energy access at risk. Around 2 billion people still lack access to clean cooking fuels[4], and when imported cooking fuels are exposed to external shocks, they become scarce or more expensive. As a consequence, households might fall back on polluting fuels like firewood or charcoal[5].

During COP28, the UAE Consensus set a goal to triple renewables and double energy efficiency by 2030, recognizing the role of renewable energy in meeting the targets of the Paris Agreement. At COP30, more than 20 countries endorsed the Belem 4X Pledge on Sustainable Fuels, which aims to quadruple global use of sustainable fuels by 2035 from 2024 levels, reflecting a growing recognition of the role of bioenergy in meeting energy and climate targets.

One year after Belm, the commitments are in place, but scale in deployment is not. Bioenergy technologies for power, heat, clean cooking, as well as aviation, shipping, and road transport, are proven and commercially available, and bioenergy is already the largest source of renewable energy worldwide.

As delegates gather in Antalya, Trkiye, for COP31, the World Bioenergy Association (WBA) calls upon countries to:

Turn Sustainable Fuel Pledges into National Policy

Signatories of the Belem 4x Pledge should include these targets in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national energy plans, with binding mandates, clear timelines, and regular progress reporting. More countries, especially fuel importers, should join the pledge and materialize those pledges. National targets turn a political commitment into real demand, giving producers and investors the certainty they need to build capacity.

Respond to the Energy Crisis by Building Local Supply Chains

Governments should respond to the energy crisis by investing in domestic bioenergy supply chains based on local residues and byproducts, instead of new coal capacity or new fossil fuel imports. Domestic biomass resources keep energy spending and jobs in the country, especially in rural areas, and they protect households in import-dependent regions, who are the first to lose access when imported fuels run short.

Invest in Clean Cooking and Local Capacity

Nearly 2 billion people still cook with polluting fuels, and in sub-Saharan Africa the number is still rising[6]. Efficient, clean, and modern bioenergy solutions can protect households from import price shocks, create local jobs, and reduce health risks related to traditional cooking fuel use.

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Governments should increase finance for clean cooking fuels, including modern solid biomass, biogas, and bioethanol. Financing should also be paired with capacity building for local producers, technicians, and businesses, and with support for building local fuel supply chains.

Scale Up Bioenergy Where Decarbonization Is Hardest

Electricity cannot replace fossil fuels everywhere. In 2024, oil supplied more than 99% of aviation fuel and over 90% of shipping's energy demand[7], leaving two of the most critical sectors that move economies fully exposed to oil market shocks.

Governments should set binding sustainable fuel requirements for aviation, shipping, and support the use of modern bioenergy in sectors like heat, power, and road transport.

Set Clear Rules to Unlock Investment in Carbon Removals

Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) is one of the most advanced engineered CO_2 removal technologies that also deliver energy.

Because carbon capture projects are capital-intensive, rely on shared CO_2 transport and storage infrastructure, and face long-term policy risk[8], governments should give investors clear, long-term rules for projects to reach final investment decisions. This means setting BECCS targets in NDCs, recognizing permanent removals in national inventories and carbon markets under Article 6, and agreeing to robust rules for monitoring, permanence, and lifecycle accounting.

Conclusion

The 2026 energy crisis has shown that countries producing more of their own renewable energy are better protected against supply shocks. The pledges and technologies already exist. COP31 must be the moment when governments move from commitments to deployment and ensure energy access and security with modern renewable energy solutions including bioenergy.

Endnotes

1. IEA (2026). Sheltering from Oil Shocks
2. EIA (2026). Short-term Energy Outlook
3. IEA (2026). 2026 Energy Crisis Policy Response Tracker
4. SEforALL (2026). Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report 2026
5. The Guardian Nigeria (2026). Priced-out-of-gas, Africans turn to forests as climate crisis deepens"
6. IEA (2025). World Energy Outlook 2025
7. IEA (2025). World Energy Outlook 2025
8. Global CCS Institute (2026). Carbon Management in an Era of Climate Implementation

WORLD BIOENERGY ASSOCIATION

About Us

The World Bioenergy Association is the global organization dedicated to **supporting the wide range of actors in the bioenergy sector**. Our mission is the **sustainable** development of **bioenergy** globally. Our members include national and regional associations as well as companies in the entire biomass to energy value chain including equipment manufacturers, fuel producers, traders, CHP facilities, utilities etc. from more than 40 countries.

Fields of Action:

Our work rests on three main areas:

1. Data and analysis, with our annual Global Bioenergy Statistics report being one of the few sources tracking bioenergy across heat, power, and transport at the global level, complemented by factsheets, position papers, and white papers.
2. International advocacy. WBA is an accredited observer organization to the UNFCCC and is active in IRENA and GBEP/FAO processes. We organize delegations to attend the annual UNFCCC COP climate conferences to share the progress of the bioenergy sector and support the negotiations in raising ambition towards a renewable energy future.
3. Knowledge exchange, with webinars and events convening bioenergy actors around the world. In 2025, our seven webinars drew more than 2,500 registrations from over 100 countries, with topics ranging from carbon markets, sustainability certification, sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), and emerging markets. Additionally, through our Clean Cooking Working Group, we promote modern bioenergy solutions for cooking, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Membership

WBA membership is open to companies and associations working in bioenergy, with member benefits including speaking opportunities at WBA events, joining official WBA delegations to international energy and climate conferences, and being part of the largest bioenergy network in the world.

- Access to **member exclusive** reports, studies, and analysis on latest developments
- **Speaking opportunities** at various WBA events including webinars
- Join as official WBA delegates to **international energy** and **climate conferences**
- Participation in **internal working groups**
- **Promotion of products** and **services** through various communication channels

Welcome to join the leading global bioenergy community!

List of WBA Members as of August 2026