

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: COP26 President Designate Rt Hon Alok Sharma, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa

Dear Excellencies,

Today, leaders from around the world come together in Glasgow to mark the start of COP26 – one of the most significant milestones for the global community since the 2015 Paris Agreement. Over the next two weeks the world will watch to see if Governments will do what is necessary to address climate change and turn their commitments into action.

The case for action has never been clearer, with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) recent Sixth Assessment Report showing unequivocal human responsibility for climate change and its impacts. We know what must be done and, with the right level of international support for developing countries, delivering the goals of the Paris Agreement is technically and economically achievable. Action now will improve lives across the world; inaction will impact upon us all, especially the most vulnerable. The Glasgow Summit *must* mark the start of a new phase of climate action – *the decade of implementation*.

Advisory Climate Councils can play a valuable role in this process¹ by providing expert, evidence-led advice to inform policy, and robust, independent evaluation and engagement to keep progress on track. Many Climate Councils of different forms and remits have formed across the world in recent years.

Following successful virtual meetings over 2021, today the Councils launch the International Climate Councils Network (ICCN) which will provide an ongoing forum to facilitate collaboration and mutual support between Climate Councils from around the world.

Together, we have identified the following five principles which we consider to be integral to enabling Climate Councils to fulfil their roles effectively:

¹ Cynthia Elliott et al (2021) Climate Advisory Bodies: Experiences and Approaches for Effective Climate Change Policy, WRI, Washington, <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/climate-advisory-bodies-wri> and N. Evans, M. Duwe (2021) Climate governance systems in Europe: the role of national advisory bodies. Ecologic Institute, Berlin; IDDRI, Paris, <https://www.ecologic.eu/18093>

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- A robust grounding in the latest climate science, as exemplified by the assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), supported by strong expertise across relevant economic, physical, ecological and social sciences
 - A mandate to provide independent, evidence-led advice to and assessment of action by Government and stakeholders on climate mitigation and/or adaptation, with sufficient resources to deliver on that mandate
 - A remit to produce advice on the socioeconomic aspects of the climate transition to ensure that it is procedurally and substantively fair
 - A consultative and impartial approach to engaging stakeholders to help develop consensus and steer policy action, particularly in critical and/or challenging areas
 - A sharp focus on strengthening and aligning adaptation, mitigation and just transition efforts, and improving their integration – all three are essential to effective climate action.

We urge all Governments to consider establishing a Climate Council or equivalent structure of their own, built around these key principles, to support efforts to deliver the Paris Agreement – and we stand ready to help in any way we can. The ICCN also looks forward to welcoming further Councils who share these principles and are keen to learn from international experiences.

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,

Brad Archer, CEO Climate Change Authority (*Australia*)

Dr Rick Smith, President, Canadian Institute for Climate Choices/Institut Canadien Pour des Choix Climatiques (*Canada*)

Dr Dan Wicklum, Co-Chair, Net-Zero Advisory Body and **Ms Marie-Pierre Ippersiel**, Co-Chair, Net-Zero Advisory Body/Groupe Consultatif pour la Carboneutralité (*Canada*)

Professor Maisa Rojas, Coordinator, Comité Científico de Cambio Climático [Scientific Advisory Committee on Climate Change] (*Chile*)

MSc. Lenin Corrales, Chair, Consejo Científico de Cambio Climático (4C) [Scientific Council on Climate Change] (*Costa Rica*)

Professor Peter Møllgaard, Chair, Klimarådet [Council on Climate Change] (*Denmark*)

Markku Ollikainen, Chair, Suomen ilmastopaneeli [The Finnish Climate Change Panel] (*Finland*)

Professor Corinne Le Quéré, Chair, Haut Conseil pour le Climat [High Council on Climate] (*France*)

Professor Costas Synolakis, Chair, Ειδική Επιστημονική Επιτροπή για την Αντιμετώπιση της Κλιματικής Αλλαγής [National Scientific Climate Change Council] (*Greece*)

Dr Alex Guerra, Chair, Sistema Guatemalteco de Ciencias de Cambio Climático [Guatemala Climate Change Science System] (*Guatemala*)

Halldór Thorgeirsson, Chair, Loftslagsráð [Climate Council] (*Iceland*)

Marie Donnelly, Chair, An Chomhairle Chomhairleach um Athrú Aeráide [Climate Change Advisory Council] (*Ireland*)

Tzinnia Carranza, Chair, Consejo Consultivo de Cambio Climático [Advisory Council on Climate Change] (*Mexico*)

Dr Rod Carr, Chair, He Pou a Rangī - Climate Change Commission (*New Zealand*)

Valli Moosa, Deputy Chair, Presidential Climate Commission (*South Africa*)

Johan Kuylenstierna, Chair, Klimatpolitiska Rådet [Climate Policy Council] (*Sweden*)

Lisbeth Schultze, Chair Nationella expertrådet för klimatanpassning [Expert Council on Climate Adaptation] (*Sweden*)

Dr Kathy Riklin, Organe consultatif sur les changements climatiques/Beratendes Organ für Fragen der Klimaänderung [Advisory Body on Climate Change] (*Switzerland*)

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

 INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE COUNCILS NETWORK		
 CLIMATE CHANGE AUTHORITY	<small>CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE CHOICES</small>  <small>INSTITUT CANADIEN POUR LES CHOIX CLIMATIQUES</small>	Net-Zero Advisory Body  <small>• Groupe consultatif pour la carbonneutralité</small>
<small>COMITÉ CIENTÍFICO DE CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO</small>	Klimarådet.	 SUOMEN ILMASTOPANEELI The Finnish Climate Change Panel
HAUT CONSEIL pour le CLIMAT	 SGCCC Sistema Guatemalteco de Ciencias del Cambio Climático	LOFTSLAGSRÁÐ /// ICELANDIC CLIMATE COUNCIL ///
	 He Pou a Rangī Climate Change Commission	 PRESIDENTIAL CLIMATE COMMISSION PRESIDENTIAL CLIMATE COMMISSION
 <small>SWEDISH CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT</small> Klimatpolitiska rådet	NATIONELLA EKSPERTRÅDET FÖR KLIMATANPASSNING	OcCC Organe consultatif sur les changements climatiques Beratendes Organ für Fragen der Klimaänderung
 Climate Change Committee		