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GLOBAL LEADERS CALL FOR STRONGER CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AHEAD OF COP30

PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 26 JUNE 2025, 09:00 BST

London, 26 June 2025

- > Official launch of International Climate Councils Network's 'How to Create a Climate Council' Toolkit at inaugural Climate Governance Forum during London Climate Action Week
- > Senior climate council representatives to be in attendance, and IPCC Chair Jim Skea and COP30 Presidency Programs Director Alice Amorim to give keynote speeches

Story

Following calls from global leaders and the COP30 Presidency to strengthen climate governance, the International Climate Councils Network (ICCN) has launched a toolkit designed to support the creation of climate councils, the expert bodies officially mandated by their governments to advise them on climate change policy. Nick Mabey, CEO of E3G and founder of London Climate Action Week, commented: *"As the politics of climate change becomes increasingly fractured, climate councils play a pivotal role in ensuring the debate remains based in scientific fact. Climate change should not be an ideological issue, and these impartial, evidence-based institutions can help convene all parts of society to create solutions that are publicly acceptable and sufficiently ambitious."*

The toolkit, called '**How to Create a Climate Council**,' is a practical guide which contains lessons from more than 20 countries and leading researchers on how to design an impactful climate advisory body was launched at the inaugural '*Climate Governance Forum*' during London Climate Action Week. The Forum, held during the biggest London Climate Action Week yet, is the culmination of years of momentum behind strengthening governance and will act as a launchpad for more urgent global action. IPCC Chair Professor Jim Skea and COP30 Programme Director Alice Amorim are to deliver keynote speeches at the event.

The toolkit opens with a case study from the Maltese Climate Action Authority (CAA) and its associated National Climate Action Council, which was announced today as the newest member of ICCN. Ing. Abigail Cutajar, CEO of the CAA, commented: *"Joining the International Climate Councils Network marks a significant step in Malta's commitment*



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to climate leadership. The Climate Action Authority and National Climate Action Council were established to bridge the gap between science, policy, and action, ensuring that evidence-based strategies translate into factual progress. Through the ICCN, we look forward to contributing our experience, learning from global peers, and strengthening collective climate resilience.”

2025 is a critical year for climate action. Ahead of COP30, governments urgently need to implement policies grounded in evidence to secure a path to a sustainable future. Strengthening climate governance through effective climate councils will be critical to making that possible. Climate councils’ expert, science-backed advice can help governments to build consensus on complex issues and make space for effective, long-term climate policies. They can also help combat rising climate mis- and disinformation, provide certainty to investors and businesses on long-term policy direction, and promote participatory democracy through their consultative approach with a wide range of stakeholders.

Senior climate council representatives from ICCN are to be in attendance at the Forum. Rick Smith, Interim Chair of ICCN and President of the Canadian Climate Institute, will chair a panel discussion on with other council leaders on strengthening national climate governance to achieve international climate ambition. He commented: *“As a founding member of the ICCN, the Canadian Climate Institute has derived huge value from being part of this vibrant and growing network. The challenge of climate change, and the necessary solutions, are a truly global concern. Collaboration with ICCN colleagues has greatly enriched our Institute’s understanding of best practices, improved our advice to Canadian governments and our approach to engaging Canadians. Together, the ICCN and its members are making a measurable and increasing contribution to climate change progress and the securing of a more liveable and prosperous future.”*

The International Climate Councils Network’s toolkit, ***‘How to Create a Climate Council,’*** is available [here](#) in an interactive, online format.



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Quotes

Nick Mabey, Chief Executive of E3G said:

“As the politics of climate change becomes increasingly fractured, climate councils play a pivotal role in ensuring the debate remains based in scientific fact. Climate change should not be an ideological issue, and these impartial, evidence-based institutions can help convene all parts of society to create solutions that are publicly acceptable and sufficiently ambitious.”

Ing. Abigail Cutajar, Chief Executive of the Maltese Climate Action Authority said:

“Joining the International Climate Councils Network marks a significant step in Malta’s commitment to climate leadership. The Climate Action Authority and National Climate Action Council were established to bridge the gap between science, policy, and action, ensuring that evidence-based strategies translate into factual progress. Through the ICCN, we look forward to contributing our experience, learning from global peers, and strengthening collective climate resilience.”

Rick Smith, President of the Canadian Climate Institute and Interim Chair of the International Climate Councils Network said:

“As a founding member of the ICCN, the Canadian Climate Institute has derived huge value from being part of this vibrant and growing network. The challenge of climate change, and the necessary solutions, are a truly global concern. Collaboration with ICCN colleagues has greatly enriched our Institute’s understanding of best practices, improved our advice to Canadian governments and our approach to engaging Canadians. Together, the ICCN and its members are making a measurable and increasing contribution to climate change



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progress and the securing of a more liveable and prosperous future.”

Additional Quotes

Åsa Persson, Chair of the Swedish Climate Policy Council and Deputy Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) said:

“We are running out of time to bridge the gap between what science is telling us is needed and what action is being taken on climate change. Climate councils ensure experts hold governments to account but also provide them with the expert advice and create political space for action.”

Andrew Prag, Managing Director-Policy of the We Mean Business Coalition, said:

“Long-term predictability is fundamental to business. Companies need five-to-ten-year coherent government plans showing politicians are serious about accelerating the transition from fossil to clean to give them the confidence to scale investments in this direction. National climate councils are essential to long-term planning.”

Available for comment

Nick, Rick, Abigail and Åsa are available for commentary – please reach out via Izzy Page from the ICCN Secretariat:

isabella.page@climatecouncils.org

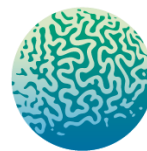
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Notes to Editors

1. E3G is an independent climate change think tank accelerating the transition to a climate safe world. E3G specialises in climate diplomacy, climate risk, energy policy and climate finance.



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INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE
COUNCILS
NETWORK

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2. The International Climate Councils Network supports and amplifies the work of a growing network of climate councils: 25 expert bodies officially mandated to advise their governments on climate policy.