A Transformation Dialogue

An Early Warning on a Post-2030 Agenda: Building Inclusive Narratives for Real Transformation

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have not delivered the transformation they promised, and discussions on a global agenda beyond 2030 have already begun. If the emerging narrative is shaped by a narrow circle of institutions, expressed in specialised language and developed within policy silos, the world risks repeating three decades of global agendas that were adopted and celebrated but remained largely unfulfilled.

Traditional North-South divisions are increasingly challenged by hyper-connected, youth-led transnational networks that reject a simple rich-versus-poor binary. A digitally native generation faces shared, cross-border crises, including economic precarity, climate change and digital authoritarianism. These developments highlight the limitations of existing governance arrangements and the need for more inclusive approaches to global decision-making.

Against this backdrop, the panel will examine how an early, open and inclusive process can shape a Post-2030 Agenda, inform the proposed Rio+40 Summit in 2032 and establish a framework for two decades of inclusive implementation. It will focus on the following key areas of discussion:

1. Learning from Past Sustainability Agendas: From Agenda 21 to the 2030 Agenda, global sustainability efforts have faced persistent challenges, including voluntary commitments without accountability, financing gaps, a focus on symptoms rather than underlying drivers, top-down design, fragmented implementation and weakened multilateralism. The discussion will examine these historical shortcomings and their implications for the ownership, coherence and effectiveness of future global agreements.

2. Addressing Exclusive and Fragmented Post-2030 Narratives: Emerging post-2030 frameworks are largely being shaped by a limited set of institutions, often using technocratic language and operating through separate tracks for finance, climate, biodiversity and social development. The panel will consider how these processes can become more inclusive, coherent and responsive to the priorities of diverse constituencies.

3. Embedding Climate Sustainability in the Post-2030 Agenda: The post-2030 agenda must build on the Rio Principles and subsequent global agreements, including the Paris Agreement, Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Sendai Framework and Pact for the Future. A systems approach and Policy Coherence for Reforms (PC4R) can help align policies, address contradictions and integrate climate sustainability, equity and ecological limits into a shared framework.

4. Reimagining the Strategic Framework for Transformation

The panel will explore five interconnected priorities:

i. **Reimagine:** Develop a plural and shared narrative of climate sustainability.

ii. **Reorganise:** Break policy silos, renew multilateralism and include diverse constituencies.

iii. **Redesign:** Establish a coherent, systems-based architecture through PC4R.

iv. **Reinvest:** Align finance, technology and institutional capacity with the new direction.

v. **Recalibrate:** Review past shortcomings and reset priorities, direction and ambition.

5. Charting the Transition Towards Rio+40

The proposed transition envisages open, multilingual consultations and alliance-building in 2027; co-creation of shared principles in 2028; development of a coherent framework with accountability and financing mechanisms in 2029; consolidation and review in 2030; and preparations during 2031–2032 for Rio+40 to adopt a new global agenda for transformation towards climate sustainability.

6. Ensuring Inclusive Implementation beyond 2030

Rio+40 should initiate a long-term, accountable implementation process extending from 2032 to 2052, supported by a PC4R framework, a financing compact, citizen-led reviews and meaningful participation by communities, youth, Indigenous Peoples, women, workers and local authorities. The proposed process would include a mid-term review at Rio+50 in 2042 and a final review at Rio+60 in 2052.

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