



November 7, 2022

The role of advisory climate councils in supporting world leaders to deliver on the Paris Agreement

To: Heads of Government of Parties to the Paris Agreement

Cc: COP27 President Designate Sameh Shoukry, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell

Dear Excellencies,

Leaders from across the world have come together in Sharm El-Sheikh to raise ambition on the global responses to climate change. With each passing year, promises and pledges made at the COP become increasingly important and urgent, yet with delayed action, they also become increasingly difficult to meet.

Climate Councils can play a pivotal role in providing governments with evidence-led advice and pathways to meet their climate pledges, as well as measuring a government's progress in fulfilling their promises thus ensuring transparency in the process. Paired with effective climate governance frameworks, independent climate advisory bodies can be a key element of Parties delivering on the promises and pledges they make at COP.

The **International Climate Councils Network (ICCN)** launched at COP26 aims to advance the delivery of the Paris Agreement through promoting and sharing best practice among Climate Councils, whilst recognising the range of roles and circumstances that Councils may occupy. A key strength of the ICCN is its ability to enable the rapid exchange of expertise and experience across countries on how to plan and implement ambitious climate actions. This sharing of advice and best practice across diverse national circumstances and contexts facilitates and improves the advice councils give in their domestic contexts, collectively improving the global response to climate change and enhancing its momentum.

The ICCN was established to provide a forum to facilitate collaboration, share experiences, discuss common challenges and provide mutual support between climate councils from around the world, through:

-
- Exchanging methods and approaches to advising on and monitoring Government action to address climate change and its impacts
 - Sharing lessons learned from experiences in climate policy making and implementation
 - Exploring and undertaking joint research and analysis in support of common interests, including on related sustainable development considerations and outcomes
 - Identifying and promoting shared interests and/or principles on climate governance and the implementation of the Paris Agreement
 - Highlighting the role of Climate Councils in supporting effective climate policy development, including through supporting parties in introducing Climate Councils as part of climate governance frameworks

One year on, the ICCN brings together **23 Climate Councils** from six continents across the globe. This year, the ICCN has sought to [exchange experiences](#) on the roles of justice, fairness, and equity for delivering effective adaptation efforts. The Network also exchanged experiences on covering the complex and intertwined climate issues with international dimensions, including international transport, trade instruments, traded biomass and consumption emissions, among others. The ICCN will continue to provide a platform for exchange of scientific knowledge on climate-policy relevant topics. This exchange of expertise will enable better informed and more coherent advice to world governments, helping to strengthen international efforts and to avoid pitfalls that may arise when actions are designed in silos.

We urge all Governments to consider establishing a Climate Council or equivalent structure, built around the ICCN key principles: evidence-led, independent, impartial, considerate of fairness, collaborative and consensus-building. The ICCN stands ready to assist in supporting these efforts.

If you would like more information on the International Climate Councils Network, please contact the Councils below or for general queries: climatecouncilsnetwork@gmail.com.

Yours sincerely,

Rod Carr, Chair, He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission, New Zealand

Tzinnia Carranza, President, Climate Change Council, Mexico

Lord Deben, Chairman, Climate Change Committee and **Baroness Brown**, Chair, Adaptation Committee, United Kingdom

Marie Donnelly, Chair, Climate Change Advisory Council, Ireland

Ottmar Edenhofer, Chair, European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change, European Union

Cecilia Hermansson, Chair, Climate Policy Council, Sweden
Marie-Pierre Ippersiel and **Dan Wicklum**, Co-Chairs, Net-Zero Advisory Body, Canada
Sang-hyup Kim, Co-chairperson, Presidential Commission on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth, Republic of Korea
Grant King, Chair, Climate Change Authority, Australia
Corinne Le Quéré, Chair, High Council on Climate, France
Peter Møllgaard, Chair, Danish Council on Climate Change, Denmark
Willson García Morales, Chair, Guatemalan Climate Change Climate System, Guatemala
Crispian Olver, Executive Director, Presidential Climate Commission, South Africa
Markku Ollikainen, Chair, Climate Change Panel, Finland
Lisbeth Schultze, Chair, Swedish Expert Council on Climate Adaptation, Sweden
Rick Smith, President, Canadian Climate Institute, Canada
Costas Synolakis, Chair, Greek National Climate on Climate Change, Greece
Halldór Thorgeirsson, Chair, Icelandic Climate Council, Iceland
Sebastian Vicuña, President, Climate Change Advisory Council, Chile