ITDP's Position Paper for COP31 Antalya

The current global energy crisis has exposed economies' vulnerability to fossil fuel dependence. With oil and natural gas prices rising sharply, countries worldwide face mounting economic pressure, whether they produce or import fossil fuels.

Transportation is the **second largest and fastest-growing** source of greenhouse gas emissions (after electricity and heat production), accounting for roughly 16% of total global emissions and taking 95% of its energy from fossil fuels, a share that is unchanged in fifty years. **Transportation must receive the attention it deserves as a critical solution for climate action and energy security.**

Governments cannot control global oil prices or prevent future supply disruptions, but they can reduce their dependence on fossil fuels. Accelerating transport electrification, investing in public transport, walking, and cycling, and promoting compact urban development can significantly reduce energy demand while delivering more affordable and equitable mobility.

ITDP research demonstrates that combining electrification with mode shift could reduce urban passenger transport **energy consumption by 70% and liquid fuel demand by 85% by 2050** (across the six major countries studied), while reducing direct government costs by a third.

COP31 presents a critical opportunity to position reduced fossil fuel dependence and lower energy demand as key priorities for climate action, economic resilience, and energy security by establishing a clear, measurable global goal that recognizes sustainable transport.

The COP31 Presidency's **35×35 global electrification goal**, which aims to increase electricity's share of global final energy consumption to 35% by 2035, is a major step toward reducing dependence on fossil fuels. To meet this goal, we must clarify transport's role as a critical factor.

We call on the transport sector to electrify at least 35% of the road transport fleet by 2035 in support of the 35x35 goal. Together, these complementary goals can provide a common direction for governments, financial institutions, and transport stakeholders, linking energy efficiency, electrification, and sustainable mobility.

This goal supports the momentum behind the Global Transport Effort's 2035 targets, reducing global transport energy demand by 25% (relative to 2022) and ensuring that at least one-third of transport energy comes from renewable sources and sustainable biofuels. Introduced at COP30 Belém, this goal has already had support from 11 countries.

Achieving these ambitions requires a systemic approach that combines transport electrification with investments in greater efficiency in passenger transport; this includes public transport, walking, cycling, and compact urban development, and financing to support these transitions. Similarly, for freight transport, we need to invest in electrification while also improving freight logistics and efficiency.

Let’s make COP31 a turning point, where countries not only address climate change, but also improve energy security, increase access, and improve air quality. Now is the time.