



Mr Steve Howard

Secretary General, the Global Foundation

Opening Remarks

As you are aware, the Global Foundation met in Rome in June 2024 and launched a global project, 'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature', designed to enable five sectors of society to collaborate in shaping shared paths of action to address the challenges of climate change and impacts on nature.

There are five sets of affiliates associated with our global project. Each of the five sectors of is being progressively 'populated' with others who wish to be affiliated and to contribute to a shared outcome.

At global level, we are bringing together cross-sections of global talents, as well as leaders from business, institutions, civil society, along with governments, to help build a shared narrative that to date is flagging.

One of the key developments so far is the growing recognition that enlightened business needs to be given greater voice in official channels in shaping and co-owning and investing in this global transformation.

Our method is as important as it is straight forward – we call it 'the rubber band strategy', of gathering together a diverse and growing group of influential contributors, drawn from many backgrounds, who may not necessarily agree with each other on all matters, but who do agree that there is greater value in working together in seeking a common destination. In so doing, they are helping to shape better global governance arrangements for more effective action on climate change and the preservation of nature.

We mobilise through online meetings such as this, through occasional global and regional, face-to-face discussions and through continuous, wider consultation.

For global participants in today's meeting, you may be interested to note that the Global Foundation is also rolling out a program in Australia about its own National Energy Transition, that mirrors the approach we are taking globally.

With that introduction, it's time to hear from several distinguished speakers, whose work is central to this continuing effort to help effect global change.

To lead the session where we will hear from official global voices, I would like to introduce Ms Sharan Burrow AC, who co-chairs our global project. Sharan is a Global Advocate for Rights and Sustainability and Former General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation.