The United Nations (UN) Secretary General has urged all nations to declare a state of climate emergency, and has also called the recent Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – which reports the worsening unprecedented, unequivocal and irreversible (for centuries to millennia) effects caused by human-induced global heating – a “Code Red for Humanity.”

Against the backdrop of the multi-faceted global pandemic recovery, among other global challenges, the gravity and urgency of the planetary climate emergency is becoming more widely understood, and increasingly acknowledged. Science is showing that the civilization-nurturing climatic conditions of our planet – stable for the past approximately 12,000 years – are profoundly threatened, and serious changes are happening more quickly than predicted. For example, a range of the earth’s known biophysical systems which regulate the global climate are showing signs of instability earlier than scientists had predicted and may foreshadow the crossing of dangerous and mutually reinforcing tipping points. Such developments telegraph the seriousness of current conditions and the need for rapid action by national governments and the international community to stabilize and protect the earth’s climate system.

Unless we rapidly and radically shift course, the world is heading for catastrophic climate change and possible ecological collapse. Some have called our present predicament a survival crisis for humanity – and certainly for human societies and for populations as we currently know them – depending on the course of action we collectively choose. Paradoxically, even though solutions exist to mitigate the most devastating effects of the climate crisis – including global governance solutions – they are not being implemented at a pace and scale commensurate with the magnitude and the urgency of the challenge.
Even with this sharpening scientific understanding, the vast majority of the world’s emitters are not yet on track to meet their pledges of emission cuts. It has been observed that the timelines of many nations are not ambitious enough (e.g., focusing on mid-Century targets), and current global governance approaches remain weak, lacking in accountability mechanisms, fragmented and siloed. **What new approaches and governance innovations might the international community wish to consider, as a matter of priority?** And what strategies can be considered to ensure that these innovations are implemented?

**Agenda:**

10:01 – 10:04 EDT/4:01 – 4:04 pm CEST
- **Welcome from the Moderator**
  - Arunabha Ghosh, CEO at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, Member of the Climate Governance Commission

10:04-10:08 EDT/4:04-4:08 pm CEST
- **Welcoming Remarks**
  - María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the 73rd UN General Assembly and former Foreign and Defense Minister of Ecuador

10:08 – 10:15 EDT/4:08 – 4:15 pm CEST
- **Setting the Stage: Results to Date of the Climate Governance Commission, Global Challenges Foundation (Interim Report to be released October 2021)**
  - Maja Groff, Convenor, Climate Governance Commission

10:15 – 10:55 EDT/4:15 – 4:55 pm CEST
- **Panel Presentations and Moderated Dialogue with Panelists**
  - Maja Groff, Convenor, Climate Governance Commission
  - Richard Ponzo, Senior Fellow and Director, Global Governance, Justice and Security Program at the Stimson Center, and Member of the Climate Governance Commission (presenting the Stimson Center’s report “Building Back Together & Greener: Twenty Initiatives for a Just, Healthy, and Sustainable Global Recovery”)
  - Jimena Leiva Roesch, Senior Fellow and Head of Peace and Sustainable Development at the International Peace Institute, and Member of the Climate Governance Commission
  - Arunabha Ghosh, CEO at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, Member of the Climate Governance Commission
  - Dhabia Al-Mohannadi, Professor, Texas A&M University at Qatar
  - Katharine Rietig, Associate Professor in International Politics at Newcastle University, and Member of the Climate Governance Network
  - Michael Collins, Executive Director for the Americas at the Institute for Economics and Peace
  - Magnus Jiborn, Head of Research, Global Challenges Foundation and Member of the Climate Governance Commission

- **Discussion and Questions**

11:25 EDT/5:25 pm CEST
- **Conclusions and Wrap Up**
Related Background Readings:

- Climate Governance Commission “Sub-Reports”: e.g., on Exponential Policy; Global Finance Risk Mitigation Facility; Powering Livelihoods Globally; Connecting Trade and Climate Regimes; Strengthening International Multistakeholder Initiatives; Blueprints for a Global Environment Agency; Comparative Climate Councils; etc.
- *Coping with New and Old Crises* (Stimson Center, December 2020)
- *Report from the Global Policy Dialogue on Climate Governance* (Stimson, GCF, October 2019)
- *Fulfilling the UN75 Declaration’s Promise: An Expert Series’ Synthesis of Major Insights and Recommendations* (June 2021)
- *UN75 Leaders Network Joint Statement* (10 November 2020)
- *Call for Inclusive Global Governance* – We The Peoples Campaign
- *UN75 People’s Declaration and Plan for Global Action* – UN2020 & Together First
- *Beyond UN75: A Roadmap for Inclusive, Networked & Effective Global Governance* (June 2021)
- *Building an Inclusive, Networked UN*, Project Syndicate (23 June 2021)