

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

2023



Foreword by the Chair

The Climate Overshoot Commission serves as a pivotal, global, and independent entity dedicated to mitigating the challenges associated with surpassing the 1.5°C threshold outlined in the 2015 Paris Agreement. As climate overshoot looms, threatening dire consequences for ecosystems, food security, and human health, the Commission assumes a critical role in providing nuanced insights into the multifaceted strategies necessary to curb global warming. It acts as a catalyst for substantive advocacy among policymakers and governance bodies, fostering collaborative initiatives to transcend the current fragmented responses to climate change.

I am pleased to present the outcomes of our endeavors in the 2023 Annual Report, underscoring our commitment to crafting a cohesive agenda and offering actionable recommendations to mitigate overshoot risks. Our aim is to disseminate these findings widely, ensuring they reach pertinent stakeholders and catalyze tangible change.

In 2023, we delineated four overarching transformations comprising our CARE Agenda: Cutting emissions and phasing out fossil fuels, advancing Adaptation policies, Removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and Exploring the potential risks and benefits of solar radiation modification. These interlinked transformations present both challenges and opportunities for decision-makers across government, private sector, and civil society to comprehensively address the risks of climate overshoot. The Commission endeavors to assist leaders in navigating these complexities and fostering collaborative efforts to implement solutions.

The year 2023 marked the inaugural phase of our journey. The Commission solidified its role as a nexus for supporting communities and meeting eminent political and civil society figures, as well as fostering a dynamic cohort of young activists. Moreover, we leveraged the expertise of leading scientific advisors to enhance our research capabilities, thereby fortifying our foundation of knowledge and informed discourse. This Annual Report offers deeper insights into our approach, highlighting our endeavors to promote holistic strategies for addressing overshoot risks and orchestrating strategic outreach to enhance national and international responses to global warming across diverse sectors and policy domains.

Looking ahead, we are poised to enter a new phase of evolution, intensifying engagement with governments, international bodies, regional institutions, and civil society. Our objective is to amplify the impact of the CARE Agenda and broaden discourse on the imperative to mitigate and reduce risks associated with climate overshoot.



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical line, resembling a simple 'L' shape.

Pascal Lamy
Chair of the Commission





Foreword by the Chair	2
2023 at a Glance	4
The Commissioners	6
Science Advisors	8
Youth Engagement Group	8
The CARE Agenda unveiled	9
Building the Commission’s positions	11
Global high-level advocacy	12
Promotion of renewed international governance	12
Support to national actors	16
Sharing the CARE Agenda in universities	18
The Climate Overshoot Commission in the News	20
About us	22

2023 at a Glance



New York:

- Engagements with the UN System: UN Secretary-General; UNDP; UN USG for Policy;
- Launch of the CARE Agenda at the Rockefeller Foundation

Boston:

- Public events at the JFK Jr Forum and the Salata Institute for Climate & Sustainability at Harvard University

Washington DC:

- Engagements with senators and policy events

Paris:

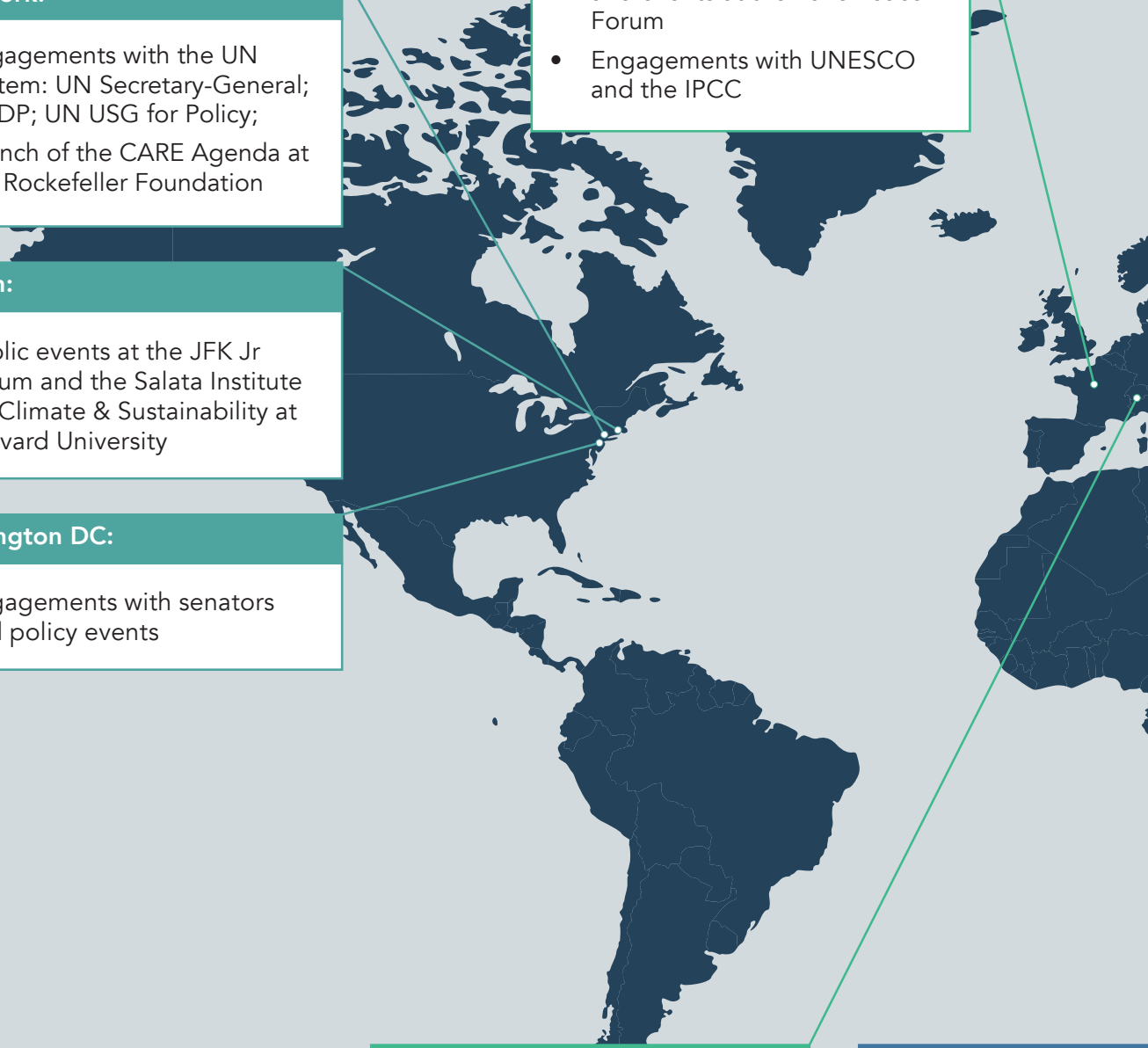
- Public events at Sciences Po and events at the Paris Peace Forum
- Engagements with UNESCO and the IPCC

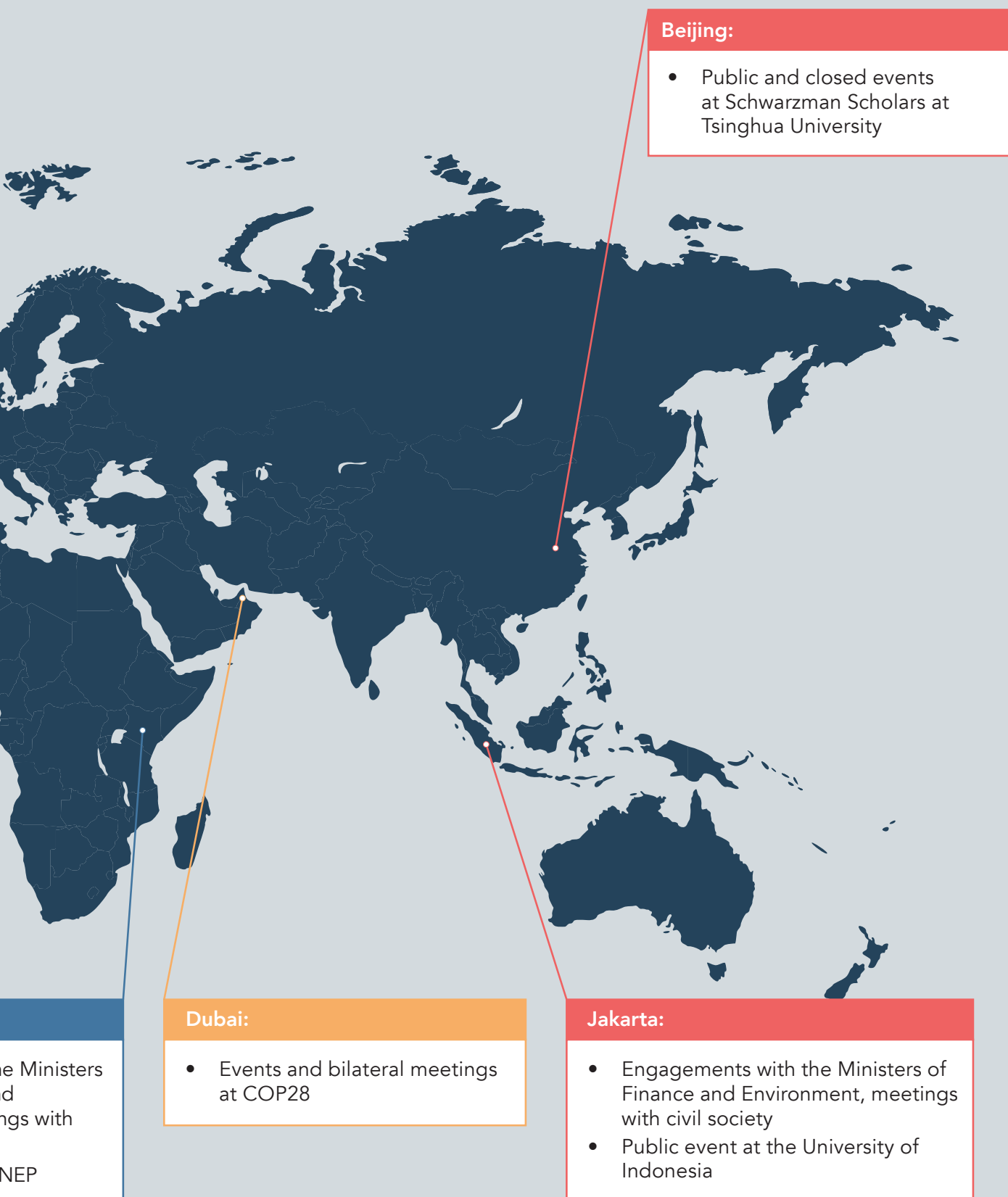
Geneva:

- Engagement with the UN System: WHO; WMO; OHCHR; IOM

Nairobi:

- Engagement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Environment, meeting with civil society
- Engagement with UN





Beijing:

- Public and closed events at Schwarzman Scholars at Tsinghua University

Dubai:

- Events and bilateral meetings at COP28

Jakarta:

- Engagements with the Ministers of Finance and Environment, meetings with civil society
- Public event at the University of Indonesia

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The Commissioners

The Climate Overshoot Commission was conceived out of a critical necessity to address the potential governance gaps in the global response to climate change, specifically in relation to overshoot scenarios. It held the necessary conversations about whether and how additional approaches (mitigation, adaptation, CDR and SRM) could reduce the risks of a warming climate. The Commission is the

first high-level group to address all these options in a holistic, integrated manner, free from conventional political constraints. Members include former heads of government, national ministers, directors of intergovernmental organizations, leaders of environmental groups, and academic experts.



Jamshyd Godrej

Chairman of the board of Godrej & Boyce and of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, India



Arancha Gonzalez Laya

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Spain



Mahamadou Issoufou

Former President of Niger Republic, President of Issoufou Mahamadou Foundation



Muhamad Chatib Basri

Former Minister of Finance of Indonesia



Frances Beinecke

President Emerita, Natural Resources Defense Council; board member, World Resources Institute, United States



Kim Campbell

Canada's 19th Prime Minister, Founding Member of Club de Madrid





New York, 14 September



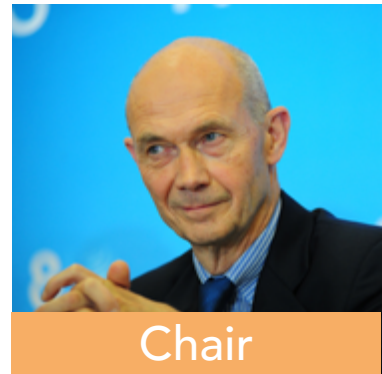
Agnes Matilda Kalibata

UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the Food Systems Summit; President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, Rwanda



Hina Rabbani Khar

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan



Chair

Pascal Lamy

Vice-President of the Paris Peace Forum; former Director-General of the World Trade Organization, France



Anote Tong

Former President of the Republic of Kiribati



Laurence Tubiana

CEO of the European Climate Foundation; former Climate Change Ambassador and Special Representative for COP21 of France



Xue Lan

Cheung Kong Chair Distinguished Professor and Dean of Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University, China

Science Advisors



Chris Field

Director of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment and Professor for Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies



Thelma Krug

Former Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



Michael Obersteiner

Professor and Director of the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford

Youth Engagement Group



- ▶ Shirmai Chung, Hong Kong SAR, China
- ▶ Jeremiah Thoronka, Sierra Leone
- ▶ Louise Mabulo, the Philippines

- ▶ Yuv Sungkur, Mauritius
- ▶ Chandelle O'Neil, Trinidad & Tobago
- ▶ Alex Clark, United Kingdom

The CARE Agenda unveiled



Cut emissions

Accelerate emissions reductions and consolidate decarbonization.



Adapt

Expand adaptation and fully mainstream into development.



Remove

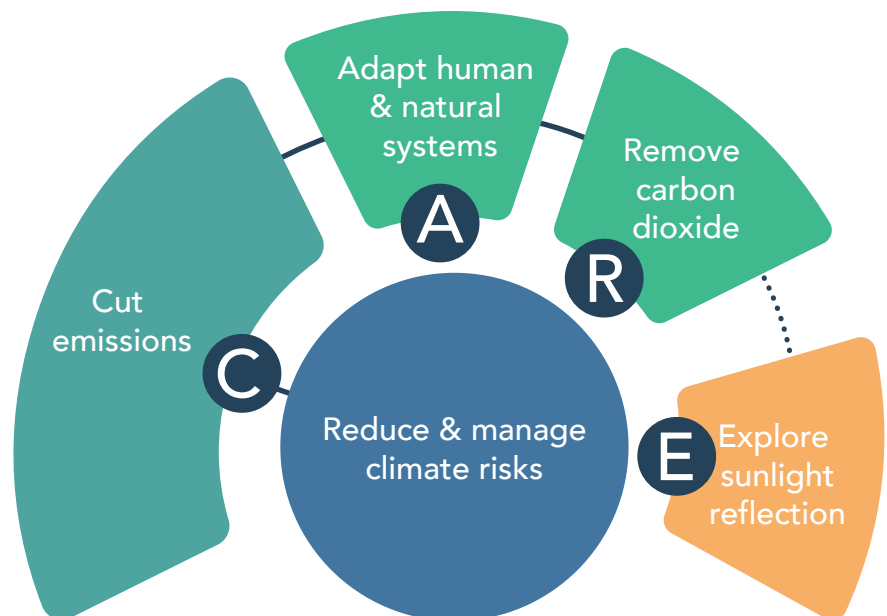
Develop and deploy high-quality carbon dioxide removal to help achieve net-zero emissions targets and beyond.



Explore

Adopt a moratorium on large-scale solar radiation modification and expand research and governance dialogue.

On September 14, groundbreaking recommendations were introduced in the report “Reducing the Risks of Climate Overshoot” by the Climate Overshoot Commission, in New York City. These recommendations, encapsulated in the CARE Agenda, address the pressing need to mitigate the risks of surpassing the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C warming goal.



These recommendations emphasize the interconnectedness of emissions reduction, adaptation, CDR deployment, and the exploration of SRM. They underscore the imperative for immediate and coordinated global action to address climate change effectively, fostering a safer, cleaner, and more equitable world for current and future generations.



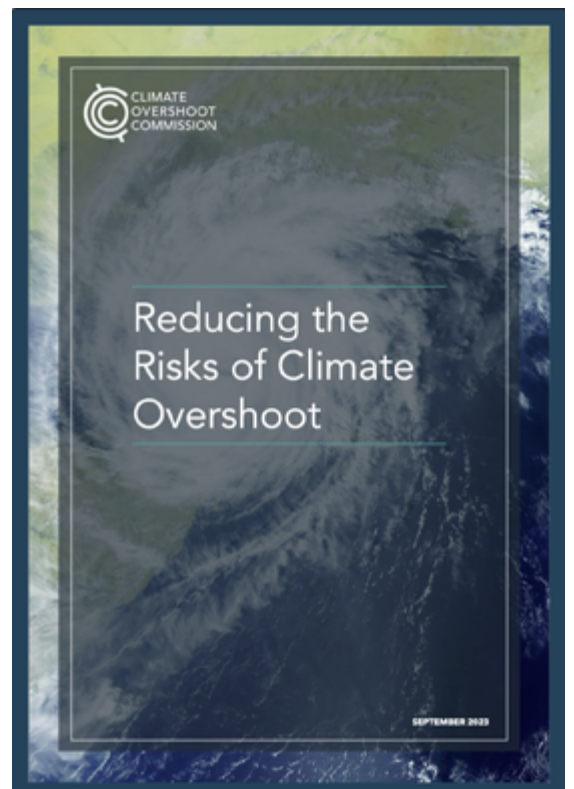


New York, 14 September

The Climate Overshoot Commission's report launch took place on September 14th. Commissioners Campbell, Khar, Gonzalez, and Beinecke, alongside Chair Pascal Lamy, led the unveiling of the groundbreaking report at the Rockefeller Foundation event space in New York City.

Moderated by Michael Obersteiner and Yuv Sungkur, with panelists including Chris Field, the event provided an in-depth exploration of the Commission's findings and recommendations against climate overshoot. From emission reductions to adaptation measures and carbon dioxide removal, the discussion centered around the comprehensive CARE agenda.

Civil society groups, journalists, and researchers gathered to engage in dynamic discussions about the Commission's positions and the balance of its deliberations. As the Commission moves forward, it remains committed to advocating for the CARE agenda in national and international forums.



launch through

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFI9KA3EMMk>

Building the Commission's positions

The Climate Overshoot Commission carried out extensive work across its meetings held in Jakarta, Nairobi, and online.

01 In Jakarta in February, commissioners and scientific advisors convened to address adaptation challenges amidst climate overshoot, focusing on issues like extreme heat, sea level rise, urban and energy systems, and extreme weather events. They emphasized the inadequacy of current global financing for climate catastrophes and explored reforms needed to support developing economies. Preliminary conclusions highlighted the need for both incremental and radical reforms, with ongoing deliberations expected to finalize recommendations by July.

02 The subsequent meeting in Nairobi in May delved deeper into emissions reduction strategies, adaptation measures, and the exploration of potential sunlight reflection methods. Discussions emphasized the urgency of staying within the 1.5°C warming goal set by the Paris Agreement, while considering economic development opportunities, particularly in Africa, and fostering international cooperation. The commission also addressed carbon dioxide removal (CDR) methods and emphasized the importance of nature-based solutions for both adaptation and emissions reduction.

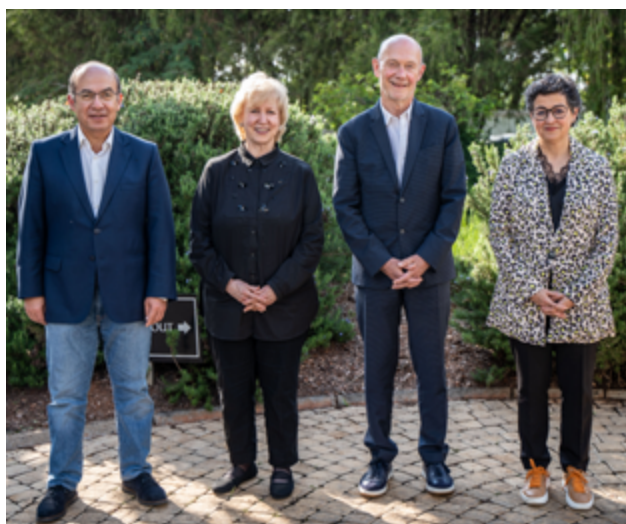
03 The final online meeting in July marked a critical stage in the Commission's journey. Commissioners engaged in extensive discussions on key topics such as the likelihood of surpassing the 1.5°C warming goal, fair distribution of emission reduction responsibilities, bolstering adaptation measures, and cautiously exploring solar radiation modification. With the approval of the report, the Commission affirmed its dedication to addressing climate overshoot risks through comprehensive, well-balanced, and equitable strategies.



Commission's deliberations, Jakarta, February



Commission's deliberations, Nairobi, May



Global high-level advocacy to reduce the risks of climate overshoot

Promotion of renewed international governance

The Climate Overshoot Commission has been actively engaging with various global stakeholders to discuss the risks and implications of potentially exceeding 1.5°C warming. From high-level meetings with heads of international organizations to discussions with experts and stakeholders, the Commission has been advocating for urgent action to mitigate climate change. In addition to these engagements, the Commission has also participated in COP28, presenting its findings and recommendations to a wider audience and fostering discussions on climate action.



Presentation of the CARE Agenda to the UN Secretary-General, New York, October

- **Meeting with Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization:** Commissioner Campbell met with Dr. Tedros to discuss the health implications of climate change and explore potential collaboration between the Climate Overshoot Commission and WHO.
- **Meeting with Volker Türk, High Commissioner for Human Rights:** Chair Lamy and Commissioner Campbell discussed the human rights dimensions of climate overshoot with Volker Türk, emphasizing the need for adequate governance and international cooperation.
- **Meeting with Antonio Vitorino, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration:** Chair Lamy discussed climate-induced migration risks with Antonio Vitorino, highlighting the need for comprehensive strategies to address the challenges faced by vulnerable populations.



Meeting with the UNDP Administrator, New York, September

➤ **Meeting with Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization:** Chair Lamy and Commissioner Campbell met with Petteri Taalas to gain insights into the UN system's discussions on climate change and explore avenues for collaboration on climate research and governance.

➤ **Meeting with Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director General of UNESCO:** Chair Lamy discussed the ethics of climate engineering with Gabriela Ramos, focusing on UNESCO's initiatives in this area and their relevance to the work of the Climate Overshoot Commission.

➤ **Meeting with the SIDS Chair, Samoan ambassador to the UN, Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru:** Chair Lamy and Commissioner Beinecke met with Ambassador Luteru to discuss the priorities of small island states in addressing climate change and advocating for ambitious climate action at COP28.

➤ **Meeting with Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator:** Chair Lamy and Commissioner Beinecke met with Achim Steiner to present the Commission's recommendations and discuss strategies for advancing climate action through the UNDP's programs and initiatives.



Meeting with the Deputy-Director of UNESCO, Paris, May



Meeting with the Director-General of WHO, Geneva, March

➤ **Meeting with Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General:** Chair Lamy and Commissioner Beinecke met with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to discuss the Commission's findings and recommendations ahead of COP28, emphasizing the need for coordinated global action on climate change.

➤ **Meeting with Guy Ryder, UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy:** Chair Lamy and Commissioner Beinecke discussed the Commission's report with Guy Ryder, focusing on the challenges and opportunities for advancing climate action within the UN system.



Meeting with the UN Secretary-General, New York, May



COP28 Side Event -

French Pavilion Panel: The Climate Overshoot Commission hosted its first COP28 event at the French Pavilion, presenting its report findings and advocating for the CARE Agenda: Cut emissions, Adapt, Remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and Explore solar radiation modification carefully.




COP28 Side Event -

Energy Transition Hub Panel: Commissioner Lamy and Khar participated in a panel discussion at COP28, focusing on the findings and recommendations of the Commission and engaging with civil society representatives on climate action.

These meetings and COP28 engagements reflect the Commission's efforts to engage with key stakeholders across various sectors in the UN System, raise awareness about the risks of climate overshoot, and advocate for urgent action to mitigate its impacts.





A series of pivotal events, from Dubai to Nairobi, Washington D.C. to Paris, have provided platforms for the Climate Overshoot Commission to convene and deliberate on strategies to address climate challenges.

At the World Government Summit in Dubai, Commissioner Gonzalez underscored the imperative of reducing greenhouse gas emissions as the primary means to mitigate climate risks. She emphasized the need for governance in assessing the risks and potential of Solar Radiation Management (SRM), highlighting the forthcoming report of the Climate Overshoot Commission, which aims to prioritize emissions cuts while advancing governance opportunities regarding adaptation, Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR), and SRM.

Subsequent engagements, such as the private event with KEPSA-AGRA in Nairobi and the Commission Breakfast at the Atlantic Council in Washington D.C., delved into the role of the private sector in climate action and the Commission's comprehensive approach encompassing emissions reduction, adaptation, and governance of SRM.

Ethical considerations took center stage at the UNESCO High-Level Panel in Paris, where Chair Lamy presented the CARE agenda and discussed the Commission's recommendations for a moratorium on large-scale SRM experiments, emphasizing the need for careful governance and participatory models.

The discourse extended to the Solar Geoengineering Conference in Washington D.C. and the Geneva Environment Network event in Switzerland, focusing on the governance and ethical dimensions of SRM.

At the Paris Peace Forum, discussions revolved around bridging global tensions on climate and advancing the Commission's recommendations for emission reduction, adaptation, CDR, and SRM governance. The critical role of youth engagement in driving change and fostering innovation emerged as a recurring theme.

The Global Goal on Adaptation panel underscored the intersection of the Commission's recommendations with ongoing international frameworks, highlighting the importance of concrete, measurable targets and localized adaptation measures in addressing climate vulnerabilities.

In essence, these events underscore the multifaceted approach required to tackle climate change, emphasizing collaboration, governance, and ethical considerations in pursuit of a sustainable future



Support to national actors

Throughout its engagements with key national stakeholders, the Climate Overshoot Commission has made significant strides in advocating for climate action and fostering dialogue on overshoot. By convening meetings with government officials, civil society leaders, and international representatives, the Commission has successfully raised awareness about the urgency of addressing climate overshoot. These engagements have led to fruitful discussions on national climate strategies, funding challenges, community empowerment, and international cooperation. The Commission's efforts have contributed to fostering a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding climate change and have paved the way for collaborative solutions to mitigate its impacts and achieve a sustainable future. Key meetings in 2023 included:



10 February

Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, Jakarta,

Participants: Chair Lamy, Commissioner Basri, Alue Dohong (Deputy Minister of Environment and Forestry)

Discussion focused on Indonesia's NDC goals, challenges in slowing deforestation, and frustrations regarding promised funding for energy transition.

10 February

Meeting with the Minister of Finance of Indonesia, Jakarta,

Participants: Chair Lamy, Commissioner Basri, Sri Mulyani (Minister of Finance)

Talks centered on Indonesia's climate strategy, governance issues, and financing needs for mitigation and adaptation efforts.





11 February

Meeting with Indonesian civil society leaders, Jakarta,

Participants: Chair Lamy, Commissioner Basri, Ahmad Ashov Birry (Trend Asia), Edo Rakhman and Agus Dwihastutik (WALHI), Agantaranansa Juanda (Open Society Foundations)

Discussed priorities in climate justice, community empowerment, and the role of civil society in policy-making and implementation.

2 May

Meeting with civil society leaders, Nairobi

Participants: Chair Lamy, John Kioli (Green Africa Foundation), Julius Mbatia (ACT Alliance), Joseph Murabula (Kenya Climate Innovation), Mithika Mwenda (Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance), George Wamukoya (AGNES)

Topics included mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer, and community-based action in addressing climate change.

4 May

Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kenya, Nairobi

Participants: Chair Lamy, Commissioner Gonzalez, Alfred Mutua (Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs)

Highlighted Kenya's priorities for the Climate Action Summit and the role of the Overshoot Commission in amplifying African voices in climate negotiations.

4 May

Meeting with the Minister of Environment of Kenya, Nairobi

Participants: Chair Lamy, Commissioner Gonzalez, Soipan Tuya (Cabinet Secretary of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry)

Discussed adaptation measures, carbon dioxide removal (CDR), and technological approaches to climate action.



17 May

Meeting with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Washington DC

Participants: *Chair Lamy, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse*

Focused on the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, methane agreements, carbon tariffs, and lobbying efforts against climate initiatives in the US.

9 July

Meeting with John Kerry, United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, virtual

Participants: *Chair Lamy, John Kerry*

Discussed the Commission's work, the risks of overshoot, US leadership in climate action, and the exchange of draft recommendations.

Sharing the CARE Agenda in universities

Members of the Climate Overshoot Commission has been actively engaging with academic institutions and international forums to raise awareness about the risks of exceeding 1.5°C warming and to discuss strategies for mitigating these risks. These efforts have included guest lectures, panel discussions, and moderated events, aimed at fostering dialogue among students, experts, and policymakers. By sharing insights from the Commission's work and promoting collaboration on climate action, these engagements have played a crucial role in advancing the global conversation on climate overshoot risks.

10 February

Guest Lecture at the University of Indonesia, Jakarta

Commissioner Gonzalez introduced the Overshoot Commission, discussed Indonesia's role in clean energy transition, and emphasized the importance of youth engagement in addressing the climate crisis.





19 September

JFK Jr. Forum at Harvard Kennedy School, Boston/Cambridge, USA

Commissioners Khar and Beinecke participated in a discussion about the Commission's work and report, engaging with students and receiving positive feedback.

26 October

Event on Climate and Solar Geoengineering at Harvard University, Cambridge, USA

Chair Lamy discussed the Commission's outcomes and recommendations, focusing on the need for cautious consideration of solar geoengineering.

4 October

Lecture at Yale School of Environment, New Haven, USA,

Commissioner Beinecke presented on the Commission's deliberations and recommendations to students at Yale's School of the Environment.

18 October

Event on Climate Cooperation and Governance at Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs, Paris, France,

The panel discussed the Commission's report, emphasizing the CARE agenda and the importance of diverse tools in climate policy.

13 December

Event on Reducing the Risks of Climate Overshoot at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

Commissioner Xue moderated a panel discussing the Commission's report and the CARE Agenda, with a focus on adaptation to China's framework and priorities. The discussion covered topics such as personal responsibility, innovation, trade, and the relevance of the UN in governing geoengineering.



The Climate Overshoot Commission in the News

The Climate Overshoot Commission has strategically leveraged global media outlets to disseminate opinion pieces, enhancing its visibility and influence in the discourse on climate overshoot. By targeting diverse audiences across various countries and regions, the Commission has effectively communicated the principles of the CARE Agenda—Cut

emissions, Adapt, Remove carbon dioxide, and Explore solar radiation modification. This proactive media engagement has broadened awareness and understanding of the Commission’s multifaceted approach to addressing climate challenges on a global scale.

February	Chair Lamy’s interview with CNBC Indonesia
	Commissioner Gonzalez op-ed in Jakarta Post
	Commissioner Campbell interview with Kompas TV (Indonesia)
	Commissioner Campbell interview with CNBC Indonesia
	Commissioner Calderon interview with CNBC Indonesia
	Chair Lamy quoted in Reuters
March	Chair Lamy and Commissioner Campbell interview with Le Temps (Switzerland)
	Chair Lamy quoted in NZZ (Switzerland)
	Commissioner Basri op-ed in Jakarta Post
	Chair Lamy quoted in Politico (EU)
	Commissioner Beinecke quoted in Reuters
	Climate Overshoot Commission quoted in L’Obs (France)
May	Commissioner Kalibata op-ed in The Star (Kenya)
	Chair Lamy interview in CNBC Africa
	Commissioner Gonzalez interview with CNBC Africa
	Commissioner Gonzalez interview with CGTN Africa



July	Interview Chair Lamy with Le Temps (Switzerland)
	Climate Overshoot Commission cited in La Repubblica (Italy)
August	Interview Chair Lamy with La Presse Canadienne
October	Interview Commissioner Beinecke with WBUR
	Interview Chair Lamy with Folha de Sao Paulo
November	Interview Chair Lamy with L'Express (France)
	Commissioners Tong, Campbell and Lamy op-ed in Le Monde
	Commissioner Xue op-ed in South China Morning Post

“Reducing the risks of climate overshoot”:

The report and the CARE Agenda received wide coverage in major media outlets including Reuters, the Guardian, AFP, Le Monde, Les Echos, The Messenger, The Conversation, Der Tasspiegel, Geo, The Sunday Times, TIME, DNA, Visir, The Hindu, Dawn and Cai Xin.



About us



The donors that supported the Climate Overshoot Commission in 2023:



Open Philanthropy



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Ginkgo Fund

The Secretariat of the Commission is composed of:

Khalid Tinasti, Head of Secretariat

Adrien Abécassis, Advisor to the Chair

Sophia La Marca, Operations Manager


Joshua Horton, Research Director

Zarah Kandjee, Policy Officer



The Secretariat of the Commission is hosted by the Paris Peace Forum, an organization that bridge the international coordination gap by supporting and complementing existing systems and picking up the slack when these institutions cannot act or when the solutions proposed are inadequate. www.parispeaceforum.org



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