

## Framing remarks from Foundation Secretary General, Steve Howard



# Framing our roundtable discussion

Let me offer a few thoughts as an entry point to this, our 6th annual 'State of the World' Roundtable.

What unites us in the Global Foundation is a strong sense of higher purpose, of leadership, for the common good, over and above the imperatives of our day-to-day transactions.

As you know, the focus of our growing global alliance is on 'Shaping Global Governance, Climate Change and Nature'. As we will see at this roundtable and ongoing, we intend that each of us will be better informed and motivated by listening to short stories about big things that you in our network are pursuing. Collectively, though, when these individual actions are linked by a common purpose and the kind of soft cooperative framework that we are building, they add up to something much more profound. Together, we have agency. That's what we hope to achieve in working with you in mobilising our global alliance, a sense of solidarity and global impact.

For the first hour of the roundtable, then, we will hear from many of you about your work. Some of you have kindly submitted [advance papers](#) to more fully illuminate your direction. As well as better informing and motivating everyone, your contributions will in turn help our leadership group – Louise, Mark, Sharan and me – to shape our collective action agenda and programs for the year ahead and beyond.

In the final 30 minutes, we'll turn our attention, albeit very briefly, to the subject of global governance itself. How do we help to renew global governance, through what we for many years have called 'cooperative globalisation', that is transformative and prosperous, but also fair and inclusive?

Recently, several of our alumni have displayed precisely these qualities, in the face of some countervailing trends. Last week, Canadian PM, Mark Carney (TGF Rome 2017) grabbed global attention with his speech at Davos, that called out the rupture of the world order and the need for new forms of cooperation. He was not the first. Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese (TGF Rome 2016, Canberra 2022) addressed the United Nations last September along these lines. We wrote about and welcomed this [here](#), because these middle power leaders are continuing a pattern that has been building for several years – the need to remake global governance and cooperation that is fit for purpose, particularly to manage the great challenges facing the global commons.

Others in our network have also contributed over time, notably Hon Dr Kevin Rudd (TGF Melbourne 2007, Beijing 2008, Rome 2017, 2018) and Christine Lagarde (TGF Melbourne 2007, Rome 2014 & 2016).

Over and above this, the most significant world leader of recent times who inspired and embraced us was the late Pope Francis. When His Holiness [addressed our Rome Roundtable in January 2017](#), he specifically challenged us to do even better with our strategy of 'cooperative globalisation'. We hope to be able to return to the Vatican, now under the leadership of Pope Leo, later this year.

As vital as it is to have such enlightened leadership from faiths, governments and institutions, it is not by itself enough. The leadership contributions of business and civil society, of all sectors of society, working in tandem, is critical, if we are to help realise a sustainable world.

Thank you, therefore, for your participation and your commitment to the Global Foundation.

