



Ms Louise Watson

Chairman of the Board, the Global Foundation

Opening Remarks

Our 'State of the World' Roundtable has grown to become a highly anticipated moment in the Foundation's calendar. It provides a brief opportunity for our supporters to share and shape the discourse and the consequent actions that we might together undertake and influence others to adopt over the year ahead.

We will focus today on the progress and direction of global governance as it relates to climate change and nature. This is the signature project of the Foundation in 2025 and beyond, to align people of influence and goodwill, from all sectors of society, so that positive global collaboration will be pursued and maintained, to address climate change and the threats to nature.

At the heart of our strategy is the vital role that business can and should play - and be allowed to play - in addressing the challenges to our planet. 'Business with purpose' is the mantra we espouse, a sentiment increasingly supported by the international community with which we affiliate. We have more to gain by working together than by pulling apart - our planet demands this of us.

My thanks to our leadership team, Mark Cutifani and Sharan Burrow, who are leading this work, along with our Secretary General, Steve Howard.

Speaking of the importance of the contribution by 'business with purpose', I extend my thanks to Foundation key partners and partners: Aviva Investors, King & Wood Mallesons, Alinta Energy, GHD & Squitchy Lane, all of whom are here today. Their support and that of like-minded corporate, university and individual members, enables the Global Foundation to exist and to bring together people of goodwill, acting as a force for the global common good.

And that brings me to my clarion call - As Chairman of the Board, I must continue to advocate our case for financial support - we are a privately funded organisation - funded by caring organisations and people who strive for the global common good - and our work can only continue to flourish, and deliver meaningful outcomes if we continue to attract new partners and members. Your advocacy of the Global Foundation and its mission is needed and valued.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to announce global mining giant and Brazil's 4th largest company, Vale, as a new Global Partner of the Global Foundation and, importantly, to welcome its President and CEO, Gustavo Pimenta, to our meeting today.

I told everyone when I returned to Australia from Italy, that not only was our Rome Roundtable the best we ever had but also that I was full of optimism and happiness having met and witnessed firsthand the good sense and passion of many of the next generation of global leaders.

Since that time my optimism has been confirmed - not only with the many attendees from the Rome Roundtable here, participating today, but with the recent appointment of Gustavo Pimenta as the new President of CEO of Vale. Hearty congratulations Gustavo!

On behalf of the Global Foundation, we thank you for your active engagement with the Foundation and our important and necessary initiative. In the spirit of our Rome Roundtable, we wish you Godspeed in this and all your endeavours.

And before we commence the Roundtable, a very warm welcome and thank you to our eminent speakers - leaders from across society and across the globe, who are leading our discussions today.