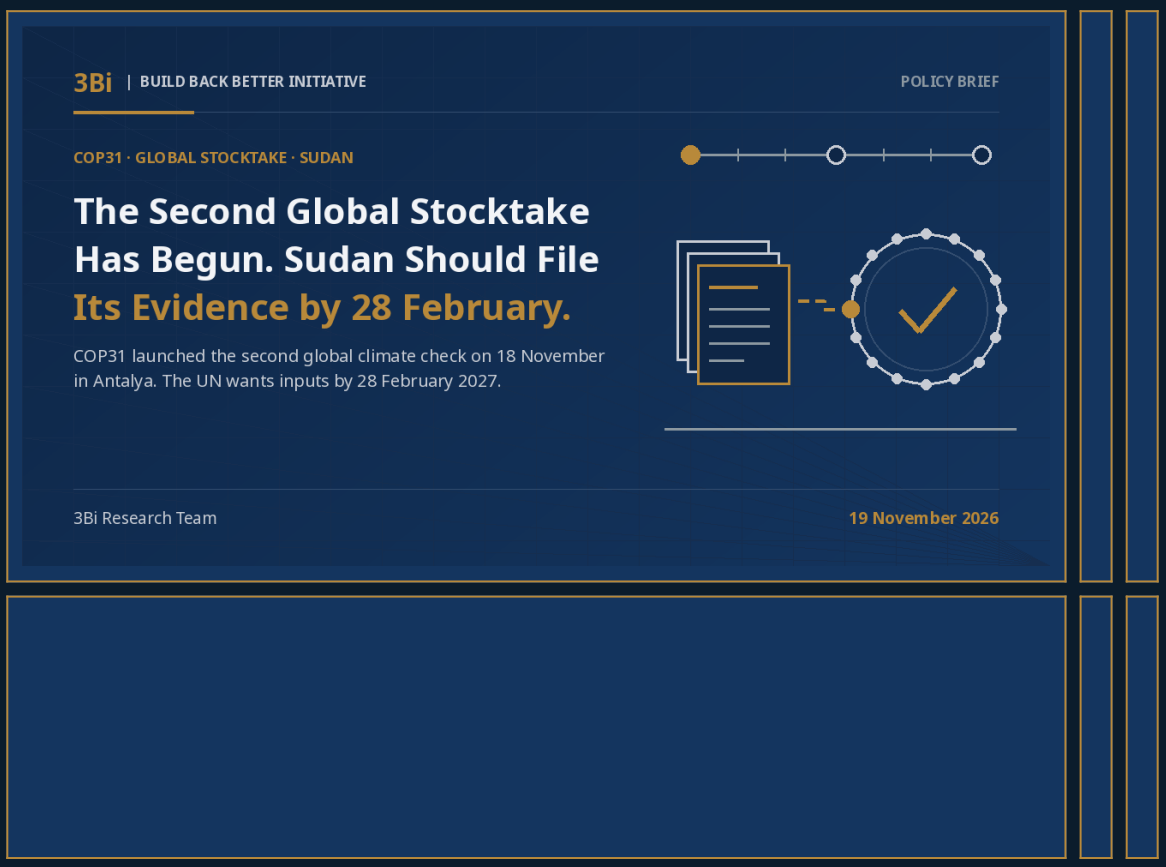
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COP31 Has Opened the Second Global Climate Stocktake. Inputs Close on 28 February. Sudan Should File Its Own Evidence.

3Bi Research Team | Policy Brief | 19 November 2026

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Contents

The Ask 1
Why Now 1
The Evidence 2
Addressing the Counter-Case 3
What 3Bi Recommends, Specifically 3
Sourcing & Contact 4

COP31 launched the second Global Stocktake in Antalya on 18 November, and inputs are due by 28 February 2027. Sudan has a 2016 adaptation plan, a 2025 national communication and a US$8.24 billion climate plan. It should file its own evidence.

On 18 November 2026, at COP31 in Antalya, ministers met at a high-level event to launch the second Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement; its information-collection phase asks for inputs by 28 February 2027. (Illustration: 3Bi)

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The Ask

By 28 February 2027, the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR), Sudan's UNFCCC focal point, should file a short national submission to the information-collection phase of the second Global Stocktake (GST2), which COP31 launched in Antalya yesterday. The submission should answer the guiding questions on adaptation, access to finance and loss and damage with Sudan's own evidence. It costs a few weeks of staff time and no new money, and it reuses material Sudan has already prepared for its 2025 national communication and its first Biennial Transparency Report. It is also the cheapest way to make sure the 2028 assessment counts what Sudan has done to adapt, and what it still lacks.

Why Now

On 18 November, ministers met at a high-level event in Antalya to launch GST2, the Paris Agreement's second five-yearly check on whether national plans and promises add up to enough action. The first stocktake, completed at COP28 in Dubai in 2023, helped produce the agreements to triple renewable energy capacity, double energy-efficiency gains and accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems (UN News, 18 November 2026). The second concludes in November 2028, the last before 2030. "We have two years," UN climate chief Simon Stiell told the event. He added that the information-collection phase was already under way and that "the quality of information we gather will determine the quality of next year's assessment" (UN News, 18 November 2026; PINA, 19 November 2026).

The calendar is set out in a July message from the chairs of the UN climate talks' two subsidiary bodies. The information-collection phase starts at COP31. A technical assessment follows, with a first technical dialogue at the Bonn session in June 2027 and a second in November 2027, when COP32 meets in Addis Ababa. The process closes at the November 2028 session. The chairs have published 32 guiding questions and ask that inputs be filed "as soon as possible and no later than 28 February 2027" through the UNFCCC submissions portal (Chairs of the SBSTA and SBI, message on preparations for the second global stocktake, 17 July 2026; ENA, 15 November 2026).

The secretariat is expected to publish four thematic synthesis reports in March 2027 (IISD, Adaptation in the Second Global Stocktake, November 2026). Evidence that arrives by the February deadline can shape those reports. Evidence that arrives later meets a story that is already being written.

The Evidence

First, GST2 will judge adaptation more closely than the first stocktake did, and that needs national evidence. A November 2026 IISD report says GST2 will be the first stocktake to assess adaptation with the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience in place and with information from countries' Biennial Transparency Reports. It notes that the first stocktake's adaptation assessment was weakened by "uneven national reporting on adaptation" (IISD, November 2026). Four of the 32 guiding questions deal with adaptation. They ask how adequate current efforts and support are "relative to risks, vulnerabilities, implementation gaps, and needs identified in national plans", and how national adaptation plans have built resilience (SB Chairs, GST2 guiding questions). Under Article 7.14 of the Paris Agreement, the stocktake must also recognise the adaptation efforts of developing countries (IISD, November 2026). Sudan has a case to make. It published a National Adaptation Plan in 2016 (PreventionWeb, Sudan National Adaptation Plan 2016). Its national statement to COP31 on 11 November called adaptation "not a choice, but an urgent national necessity" and listed the investments it needs: water management, climate-resilient agriculture, pastoral systems, land restoration, combating desertification, ecosystem protection, early warning and disaster risk management (SUNA, Arabic full text, 11 November 2026; translation by 3Bi). A collective assessment can only recognise what reaches it.

Second, the first stocktake showed that voices left out early stay out. The same IISD report finds that the first stocktake "revealed gaps in whose knowledge and experiences reached the assessment reports", and that much of the evidence from the technical phase "was not reflected in the final decision text". It concludes that inputs from developing countries, "particularly the most vulnerable", must shape the findings this time (IISD, November 2026). Sudan is a least developed country (LDC). On 18 November, Antalya hosted an event marking 25 years of the LDC work programme, the LDC Expert Group and the LDC Fund, where the Global Environment Facility reported that the LDC Fund has provided nearly US$2.5 billion to 446 projects in 51 countries (IISD ENB, 18 November 2026). If the stocktake is to say whether that support matched the need, it needs testimony from countries such as Sudan.

Third, Sudan already holds most of what a good submission needs. Sudan submitted its Third National Communication and a Biennial Update Report in April 2025, and is preparing its Fourth National Communication and its first Biennial Transparency Report (SUNA via Fana News, 11 November 2026). Its climate plan puts the cost of mitigation and adaptation at US$8.24 billion over ten years, conditional on external support (UNDP Climate Promise, Sudan country page). The guiding questions ask what information from the transparency framework would be useful to the

stocktake, and about the "scale, composition, accessibility, and quality" of climate finance (SB Chairs, GST2 guiding questions, questions 12 and 21). Sudan's statement to COP31 asked for finance that developing countries can reach "fairly, swiftly, easily and predictably" (SUNA, 11 November 2026; translation by 3Bi). A stocktake submission is the formal place to back that request with figures. The science side is moving the same way. The chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Jim Skea, said its next impacts and adaptation report will address adaptation finance "for the first time", though its timing relative to the stocktake is still disputed (UN News, 18 November 2026).

Addressing the Counter-Case

The strongest objection is that the stocktake is collective and does not assess individual countries, so one national submission will not change its conclusions. Sudan's national communication will reach the process anyway. That is a fair point, and 3Bi is not claiming that a Sudanese submission will move the 2028 decision. Our point is narrower. Mandated reports are compiled by the secretariat into broad syntheses. A voluntary submission is the one place where a country sets out its own key messages, and the guidelines invite submitters to include an executive summary and key messages so they can be picked up in the technical assessment (UNFCCC, submissions guidelines for the ICP component). Without one, Sudan's experience enters the stocktake only as rows in someone else's table.

A second objection is capacity: Sudan is already preparing two reports, and the staff who write them are stretched. But the questions are optional. Submitters are "encouraged" to answer them and may add any other relevant information (SB Chairs, 17 July 2026). A focused submission of a few pages, answering six or seven questions on adaptation, finance access and loss and damage, can be built almost entirely from the 2025 communication, the 2016 plan and the work already under way on the first transparency report. Doing the work once and filing it twice is efficient.

A third objection is that the African Group, the LDC Group and the Arab Group may make collective submissions, and Sudan supports their positions, as its COP31 statement said (SUNA, 11 November 2026). Group submissions matter, but they average across dozens of countries. A national submission and group inputs work together: Sudan can send the same evidence to its group coordinators so that their texts carry it too.

What 3Bi Recommends, Specifically

First, by the end of December 2026, HCENR should name a small GST2 team drawn from the staff already working on the Biennial Transparency Report. If HCENR has no portal account, its national focal point should request one now, as the guidelines require for Parties.

Second, by 28 February 2027, HCENR should file a national submission of no more than ten pages, with an executive summary and key messages. It should answer the guiding questions on transparency (question 12), adaptation (questions 17 to 20), finance (question 21) and loss and damage (questions 24 and 25), using the 2025 national communication, the 2016 National Adaptation Plan and the climate plan's US$8.24 billion cost estimate.

Third, before filing, Sudan should share the draft with the coordinators of the African Group, the LDC Group and the Arab Group, so that group submissions reflect the same evidence.

Fourth, Sudanese universities and research centres should consider a joint non-Party submission. The guidelines encourage collective inputs, and organisations without observer status can send theirs to the secretariat by email (UNFCCC, submissions guidelines).

Fifth, Sudan's delegation should plan to take part in the first technical dialogue in Bonn in June 2027 and in the second at COP32 in Addis Ababa, and should propose a national expert to present Sudan's evidence there.

Sixth, 3Bi will check the GST2 submissions portal in March 2027 and report whether a Sudanese submission is listed.

Sourcing & Contact

Primary sources: UN News, "COP31 deadlock persists as countries launch new 'climate reality check'" (18 November 2026); PINA, "UN Climate chief urges countries to turn climate pledges into action ahead of COP33 stocktake" (19 November 2026); Chairs of the SBSTA and SBI, "Preparations for second global stocktake" (message to Parties and observers, 17 July 2026); SB Chairs, guiding questions for the information collection and preparation component of GST2 (2026); UNFCCC, submissions guidelines for the information collection and preparation component of GST2 (2026); incoming COP31 Presidency and UNFCCC secretariat, message on the ministerial high-level event to launch GST2 (4 November 2026); IISD, "Adaptation in the Second Global Stocktake: Assessing collective progress on adaptation at the international level" (November 2026); IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin, report of the event "25 Years of the LDC Work Programme, LDC Expert Group, LDCF, and Adaptation Support" (18 November 2026); SUNA, Sudan's national statement to the COP31 Leaders' Summit (English via Fana News and Arabic full text via Sudan Independent, 11–12 November 2026); UNDP Climate Promise, Sudan country page (accessed 16 November 2026); PreventionWeb, Sudan National Adaptation Plan 2016 (accessed 19 November 2026); Ethiopian News Agency, report on COP32 preparations (15 November 2026). Quotations from Arabic sources are 3Bi translations. 3Bi has not verified whether Sudan made a national submission to the first global stocktake, and is not claiming that it did or did not. For methodology questions or to propose a correction, contact 3Bi's Research Team via 3bisudan.org.

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