



## Opening remarks from Steve Howard, Secretary General of the Global Foundation

Excellencies, distinguished guests, all.

Good afternoon!

How wonderful it is to be here together in Carajás, in the Amazon region of Brazil.

As you know, the Global Foundation has, for many years, acted as a global civil society platform, to enable like-minded leaders from many backgrounds to meet from time to time, in significant locations, to discuss some of the most pressing issues facing the world.

Our approach is based upon leadership by 'business, with purpose', in full partnership with civil society, faiths, institutions and governments.

**Our Global Project, '*Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature*', was launched in Rome in June 2024**

Our **Rome Roundtable** continued our tradition over the past 27 years of bringing together leaders from many backgrounds in various global locations, including the Vatican. Several of our Rome meetings included meetings with His Holiness, the late Pope Francis. This Latin American Pope, from the global South, constantly embraced and encouraged our work. It was a very special patronage and privilege.



Pope Francis greets our Rome Roundtable participants at the Vatican for the launch of our Global Project, 19 June 2024

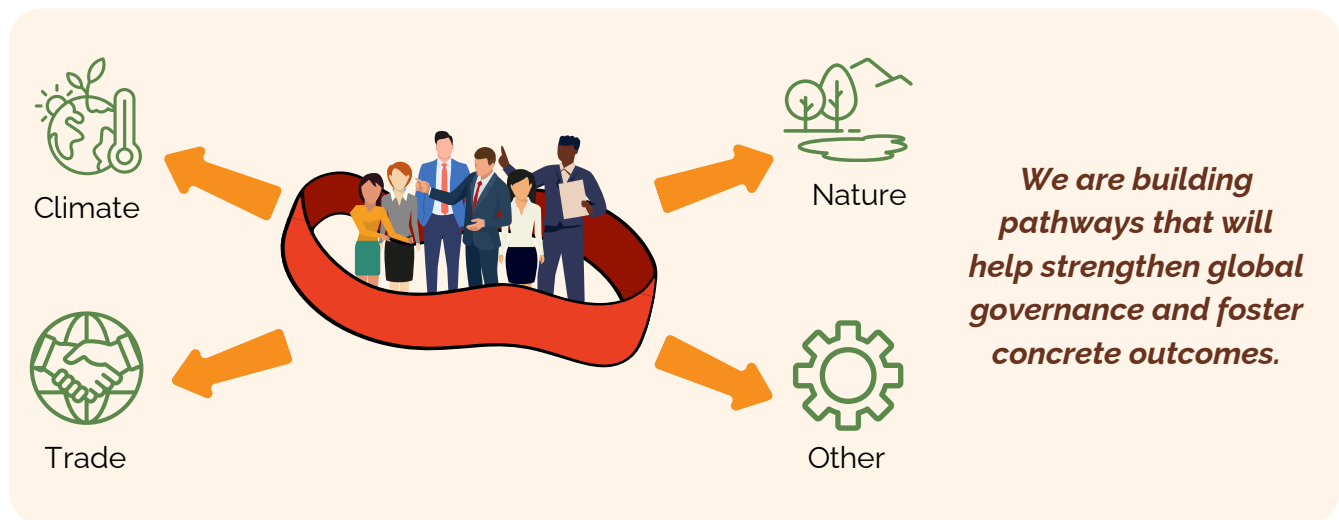
In Rome last year, we launched our **Global Project**, to help shape global governance to generate action and private sector leadership and partnership on climate change and the preservation of nature.

As a powerful symbol of the leadership role played by enlightened business, Gustavo Pimenta, now CEO of Brazilian mining company, Vale, presented Pope Francis with a silver flower, the emblem of Carajás, the Brazilian village in the Amazon where Vale conducts its major operations. It was a remarkable experience for us to enjoy that encounter with His Holiness on the steps of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.



## Our Global Project - the 'elastic band' approach

Our method with our Global Project is to move forward together and to generate positive and meaningful outcomes, on an ongoing basis.



The whole idea of the 'elastic band' is to allow leadership from many diverse backgrounds to move together in a positive direction for the sake of the planet.

## Our expanding network of Partners and Allies connects five sectors of society

Over this past year, we have been able to expand our network of Partners and Allies who are committed to working together and through us, in ways that are positive and accountable. Here is our current chart of Partners and Allies, identifying people and their organisations coming from 5 sectors of society who are working together, across the usual boundaries, in various ways. With your help we want to grow and deepen this influential network.





## **'Brazil emerges as the Amazon calls us' - our global meeting in Carajas**

As a consequence of Gustavo Pimenta's contribution at our Rome Roundtable last year, we now enjoy Vale as one of our leading partners in our ongoing Global Project. Gustavo leads us, with passion and commitment, as he is leading Vale into the future. That's why we are meeting today, here in Carajás.

Late last year, Gustavo said to me: *'Steve, why don't we together convene a global roundtable meeting at Carajás in the Amazon, so that we can help Brazil as it finalises its preparations to host COP30 later this year? Vale can also demonstrate its commitment to being a leader in this transformation. At the same time, we can build a stronger connection between Brazil and the world going forward and vice versa.'* So, here we are, in Carajás! I was deeply impressed when I visited your country in May, to meet with senior figures in government, business, civil society, faiths and institutions.

In my view and in the view of the Global Foundation as a whole, Brazil has so much to offer the world as we face up to the challenges of preserving our planet and ensuring a sustainable energy transition. The Amazon, which is facing a tipping point, belongs to Brazil and surrounding nations, however it also belongs to the world. As goes the Amazon, so goes the future of our life on earth.



*'Brazil is developing a clever and cohesive plan for its hosting of the annual global conference on climate change, known as COP30, to be held this November. The good news is that Brazil's plans dovetail beautifully with our Global Project strategy, for 'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature'.*

Steve Howard visit to Brazil, May 2025

In my view, following [my visit to Brazil in May](#), where I met many outstanding private and public sector leaders, Brazil shows great seriousness of purpose and coherence about its preparations to host a COP that will focus on outcomes and implementation, not just on abstract negotiations.





Let me briefly acknowledge our hosts and partners and some of the significant leaders who have travelled from across Brazil and from across the world to be with us in Carajás today:

From our generous hosts, Vale:

- Mr Daniel Stieler, Chairman of the Board
- Mr Gustavo Pimenta, President and CEO
- Ms Rachel Maia, Independent Director of the Board

From our organising partner CEBRI, Brazilian Center for International Relations:

- Mr José Pio Borges, Chairman
- Ms Julia Dias Leite, Chief Executive Officer and colleagues

From the Government of Brazil, leading COP30:

- Ambassador André Corrêa do Lago, President, COP30
- Mr Dan Ioschpe, High-Level Champion, COP30

From the Government of Para State

- His Excellency Mr Helder Barbalho, Governor of Pará State
- Ms. Camille Bendahan Bemerguy, Deputy-Secretary of Bioeconomy- Pará

From the City of Parauapebas:

- His Excellency Aurelio Goiano, Mayor of Parauapebas and colleagues

From the Global Foundation:

- Ms Sharan Burrow AC, Co-Chair of the Global Project, the Global Foundation, former Secretary General of the global trade union movement
- H.E Ambassador Sophie Davies, Australian Ambassador to Brazil
- H.E. Ambassador. Delia Domingo Albert, Former Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines, Former Philippine Ambassador to Australia
- Mr Vinicius Pinheiro, representing the United Nations; Director of the International Labor Organization in Brazil
- Mr Alistair Dutton, Secretary General, Caritas Internationalis
- Ms Gabriella Dorlhiac, Executive Director, International Chamber of Commerce Brazil
- Mr Olivier Bahabanian, Country Chair, Brazil, TotalEnergies, Partner of the Foundation
- Ms Vicky Sins, Head of Climate Mitigation, Just Transition and Adaptation, World Benchmarking Alliance
- Ms Renata Piazzon, Director General, CEO, Instituto Arapyaú, who is unwell and will join online
- Mr Yuvan Beejadhur, Senior Advisor to the Director General of the World Trade Organisation, joining us online
- Our Chairman, Ms Louise Watson, and our Global Project Co-Chair, Dr Mark Cutifani CBE, are unable to join us and send their very best regards.

To everyone, including those who I have not named, a warm welcome to you!



## Hopes and Expectations

And, finally, to some of the hopes and expectations that I have for the outcomes of our roundtable meeting this week. There are four:

**1**

**that this meeting will help Brazil's plans for COP30, particularly with a view to outcomes and implementation, and a leading role for business, in partnership with civil society, working alongside government and international processes.**

**2**

**that this meeting will act as a further bridge to help elevate understanding and regard for Brazil in the world.**

**3**

**that this meeting will help to bring about Brazil's own further global engagement, from business, civil society and government, working globally with and through the Global Foundation and our global network. In this respect, I commend the intentions of Sustainable Business (SBCOP), CEBRI, the Brazilian Government with regard to the Tropical Forests Forever Facility and others.**

**4**

**that this meeting will act as a bridge to COP 31 – which we are hopeful will be hosted by Australia AND the Pacific Islands - 'from the Amazon to Oceania', the symbolism of which is overwhelmingly powerful.**

I would like to thank the organising team that has prepared this beautiful Carajás Roundtable – Luciana and Mariana and colleagues from Vale; Lucinda, Thais and colleagues from CEBRI; Natalia and Holly from the Global Foundation.

All best wishes for a happy and fruitful few days together, here in the Amazon!