

Roundtable framing remarks - Mr Steve Howard, Secretary General of The Global Foundation

We last gathered together online as the Global Foundation family in early February, for our annual **'State of the World' Roundtable**.

Against the backdrop then of the realisation that the so-called international rules-based order is broken, we reconfirmed our commitment to help build new governance and cooperation arrangements that are fit for purpose for the modern era, working with coalitions of the willing, across all sorts of borders.

We explored ways that middle powers could band together to reboot multilateralism.

Developing nations would also coalesce around a 'green BRICs' agenda. 'Co-operation' rather than confrontation was the keyword.

Our signals to each other were positive – 'together, we have agency', by aligning and acting in concert. Enlightened leadership would come from business and civil society, in partnership with, not merely following, governments and global institutions.

Well, what has happened since? War, of course! Nations invaded, a world paralysed, a global energy crisis, leading to a global economic crisis and, if it bears out, a global humanitarian crisis.

It didn't and it doesn't have to be this way, if we are willing to think and act differently – as Pope Leo has reminded us very clearly over this past week!

Can we instead turn the current crisis to advantage, to slingshot us more quickly towards a new energy era? The planet reminds us of this imperative on an increasingly scary basis.

Today's *'Energy Transition Roundtable'* brings together two of the main threads in the work of the Global Foundation.

As most of you are aware and have been involved to some extent or the other over the past two years, we have been carefully nurturing and integrating a Global Alliance, in support of better global governance, to address climate change and the care of nature.

Our Global Alliance, Partners and Allies *'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature'*



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We've seen impressive willingness to work together for the greater common good and we commend the individual and collective efforts of our Partners and Allies, many of whom are with us today. If your name is not on [this chart](#), it should be.

In parallel, within Australia, from where we originate, we have also nurtured national discussions to help further mobilise Australia's own energy transition. As with most economies and societies, this is a complex task, with an uneven trajectory. The lead in hosting the COP climate talks this year, which would have helped to elevate Australia's profile and responsibility, has now passed to Türkiye.

The third leg of the stool in our roundtable agenda is Asia. Australia and Asia are inextricably linked by geography and timezones and by exchanges of energy, capital and talent. Ironically, this interdependence became all too clear in recent weeks with the Australian Prime Minister making emergency dashes to the region to secure Australia's fuel and other supplies, while correspondingly guaranteeing Australian gas and other exports to the region. A crisis that threatens to pull us apart actually can unify us!