

“Introduction to the High-Level Informal Consultative Roundtable”

Informal Event held on 17 June 2026 in Bonn, Germany

Informal Summary of the Event

I. Introduction

On 17 June 2026, during the sixty-fourth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SB 64) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), an open informal event was held to introduce the High-Level Informal Consultative Roundtable (“the Roundtable”) and provide an update on its work and discussions. The event brought together members of the Roundtable, Party representatives and civil society, including youth, research organizations, and other participants.

The UNFCCC Executive Secretary convened the Roundtable in early 2025 as a source of expert advice on how the UNFCCC process could be further optimized and how implementation under the Convention and the Paris Agreement could be accelerated. The Roundtable’s work forms one contribution to a broader discussion, with inputs from Parties and other stakeholders. The Roundtable is composed of a diverse group of fifteen high-level dignitaries who were selected with careful consideration given to relevant experience, as well as to gender, geographic, and intergenerational balance. The members contribute high-level insights relating to the intergovernmental climate change process and its evolution. They embody diversity of thought and experience. They serve in their personal capacities and on a voluntary, *pro bono* basis. More information about the Roundtable and its members is available [online](#).

II. Reflections from Roundtable members

At the informal event, Roundtable members described the discussions they have been having as open, diverse, and grounded in foresight. They highlighted the value of having a space in which members could consider longer-term challenges, geopolitical developments, and the changing role of the climate process. Several Roundtable members emphasized the significant achievements of the existing process. They called for an approach combining urgency with recognition of the progress already made, while maintaining openness to new ideas and institutional change.

A central theme was decision-making innovation and the need for enhanced partnership. Roundtable members suggested that the current multilateral process is, and could be further, complemented by additional pathways and partnerships through which groups of willing Parties and other actors can cooperate and advance implementation. Examples discussed included coalitions and initiatives concerning the transition away from fossil fuels, forests, adaptation, food systems, and other areas. Such approaches were presented as complementary to the formal negotiations, and a way to support implementation of the Party-driven process.

Roundtable members also emphasized the need for stronger platforms for brokering cooperation amongst a variety of actors, to support implementation and increase the ambition and pace of climate action. Suggestions included making greater use of existing mechanisms as well as catalyzing new platforms and partnerships supporting transparency and trust-building.

Greater recognition under the UNFCCC process of such multistakeholder platforms and commitments could help improve their visibility, credibility, and connection to the intergovernmental process. One proposal was to establish a more clearly defined track alongside the negotiation track, through which willing Parties and other stakeholders could advance initiatives and report annually on results. Related suggestions included an implementation platform connecting Parties, development banks, climate funds, private investors and project developers, and stronger annual reviews of such initiatives.

Roundtable members called for strengthened climate accountability, including more accessible and clear reporting on progress and delivery under the Convention. They suggested that the secretariat could play a greater facilitating role in matching needs with finance and support, sharing evidence of effective approaches, and presenting a more integrated annual overview of climate progress and implementation.

Roundtable members also emphasized the importance of strengthening both communication and the use of science within the process. They called for more regular and accessible scientific updates, including Indigenous knowledge, to inform negotiations and implementation between major assessment cycles of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). They also stressed the need for clearer strategic communication on the direction of the process, the progress being achieved and the practical implications of decisions, so that Parties, stakeholders and the wider public can better understand and engage with the UNFCCC's work.

III. Summary of interventions from non-members

A Party representative highlighted the increasing number and technical complexity of agenda items and mandates; and suggested clustering related items, concluding or “sunsetting” agenda items that had fulfilled their purpose or were no longer progressing, and considering time limits for future mandates. The representative also emphasized that the process should communicate more clearly to governments, businesses, and the public the overall direction of international climate action.

The UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Simon Stiell, emphasized that any discussion related to optimization of the UNFCCC process should be undertaken within the context of the significant progress achieved through climate multilateralism and national climate action. Global warming projections have been substantially reduced compared with earlier trajectories, renewable energy deployment has accelerated, and climate resilience is increasingly being incorporated into policymaking. At the same time, the world remains far from achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. Climate impacts and disasters are intensifying, and significant gaps remain in ambition, implementation, finance, technology, and political will. Optimizing the UNFCCC process could contribute to closing these gaps, although it would represent only one part of the wider response required.

The Executive Secretary reaffirmed that the UNFCCC is a Party-owned process and that consensus-based negotiations would remain at its core. He highlighted the need to complement negotiations with other forms of international cooperation capable of moving more quickly, supporting implementation and engaging actors willing to advance climate action. He noted that this is also not something new: the process had evolved repeatedly since the adoption of the Convention, including through the creation of new bodies, work programmes, finance arrangements, and spaces for non-Party stakeholder engagement. In closing, the Executive Secretary reiterated his gratitude to the Roundtable members for their valuable ongoing contributions, noting the independent nature of their advice, and appreciating their time given to discussing these important matters.

Youth representatives called for young negotiators to be more directly involved in discussions on the evolution of the process. They emphasized the value of combining the institutional knowledge of experienced participants with the perspectives and innovative approaches of a new generation of negotiators and civil society representatives.

Representatives of the research community supported calls for more regular and practical scientific input into the UNFCCC process. They noted that scientific information is currently provided through a limited number of formal events and the periodic assessment reports of the IPCC, and suggested exploring more continuous mechanisms for connecting Parties with science relevant to implementation.

Civil society representatives and other experts emphasized the need to distinguish more clearly between matters that require formal negotiation and activities that should proceed without negotiated outcomes. They suggested creating more space within UNFCCC meetings for practitioners responsible for implementation to exchange experiences, identify solutions and build cooperation.

Participants stressed that improvements to the process would require clear and sustained leadership. Some called for a fuller and more candid discussion of trust, political divisions and the difficulties experienced in reaching agreement. They argued that procedural reforms alone would be insufficient without wider efforts to rebuild confidence and establish collective ownership of the process's evolution.

Civil society participants also raised questions concerning decision-making when consensus cannot be achieved. Some suggested that the availability of voting procedures could, in certain circumstances, encourage compromise. Other issues raised included inclusive participation, transparency, and the management of potential conflicts of interest.

IV. Closing of the event

The informal event concluded with broad agreement that the UNFCCC process should continue to evolve in response to scientific urgency, implementation needs and changing geopolitical realities. While participants differed in their assessment of the current state of the process, there was strong support for its achievements while emphasizing the need for increasing the speed, scale, and practical impact of climate action.

Roundtable members will continue their deliberations, with further attention expected to be given to governance, science, communication, and concrete pathways for implementation. Their recommendations will form one of many contributions to wider engagement with Parties and non-Party stakeholders on the future evolution of the process.