



THE ASSISI ACCORD

Online Global Roundtable Report of the Meeting

6 September, 2022



The Global Foundation convened a decisive online gathering of people of influence from many walks of life and parts of the world, including the USA, China, Europe, the UK, Australia, Indonesia and the Pacific.

Representatives from the world's most influential employer and consumer goods bodies spoke alongside some of the world's top economists, trade union leaders, mining innovators, financial minds and faith and community leaders. The group carried forward a mandate to support fundamental reform of the international financial system, and to uphold the *Assisi Accord* - to harness finance to address climate change, in pursuit of global peace, prosperity, and equality.

Originally tabled at the *Assisi and Rome Roundtable* of the Global Foundation in May 2022, the *Assisi Accord* continues to gather signatories from leaders in business, faiths, not-for-profit organisations, academia and communities across the globe.

The Need for Action

The last six months have seen a shift in global focus, with the easing of the pandemic crisis and the invasion of Ukraine. With global attention fixed upon conflict and supply chain disruptions, climate action is at risk of "backsliding".

The world is not on track to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement and the planet is at real risk of a 3 to 4 degree temperature rise. This represents a raft of disastrous consequences, including to economies.

However, it's not too late. The world has ten years (at best) in which to build "deep decarbonisation" into the global financial system.

*"Let's be clear: net-zero by 2050 will only be possible with real systems change in the financial system."
– said John W.H. Denton AO, **Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce**, who addressed the roundtable and subsequently issued this statement.*

Distinguished speakers at the Assisi Accord Online Roundtable included:



Dr Steve Waygood



Mr John Denton AO



Prof Dr Enrico Giovannini



Ms Sylvie Lemmet



Mayor Stefania Proietti Ph.D.



Prof Jeff Sachs



Prof Henry Wang



Ms Sharan Burrow



Mr Didier Borowski

Opportunities for Rethinking Global Finance

There is a significant and growing call for convergence of effort across the financial sector, representing a move toward climate solutions and away from destructive technologies. Financial standards should be aligned to climate action, and the founding documentation of major financial institutions revisited. The role of major institutions, including multilateral development banks, will need reshaping, to become 'fit for purpose'.

"The cost of inaction in the medium term will be far greater than the cost of action"

To make a difference, markets must be harnessed to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement. This should begin with an review of the work and mandates of the international

financial regulatory architecture. The Assisi Accord calls upon the G20 to task its International Financial Working Group to conduct this review and to produce recommendations for reform.

The upcoming G20 and COP27 multilateral forums present opportunities to sustain and accelerate momentum and broaden conversations around climate and the global financial architecture. The G20 in Brazil in 2024, following on from the G20 in Indonesia in 2022 and the G20 in India in 2023, presents a milestone for revisiting the Bretton-Woods agreement and reimagining how global financial architecture can be adjusted to support peace and stability, in light of the new global climate challenges; however, to achieve an outcome in 2024, work must start in earnest now.



Ensuring a Fair and Just Transition

Finance should be redirected towards sustainable futures and toward enterprises that support a fair and just transition to net zero and beyond. Such a transition must uphold human dignity and diversity, promote social justice, and support sustainable development. Positive change can be driven by fostering trust between different sectors, for example through data sharing.

"Self-interested silos and hyper-globalisation have been our downfall. We must deal with all areas of crisis in an integrated framework"

Governments should also be challenged to be transformative, not incremental. At least, policy must be able to keep pace with climate challenges and actions commensurate with the scale of the crisis, as climate pressures contribute to social and political instability.

"Food and fuel prices are complicating our climate ambition"

Towards a Spirit of Global Ecology

Spiritual and physical connection to land and community frame discussions around the integration of faith, culture and ecology.

Pacific initiatives for "re-weaving the ecological mat" represent the intrinsic interconnectedness of all things, and align development and accounting with indigenous and spiritual ecology. This common connection is echoed in Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*, and in the generous invitation extended by Assisi, as the home of the *Assisi Accord*, to continue to host the Global Foundation and its affiliated communities of interest.

"As St Francis did, we seek to secure reform by working respectfully and creatively within the systems we represent."
- The Assisi Accord

Global learning communities play an important role in facilitating collaboration and knowledge sharing. As we develop blueprints for innovations and solutions that can combat climate change, it must be ensured that this intellectual property is shared globally with organisations and governments.

"We must overcome the distance between the centre and the peripheries"

Where to Next

The *Assisi Accord* will continue to gather momentum throughout 2022 and 2023 through a continuous programme of conversations and gatherings across the world.

Steve Howard, Secretary General of the Global Foundation, will lead an *Assisi Accord* roadshow in Europe during October and November, with the support of Dr Steve Waygood from Aviva Investors and other Global Foundation colleagues. Members and guests of the Global Foundation will be invited to participate, where possible.

In November, Dr Waygood will also host conversations at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Shiekh, Egypt.

In 2023, global meetings will be held to further mobilise the *Assisi Accord*, in Beijing and Rome, and potentially in India and Indonesia. The Mayor of Assisi, Dr Stefania Proietti, has extended her support for an annual gathering of the *Assisi Accord* community to be held in Assisi, Italy.

The Global Foundation invites all interested parties to further mobilise change by sharing the *Assisi Accord* with their respective networks. [The Foundation website](#) has all the information needed to read about, share and sign the *Assisi Accord*.

Footnote 1: The Global Foundation acknowledges the contribution of Ms Kate Burke from Pragma Partners and Mr Tom Tayler from Aviva Investors for the preparation of this report.

Footnote 2: The *Assisi Accord* online global roundtable was conducted according to the Chatham House rule.



The Assisi & Rome Roundtable, 2022