

**ICCN Plenary | Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 | 08:30 - 10:00 BST**
**AGENDA**

<b>Time (UK)</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Item Type</b>
<b>08:30</b>	1. Introductions/Opening Remarks	➤ Karla Hill, Associate Director, E3G	➤ For info
<b>08:40</b>	2. Secretariat update 24/25	➤ Ben Rhodes, Head of Secretariat ICCN/E3G	➤ For info
<b>08:50</b>	3. Modifications to the terms of reference	➤ Ben	➤ For approval
<b>09:05</b>	4. Pakistan Climate Change Authority – overview and current challenges	➤ Muhammad Rafiq, Pakistan CCA	➤ For info
<b>09:20</b>	5. Strategy and funding for 25/26	➤ Ben/Tessa/Izzy	➤ For discussion
<b>09:55</b>	6. Next steps	➤ Ben	➤ For info

## ICCN Plenary Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – 08:30 – 10:00 BST

**ZOOM RECORDING LINK:** [ICCN Plenary Meeting \(Rescheduled\)-20250415\\_083222-Meeting Recording.mp4](#)

### ATTENDEES

Member Attendees: Ireland, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Finland, Denmark, South Africa, Iceland, Sweden (both councils), Australia, Greece, Nigeria, Ukraine, UK, France, EU

Guest speaker(s): Muhammad Rafiq, Pakistan

Secretariat Staff: Karla Hill, Ben Rhodes, Tessa Vincent, Izzy Page

### ACTIONS

Action	Owner	Month Due
➤ Secretariat to clarify process for electing co-Chairs in ToR	➤ <b>Ben</b>	➤ May (complete)
➤ Split Swedish councils onto two lines	➤ <b>Izzy</b>	➤ May (complete)
➤ Secretariat to formalize observer status in ToR	➤ <b>Ben</b>	➤ May (complete)
➤ South Africa to share Just Transition financing mechanisms and other relevant work on financing and country platforms	➤ <b>Dumisani</b>	➤ May
➤ Secretariat to recirculate updated events and clarify for members.	➤ <b>Izzy</b>	➤ May
➤ All members invited to find out more about the UNSDSN Global Climate Hub (Chaired by Prof Kondouri from the Greek climate council) <a href="https://unsdsn.globalclimatehub.org/">https://unsdsn.globalclimatehub.org/</a>	➤ <b>All</b> to email Prof Kondouri to find out more <a href="mailto:pkoundouri@aueb.gr">pkoundouri@aueb.gr</a>	➤ May

### MINUTES

## 1. Introductions/Opening Remarks

The following new members were welcomed: Kesandu Chidia (NCCC), Weilin Chiu (Acting General Manager CCA Systems and Science Branch) and Grant Blackwell (Chief Scientific Advisor, NZ CCC)

Karla – Associate Director for E3G responsible for the Secretariat - reiterated the importance of plenaries as the key decision-making body within the ICCN governance framework. Karla also highlighted that ICCN remains a network led by members, for members. 2025 needs to be a very active year for climate action and for the ICCN to succeed it relies on active participation of members.

## 2. Secretariat update 24/25

The Head of Secretariat provided an update on key achievements in 24/25, progress against the workplan activity, and plans for final narrative and budget reporting. Members were pleased with progress so far, with no substantive comments provided. New Zealand also supported the mentoring pilot scheme and expressed interest in becoming a mentor for a new council.

## 3. Modifications to the Terms of Reference (ToR)

- a) **Co-Chairs:** South Africa, Australia and Sweden indicated support for the proposal. New Zealand asked to clarify who is eligible to apply for Chair. Several councils (UK, EU, Greece, New Zealand) expressed that co-chairs should be council members as the ICCN is a network of councils. Others (South Africa, Iceland, Australia) noted in some countries that individuals from secretariats should be eligible to apply (where they have the seniority, expertise and ability to commit time to chairing the network) if it is not feasible or appropriate for their Council Chairs to apply. The Secretariat committed to reflect these different perspectives in the final ToR. *[the proposed final ToR provide guidelines, whilst requesting each council follow its own internal processes if individuals wish to apply].*
- b) **Membership contributions:** Australia were interested whether other options were considered beyond size of a member's secretariat when calculating proposed amounts, as secretariat sizes can change over time. The ICCN Secretariat explained for simplicity they ruled out other options (like GDP of member country), but that the suggested amounts are non-binding and guidelines only, with members able to pay a different amount should their circumstances change.
- c) **Associate membership status:** Ireland asked whether national bodies could become associate members e.g. if a national body does not meet the full criteria of

a climate council. Secretariat answered that this would be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Steering Committee. UK raised that on sub-nationals, there's also a presentational angle in terms of widening the geographical spread and reach of the network and therefore how its seen by externals. The UK also suggested associates could join parts of Plenary of Member Forums at COP.

- d) **Observer status:** Swedish Climate Policy Council agreed observer status would be a practical tool but that there should be different criteria and benefits. Action for Secretariat to formalize in TOR.

In summary, members agreed that all four modifications were approved in principle, with an action for the Secretariat to finalise proposals in an updated ToR.

#### **4. Pakistan Climate Change Authority – overview and current challenges**

Muhammad Rafiq from the Pakistan Climate Change Authority presented on their mandate and current areas of focus. South Africa (Dumisani) agreed to share the PCC's relevant work on Just Transition financing mechanisms and other funding mechanisms. South Africa noted that as they are an advisory council rather than an implementing agent for the government it can be difficult to take forward implementation of climate funds.

#### **5. Strategy and funding for 25/26**

The Head of Secretariat (Ben) presented a short slidepack which set out the proposed Mission, Vision and Goals for the ICCN, as well as how this translates to outcomes and activities for 25/26.

Overall, there was very strong support for the strategy with the following interventions:

- New Zealand (Grant) - Supports the overall approach but asked who leads funding relationships. The Head of Sec clarified that E3G (as host of the secretariat) led the formal grant agreements with funders, but that all new agreements would need to be approved by the ICCN Steering Committee on behalf of all members.
- Denmark (Jacob) – supports overall, with a request to focus on building capacity and adding value to existing members
- Greece (Koundouri): congratulated the Secretariat on the presentation and shared a resource: UNSDS Global Climate Hub (which she Chairs), headquartered in Greece with 100+ researchers, focused on different systems that need to become climate resilient and neutral. The Hub has scientific and mathematical modeling capacity and is keen to support partners internationally. Also interested in partnering on events at New York Climate Week and COP30.

- Ireland (George): what is the sense of the possibility for securing other funding? The Head of Sec explained that the pipeline for additional funding is healthy but that we still need to formally secure the amounts needed to deliver the workplan.
- Republic of Korea: thinks we should bring in more councils from a diversity perspective. RoK also stated that COP30 is a priority venue for events but that New York Climate Week was not as it is unlikely (m)any members will attend. In addition if the ICCN makes any statement on NDCs, there is a request this is shared for consultation with members beforehand. Action: recirculate updated events and clarity for members.
- Sweden (Ola): will follow-up with more detail comments. Suggests congratulating everyone involved.
- Australia (Weilin): for next plenary keen to understand attendance at COP30 and canvas ideas for joint events.