



The Global Foundation

Together, we strive for the global common good

Annual Report

– 2020 –

Contact Information:

Office: Level 1, Legion house, 161 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

Postal: PO Box A64, Sydney South NSW 1235

Phone: +61 2 8267 5760 **Email:** ea@globalfoundation.org.au



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Chairman's Remarks

We have all experienced a year without precedent.

The human suffering, anxiety and wide-ranging and ongoing ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic are yet to fully play out. With lives and economies damaged, our hopes now rest with a collaborative effort across global citizens, governments, organisations, academia, and faiths, to support the urgent global public health need and a broad and sustainable economic recovery.

Usually, The Global Foundation thrives on face to face, 'on-the-ground' human interaction, as we bring together people of diverse backgrounds who share the purpose of serving the global common good. Obviously, this style of engagement has not been possible since March this year.



However, it is pleasing to note that in the face of global disruption and travel constraints, the Foundation has thrived, thanks to the determined and practical support of our Key Partners and Partners and our corporate and university members. Our sincere thanks go to Amundi Asset Management, King & Wood Mallesons, GHD, AngloAmerican and Aviva Investors.

As a result of their support, the Foundation was able to finish the 2020 year in better financial shape than previously, which augurs well for the period ahead.

Of note, and coming out of our renowned Rome Roundtable in November, we have stronger commitment to our co-operative globalisation strategy, with specific global action on: equitable Covid vaccine distribution; a machinery for marshalling investor finance to address climate change; and working with the Bank of Italy and others for the G20 agenda, with a global roundtable meeting in planning for Assisi, Italy during 2021.

These agendas of global importance have been advocated by you, our members, who are people of goodness and goodwill. We express our gratitude for your active support and that of global leaders and influential figures who are aligned with the work of the Foundation.

I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank our Patron, The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), for his support and for hosting the inaugural Australian Roundtable at Admiralty House, Sydney in March this year. The Governor-General has kindly offered to host a follow up Australian Roundtable in March 2021, at Government House, Yarralumla, Canberra.



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I would like to pay a special tribute to the ingenuity, steadfast commitment and huge effort of our Secretary General, Steve Howard, who in progressing our mission for over 20 years, continually strives to drive meaningful agendas for the global common good. Thank you also to his small but committed team. Together, they have adapted and flourished in keeping us all connected in solidarity and 'on mission.' Our online programs have attracted broad and influential global participation and have been highly effective in their content and impact.

Thank you also to my fellow Directors Selena Ng and Brian Loughnane, for their contribution and service in steering the Foundation in what has been a demanding and challenging year.

Finally, heartfelt thanks go to two outstanding contributors to the Global Foundation: Jock Murray, AO, retired as Chairman at the end of 2019 after four years of eminent and spirited leadership of the Foundation, and His Grace, the Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier, Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, will shortly complete his term as Chairman of our Australian Advisory Council, a role he has served with dedication and great distinction over the past four years.

Louise Watson,
Chairman

Office Bearers of the Global Foundation, 2020:



The Most Reverend
Dr Philip Freier,
Chairman of the
Advisory Council, the
Global Foundation



Ms Louise Watson,
Chairman of the
Board, the Global
Foundation



Dr Selena Ng,
Member of the
Board, the Global
Foundation



Mr Brian Loughnane
AO, Member of the
Board, the Global
Foundation



Mr Steve Howard,
Secretary General,
Member of the Board,
the Global Foundation



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Secretary General - Overview of 2020

What to do in a year where a once in one hundred year pandemic has completely disrupted the whole world? Well, we became disruptors ourselves!

We had begun 2020 with an ambitious dual program, of continuing our Australian Roundtable series, launched in November 2019 with the **Melbourne Roundtable**, while also rolling out preparations for our next signature global meeting, the *2020 Rome Roundtable*, originally scheduled for June of this year.



On the 2nd March, our **Sydney Roundtable** was beautifully hosted at Admiralty House on the shores of Sydney Harbour by Their Excellencies, the Governor General of Australia and Mrs Hurley. This was truly a landmark discussion about Australia's need for a clearer national strategy, as the **Report** attests.

Themes covered at the Sydney Roundtable included:

- Australian identity and national self-confidence to plan strategically for the future.
- Pathways to a greener future – technological, financial and policy solutions for Australia.
- Australia's global engagement, including on development issues, AI regulation, and health expertise.



Sydney Roundtable at Admiralty House – March 2, 2020



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These were the Key Outcomes:

- That Australia's future economic and strategic viability also requires it to step up internationally, in support of greater international collaboration and multilateralism.
- That a step-change is required in national thinking about regional Australia, in its early stages of a long journey of recovery from bushfires and drought, so that stronger and more resilient regional communities emerge as an integral part of future national strategy.
- That Australian ingenuity and goodwill should be harnessed to meet and overcome the challenge of climate change and related environmental issues, both at home and abroad. The full suite of technologies should be explored, together with sound long-term policy frameworks. Business and investors are willing to play a leadership role if there is such certainty over the longer term.
- That a strong and passionate commitment was expressed in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, as a centrepiece of the topic of Australia's national identity. Indigenous Australia sits at the heart of who we are as a nation, which is pivotal to developing a successful and lasting national strategy.





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The pandemic strikes!

Little did we know that just one week later, when I had landed in Europe to advance preparations for the 2020 Rome Roundtable meeting, the world would go into a major tailspin, as the pandemic took hold.

After rapid consultations with the Board and Advisory Council, also with our major sponsoring partners and leaders in wider society, we decided on a strategy for the Foundation and how that might best connect with and contribute to the world that we were now going to have to deal with, remotely.

We decided then that the Foundation needed to step up, that this was a moment when greater solidarity and a more coherent strategy would be necessary, even as front-line resources of others were needed to focus on urgent protective health and economic actions. Congratulations should go to all those who put aside their usual differences and agreed to work tightly together for the common good.

We agreed to **survive, sustain and thrive**, both as an organisation and in our global and national contributions, which is precisely what we have done.

Australian Roundtable series

In 2019, the Foundation decided to launch an Australian Roundtable series, concerned about the absence of clear, long-term national strategy. The title for the series was: ***'Australia's national strategy for the future, taking a longer-term view and in a global context'***.



Bega Valley Zoom meeting – August 10



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When Covid struck and impacted our lives, we added extra programs to the series, with actual and Zoom combination meetings convened for the bushfire-devastated **Bega Valley (10 August)** and severely impacted **Melbourne (16 September)** and, as well as that long-planned for **Perth (15 October)**.

These cumulative discussions were further complemented by a series of **online Australia/global fora**, involving key figures, such as Reserve Bank Governor, Dr Philip Lowe and Paris Peace Forum President and former World Trade Organisation chief, Pascal Lamy, enabling real-time considerations of pandemic impacts and aligning responses.

Global Roundtable series



We postponed our **Rome Roundtable**, originally planned for June 2020, to the later dates of 16 & 17 November and in the end, converted the program to a fully virtual, online meeting.

As attested by the quality of participation and feedback since, the Rome meeting was a considerable success, and **extensive reporting of the meeting is available on our website** and will be progressively updated, as follow-on programs are pursued.

Under the headline of: **'Which way for the world after the pandemic? Our inclusive future'**, these key themes were agreed for our follow-on action:

- Assisting with **the agenda for the Italian G20 and COP26 year**, in 2021, at the invitation of the Governor of the Bank of Italy.
- Mobilising effective global co-operation for **an equitable rollout of Covid vaccines**. Pascal Lamy and the Paris Peace Forum will lead this continuing work;
- Mobilising a **global investment agenda for fairness and inclusiveness**, for launch at a global **Assisi Roundtable** meeting during 2021. The Mayor of Assisi, Dr. Stefania Proietti, will lead this initiative;



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- Mobilising a more effective **dialogue between civilisations**, between West and East and between faiths and belief systems. This will be the lead agenda item for our proposed **Beijing Roundtable** meeting and a number of participants have already identified their interest in this work.
- Mobilising an effective **global climate action investor mechanism**, the International Platform for on Climate Finance (IPCF). Dr Steve Waygood, supported by Dr Selena Ng and Professor Enrico Giovannini, will lead this continuing work, which will intersect with the proposed round. The IPCF could also be featured at the Assisi Roundtable.
- Mobilising **transformative education and the effective engagement of youth** in our co-operative globalisation agenda. A number of participants have already offered to contribute to this work, that will, of course, intersect with the meeting in Assisi.

Our global continuity in working with China going global

Usually over the course of a year, I visit China on several occasions, along with hosting Chinese participants in our global meetings.

This year, I made several interventions in significant Chinese institutional events and media interviews, the highlights of which are as follows:

- May 2020: Secretary General interviewed by [*Chinese Phoenix TV: 'After the Pandemic'*](#)
- June 2020: Secretary General proposes [*global economic recovery pathway to China's top economic think tank*](#), the China Centre for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE)
- August 2020: Secretary General interviewed by the [*Global Times in China*](#).
- September 2020: Secretary General Steve Howard delivers a keynote address about [*Global Governance*](#) to the Annual Think Tank Summit of Chinese Center for International Economic Exchanges.





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Looking ahead to our 2021 Program

The Foundation will convene its inaugural **Global Investor Roundtable** on Wednesday 3 February 2021, in the evening, Sydney time. The Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia is confirmed to address the roundtable and the Governor of the Bank of Italy has also been invited, with Italy leading the G20 in 2021. The focus will for discussion will the critical need to mobilise global capital and investment for a step-change recovery in 2021 and the related actions that will facilitate this.

As a culminating event in its Australian Roundtable series, the Foundation will convene a **Canberra Roundtable** on Friday 26 March 2021, which will be kindly hosted by His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (RETD), Governor General of Australia at Government House (Yarralumla).

With regard to its Global Roundtable series, the Foundation plans to convene an **Assisi Roundtable** and a **Beijing Roundtable**, timing dependent on the pandemic recovery. A further New York Roundtable is also under consideration for late 2021 or 2022, with the election of the Biden Administration, where the Foundation enjoys some personal links and the encouragement of Australia's Ambassador to the United States, Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO.



Assisi

Thanks to our team at the Secretariat:

As our supporters know, the Global Foundation operates with a tiny team on a very modest budget.

Warmest thanks to the dedicated team in our Secretariat office in Sydney, Ms Donna Portland and Ms Fiona Hartley. They have been ably supported by our external colleagues, notably Ms Stefania Baldassarri in Rome, plus Mr Chadd Hunter, Ms Susie Parker and Ms Ranj Samrai in Australia.

Steve Howard,
Secretary General



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