

# Climate Governance Forum 2026

Wed 24th June | 9:00–13:30

## AGENDA

09:00 Arrivals

Coffee and tea

MARBLE HALL

09:30 Welcome

SPEAKERS:

- **Karla Hill**, Chief Programme Officer, E3G
- **Ben Rhodes**, Head of Secretariat, International Climate Councils Network

LECTURE THEATRE

09:35 Opening keynote:

### Protecting climate progress through the power of law

Former White House Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy reflects on the role that strong governance and legislation has played in sustaining momentum for climate action and investment in the United States over the last 18 months. Drawing on examples from the landmark Inflation Reduction Act and leadership from U.S. states, McCarthy will speak to the importance of good governance in a polarised world.

SPEAKER:

- **Gina McCarthy**, Chair, America Is All In, former White House National Climate Advisor and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator

LECTURE THEATRE

09:50 Governance, multilateralism and the rule of law: challenges and opportunities

Global climate governance is evolving through changing political dynamics, emerging alliances and new initiatives. This session will examine growing pressures on domestic legislation, risks of policy rollback and fragmentation, and the implications of the landmark ICJ ruling. The discussion will highlight the foundational role good governance plays in driving the implementation of NDCs and NAPs and explore opportunities for governments to strengthen accountability and reinforce ambition.

SPEAKERS:

- **Moderator: Amanda McKee**, Director for Knowledge and Learning, NDC Partnership Support Unit
- **Laura Clarke**, CEO, ClientEarth
- **Ambassador Ali Mohamed**, Special Climate Envoy for Kenya
- **Kath Rowley**, CEO, Australian Climate Change Authority

LECTURE THEATRE

10:30 Climate governance and citizens: strengthening participation in policymaking

Data from around the world tells us citizens are overwhelmingly supportive of their governments taking action on climate change. In the face of concerted efforts to slow progress and rapidly spreading mis- and disinformation, sustaining citizens' buy-in is critical. In this session, we'll hear from speakers about the role of parliamentarians in the policymaking process, innovative efforts to make citizens' voices heard, and how to communicate complex policy in the new media landscape.

SPEAKERS:

- **Moderator: Dumisani Nxumalo**, COO, South African Presidential Climate Commission and Co-Chair, International Climate Councils Network
- **Emma Pinchbeck**, Chief Executive, UK Climate Change Committee
- **Karen Silverwood-Cope**, Climate and Environment Director, WRI Brasil and Civil society representative, Brazilian Climate Interministerial Council
- **Malini Mehra**, CEO, GLOBE Legislators

LECTURE THEATRE

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## AGENDA

11:05 Coffee Break

MARBLE HALL

11:30 Institutional innovations for future generations

LECTURE THEATRE

This session will kick off with a special announcement from Mary Robinson and Luc Bas on behalf of the Planetary Guardians.

**SPEAKERS:**

- **Mary Robinson**, First woman President of Ireland, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, former Chair of The Elders (2018–2024) and current Elder
- **Luc Bas**, Director of Belgium Climate Risk Assessment Center (CeRAC)

Climate change is a complex, long-term challenge, requiring sustained, coordinated action informed by science. Our political systems, however, are structured around comparatively short electoral cycles, impacting lawmakers' ability to implement truly forward-looking policies. This conversation will examine innovative governance arrangements that prioritise long-term policy design and implementation, such as constitutional provisions, parliamentary reforms, and dedicated advisory and oversight bodies.

**SPEAKERS:**

- **Moderator: Michele Poletto**, Adviser, Climate Change and Democracy, International IDEA
- **Mary Robinson**
- **Dr. Alina Averchenkova**, Distinguished Policy Fellow, LSE Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment
- **Dr. Chang Hoon Lee**, Chair, Presidential Commission on Climate Crisis Response, Republic of Korea
- **Xiye Bastida**, Climate Justice Activist, Storyteller, Executive Director of Re-Earth Initiative and Planetary Guardian

12:30 The Climate Council Dispatches:  
Impact stories from around the world

LECTURE THEATRE

Hear from climate council leaders from Ukraine, Canada, and Chile on the impact that their advice to government has had. Expect to leave inspired!

**SPEAKERS:**

- **Dr. Rick Smith**, President, Canadian Climate Institute and Co-Chair, International Climate Councils Network
- **Dr. Sandra Cortés**, President, Scientific Advisory Committee on Climate Change (C4)
- **Dr. Andriy Kitura**, Head, Green Transition Office, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine

13:00 Lunch and networking

MARBLE HALL

See breakout sessions taking place in parallel with plenary overleaf.

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## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Please note:** these are closed-door sessions with limited spaces available. They will not be included in the event livestream. If you are interested in attending, you can indicate this on the registration form for the Forum. If you are selected, you will receive an individual confirmation for the session via a diary invite.

### 11:15 Policy Engagement for Real Economy Progress

COUNCIL ROOM

Companies at the forefront of the net zero transition know that public policy alignment with business goals is a crucial enabler to derisking their transition. When governments and climate councils put the right climate policies and regulations in place, companies can attract required transition investments and advance on their goals faster. In this roundtable, we will explore what governance is needed to support businesses to integrate policy dependencies into their transition planning.

**SPEAKERS:**

- **Moderator: Tessa Vincent**, Capacity Building Manager, International Climate Councils Network
- **Jacob Krog Søbystgaard**, Head of Secretariat, Danish Council on Climate Change
- **Toby Perkins MP**, Member of Parliament for Chesterfield and Staveley and Chair, Environmental Audit Select Committee
- **Jo Hallas**, Non-executive Director, Smith & Nephew
- **Aloisio Lopes Pereira Melo**, National Secretary for Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Brazil

### 11:30 Adaptation Governance in the Implementation Era

MANUFACTURING ROOM

Adaptation remains chronically underfunded, under-prioritised, and weakly enforced compared to mitigation. As we prepare for COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye (the "COP of implementation"), this session offers a timely contribution to discussions on the governance of adaptation pathways. This structured dialogue will explore the practical steps being taken by national and subnational governments to shift from adaptation commitments to on-the-ground implementation.

**SPEAKERS:**

- **Moderator: Raisa Cole**, Africa Regional Lead, International Climate Councils Network (ICCN)
- **Keynote: Anne Hammil**, Associate Vice-President, Resilience, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- **Malango Moghgho**, Managing Director, ZeniZeni Sustainable Finance Limited
- **Dr. Emilie Beauchamp**, (MEL) for Adaptation to Climate Change Lead, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- **Prof. Dr. Suraje Dessai**, Vice Chair, European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change and Professor of Climate Change Adaptation, University of Leeds
- **Johanna Gusman**, Senior Attorney, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- **Sasha Abraham**, Senior Analyst, Climate Policy Initiative

**BACK TO PLENARY (LECTURE THEATRE) at 12:30**

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