



THE WORLD POLICY FORUM

Ecological Realignment

Moving beyond ambition - identifying the urgent actions needed to realize the Net Zero transition

Speakers:

Panelists:

- **Emma Cox**, Head of Purpose | UK Leader, Sustainability & Climate Change, PwC
- **John Kirton**, Director and Founder of G7 and G20 Research Groups, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College, University of Toronto; Co-chair, T20 TF 2 - Climate Change, Sustainable Energy & Environment
- **Nigel Topping**, UK High Level Climate Action Champion for UN climate talks, COP26

Moderator:

- **Declan Curry**, business journalist

Session description:

As the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic persist, the urgency and magnitude of the decarbonisation challenge cannot be overlooked. Within the context of the 'Great Realignment, the 2020s must be the pivotal decade for climate action. While the global response to the pandemic has brought an abrupt decrease in global emissions in 2020, the data are showing a fast rebound in emissions as economies and societies begin to open up. Across the G20 economies, progress on decarbonisation is not fast enough. Even the countries with the highest rate of change in 2019 need to accelerate their efforts to 2x current decarbonisation rates, and those with the lowest rate of change may need up to a 10x improvement. The upcoming COP26, the first since the Paris Agreement came into force, is a chance for global leaders to move quickly from ambition to action on net zero. This session will explore the systemic transformation needed if we are to rise to the climate challenge and the implications for business.

2021 needs to be an inflection point. Tackling climate change will require wholesale transformation, unprecedented innovation, and committed leadership. So what are the key actions needed by businesses to underpin the transition to net zero?



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With countries, cities and states representing almost 70% of global GDP looking to set net zero targets, and further announcements expected in the lead up to COP26, governments across the globe will rapidly need to turn their net zero aspirations and targets into clear roadmaps that are underpinned by supportive enabling environments.

In this rapidly moving environment businesses will need to react quickly, transforming their strategies, operations and supply chains to a net zero trajectory. Many have begun. Many more will need to follow. In turn, investors will need to embed net zero into their risk management and portfolio allocation.

The speed at which we are able to move at the start of this decade will determine if this is the pivotal decade of action that marks the turning point on the road to net zero.

Objectives:

- Highlight global progress on climate and objectively review the rapidly increasing number of Net Zero commitments - how far will they get us?
- Closing the gap. What is the role of policy makers and business in accelerating progress towards Net Zero?
- Investigate the role of innovation. Can we really find solutions at the speed and scale needed? What will it take? How might cross fertilisation of ideas help?
- Evaluate the role of finance. Where will finance come from and what policy changes are needed to incentivise the transition? What role will carbon pricing play?
- Take stock of measurement and reporting. What is the role of disclosure? How can measurement and reporting catch up with the needs of the 2020s?