



The Global Foundation
Together, we strive for the global common good



STATE OF THE WORLD

ROUNDTABLE 2025

Part Two

**'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature'
Progress & Prospects**

Wednesday, 19 February 2025

Summary Statement*

*Full report to come



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Summary Statement

On Wednesday, 19 February, the Global Foundation convened Part Two of the fifth consecutive edition of its **'State of the World' Roundtable**, bringing together a group of distinguished global citizens from across the Asia Pacific region to discuss the Foundation's global project, **'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature,'** launched eight months ago at its **Rome Roundtable** meeting.

The roundtable was hosted by Foundation partner **Mr Jeff Dimery**, CEO of **Alinta Energy**, at Alinta's offices in Melbourne, with additional participants joining online.



Two weeks earlier, Part One of the *'State of the World'* Roundtable had discussed the important progress in advancing the global energy transition, as well as the significant work still required to prevent the impacts of climate change, made all the more challenging in a geopolitical environment in which the very concept of global cooperation is under threat.

Part One reaffirmed the Foundation's motto of 'business with purpose' as well as the willingness of participants, who came from global business, institutions, think tanks, civil society, as well as governments to continue working together on advancing the energy transition and the preservation of nature.

Addressing Part Two, Global Advisory Council Chair Dr Mark Cutifani remarked that 'business with purpose' was not possible without 'leaders with purpose.'

"I've never seen a business with purpose without a leader that embodies that mantra."



Dr Mark Cutifani CBE

Chair, Global Advisory Council and Co-Chair,
'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature'
Project Steering Committee, the Global Foundation

"Global governance is being turned on its head as we speak. It is inspiring to see the positive response to the Global Foundation's Global Project"

Ms Louise Watson

Chairman of the Board, the Global Foundation



Collaboration on the 'long-term game'

Participants agreed that, despite parts of the world retreating from their climate commitments, it was important to be on the right side of history and stick to convictions and promises about sustainability. The energy transition and preservation of nature are not political ideologies, but necessary tasks to ensure the long-term prosperity of humanity and our 'common home.'

Moreover, the challenge of climate change cannot be solved by one country alone. It requires international and cross-sectoral partnerships. The current geopolitical environment, while concerning to many roundtable participants, presents an opportunity for nations of the Asia Pacific – including Australia – to step up and play more of a leadership role. The roundtable identified opportunities for Australia to collaborate more with Asia, particularly China, India and the Pacific Islands, on advancing the energy transition.

"Solidarity with Asia-Pacific for Australia and for countries across the region is more important than ever. To use the 'rubber band' analogy, the more like-minded, positive thinking we get in the room the more we will find ways to navigate the challenges thrown at us."

Ms Sharan Burrow AC

Deputy Chair, Global Advisory Council and Co-Chair,
'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature'
Project Steering Committee, the Global Foundation





Summary Statement

Shaping a stronger global green narrative

A recurring theme in Part Two was the 'narrative', or the 'story', that is the basis of communicating the state of the world to the public and private sectors. Roundtable participants were invited to consider **what** story was being told, **how** it was being framed, and **who** was presenting it.

It is imperative to develop a more intentional and compelling narrative, specifically a greener narrative, to effectively communicate the urgency of climate action to the public.

Nature as infrastructure

During the Roundtable, participants discussed the concept of '**nature as infrastructure**', a representative of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), calling it "the most important infrastructure on Earth". Different to other nature-based solutions or approaches, the concept of 'nature as infrastructure' requires the view of an ecosystem as a whole, and explores the connections within.

The concept prompts those with influence to act beyond 'doing no harm' or simply being 'nature-positive', exploring how we can use nature as the source of a value and as a tool for improvement.

The theory of nature as infrastructure prompted Roundtable participants to consider what their ecosystems provide, and how they can be utilised as a tool, replacing more industrial or destructive alternatives.

Opportunity in South-East Asia

ASEAN plays a crucial role in global governance and climate action, but progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals is lagging, prompting calls for stronger public-private partnerships and investment in sustainability, including through the newly established ASEAN Centre for Climate Change.

With the US withdrawing from regional agreements, ASEAN countries are reassessing trade strategies, while the Asia-Pacific Green Deal and emerging carbon markets present new opportunities for collaboration, particularly with Australian businesses. Strengthening regional cooperation between ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific is essential for navigating geopolitical shifts and accelerating the green transition.



Working with China

China has emerged as a global leader in renewable energy technology, leading in electric vehicle sales for nine consecutive years and reaching domestic renewable energy targets years in advance. The nation has also taken on a leadership role in global environmental governance.

The roundtable was addressed via video by His Excellency Xiao Qian, Ambassador of China to Australia, who remarked that Australia and China's climate policy visions were highly aligned.

The two nations have complementary strengths, such as China's manufacturing capacity and market scale, and Australia's rich natural resources. There is, therefore, vast potential for collaboration between the two nations in green energy, transportation, manufacturing and construction, particularly in the decarbonisation of resources.



Summary Statement

India's renewable energy & AI journey

Global renewable energy in the rapid progression of the digital age was a focus throughout the Roundtable.

Further to the discussion around China's capacity to lead in the renewable energy space in Part Two, Roundtable participants discussed the renewable energy journey of India, the third largest producer and consumer of electricity worldwide.

In 2025, India reached significant milestones in its renewable energy journey, with the country's total renewable energy capacity surpassing 200GW. With this progress, India is well on target to achieve its Paris goals.

As AI technology rapidly becomes more globally accessible and popular, so too does the need for the conversation on the energy AI systems and their data centres demand. For example, AdaniConneX is creating the world's largest renewable energy data centre park in India, a direct response to the growing demand for data centres as the use of AI soars.

Working with the Pacific

The Roundtable discussed opportunities to work with Pacific island nations ahead of Australia and the Pacific island's potential hosting of COP31 in 2026. Australia shares with the Pacific vital but endangered marine ecosystems, which could be to COP31 what tropical forests are to COP30 in Brazil.

Collaboration with Pacific Island nations should also give consideration to how Pacific stories of climate change are told on a global stage. It is important to listen and faithfully record the experiences of local peoples, including experiences of vulnerability and victimisation which have previously been neglected by international media.

These stories, told with symbolic language, can touch peoples' hearts in ways that stories of finance and technology cannot.



Image: Sea level rise in Fiji. Credit: Reuters

Indigenous voices across the Pacific, including in Australia, also have knowledge and experience to share about how to organise human social and economic life in ways that do not destroy the hydrosphere.

Spotlighting the 'blue' side of climate action

Most of life on Earth is in its waters, but the connections between the ocean and the climate are relatively underexplored.

Roundtable participants supported a call to give the ocean more priority on the international climate change agenda.

Though current geopolitical tensions create a cloud of uncertainty, the third UN conference on the oceans, set to take place in June 2024, could be a pivotal moment in global cooperation on the protection of the world's oceans.

Roundtable participants discussed the potential for the creation of an international panel on oceans and seas and the ratification of marine biodiversity regions beyond national jurisdictions.





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Further collaboration

The Foundation intends to brief Australian Foreign Minister, Senator Penny Wong, on the Global Project. This briefing will serve as a further step in exploring opportunities for collaboration between Australia and the Pacific on advancing the energy transition, strengthening regional partnerships, and fostering sustainable finance mechanisms to support long-term climate resilience.

At the same time, the Foundation will continue to convene further in-person and online global conversations, as well as advancing its work on the Australian energy transition, which requires a more united focus and cross-sectoral collaboration.

"It is really encouraging that our Foundation network, drawn together from all parts of the planet and all sectors of society, is now fully mobilised with our Global Project."



Mr Steve Howard

Secretary General, the Global Foundation

Global Roundtable in Brazil

At Part One and Part Two of the 2025 'State of the World' Roundtable, the Global Foundation announced its **most important global roundtable meeting of the Foundation for 2025, to be held from 12-15 August 2025 in Carajás, Brazil**, at the site of the world's largest iron ore mine.

Hosted by Foundation key partner, Vale, the Roundtable meeting will showcase the reforestation of more than 1 million hectares of the Amazon and is to be held ahead of and in support of Brazil's hosting of the United Nation's global climate event, COP30, in November.

Located at the edge of the Amazon Rainforest, Carajás is emblematic of the dual need to care for our tropical forests while sourcing the raw materials needed to build renewable energy technology and sustainable infrastructure.



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present



Carajás Roundtable Amazon, Brazil

12-15 August

Location:

Carajás, Pará, Brazil

Date:

12-15 August 2025



*Part of the 'Shaping Global Governance,
Climate and Nature' Project*

To learn more about the Global Foundation and the Global Project, please contact:



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