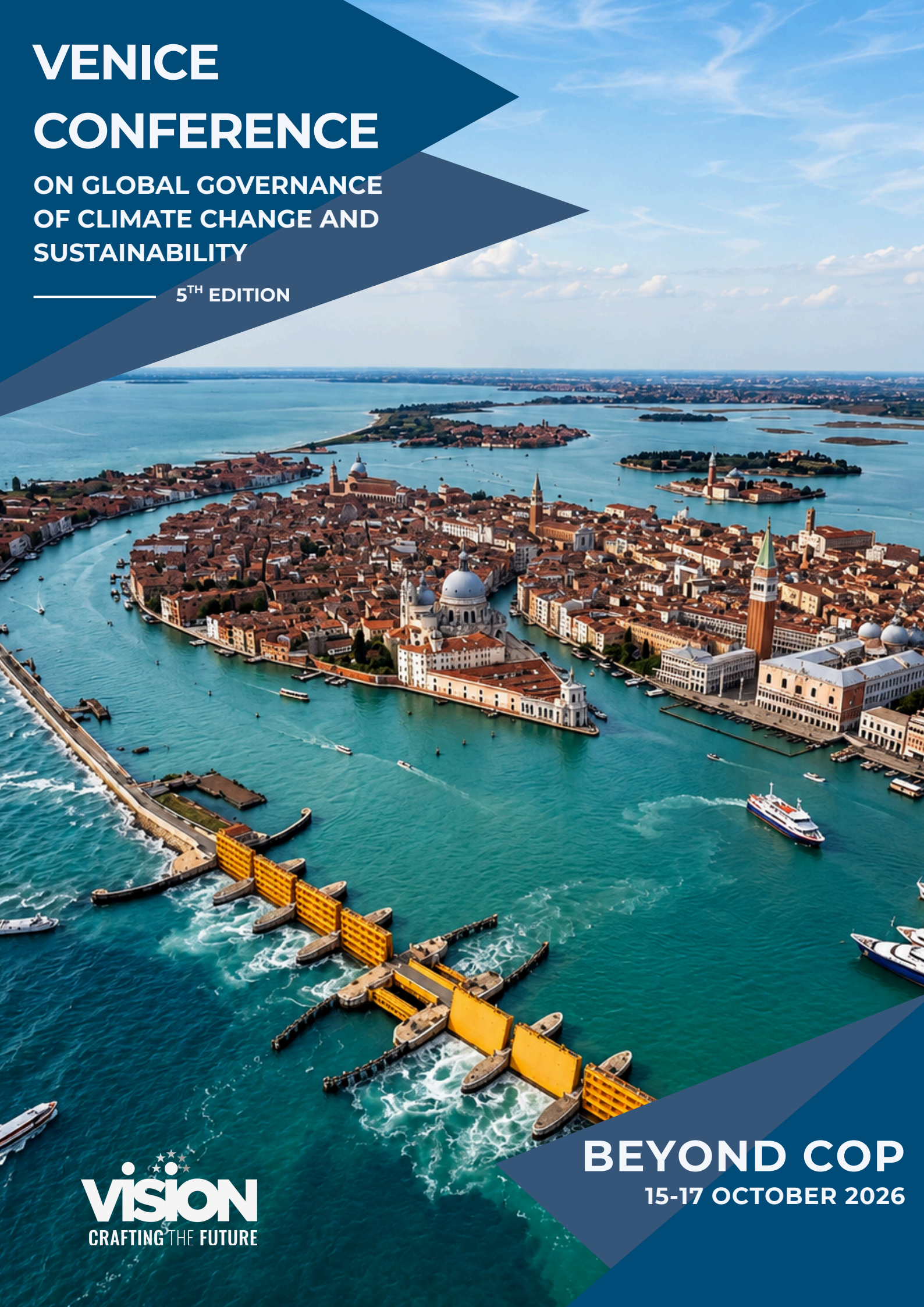
VENICE CONFERENCE

ON GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

5TH EDITION



VISION
CRAFTING THE FUTURE

BEYOND COP

15-17 OCTOBER 2026

Università Bocconi MILANO

Università Ca'Foscari Venezia

Università Iuav di Venezia

LUISS

VISION CRAFTING THE FUTURE

POLITECNICO MILANO 1863

BEYOND COP

SUSTAINABILITY AS A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE AND A FRAME FOR ADAPTING TO A POST 1.5 DEGREE WORLD

THE CONCEPT OF THE CONFERENCE

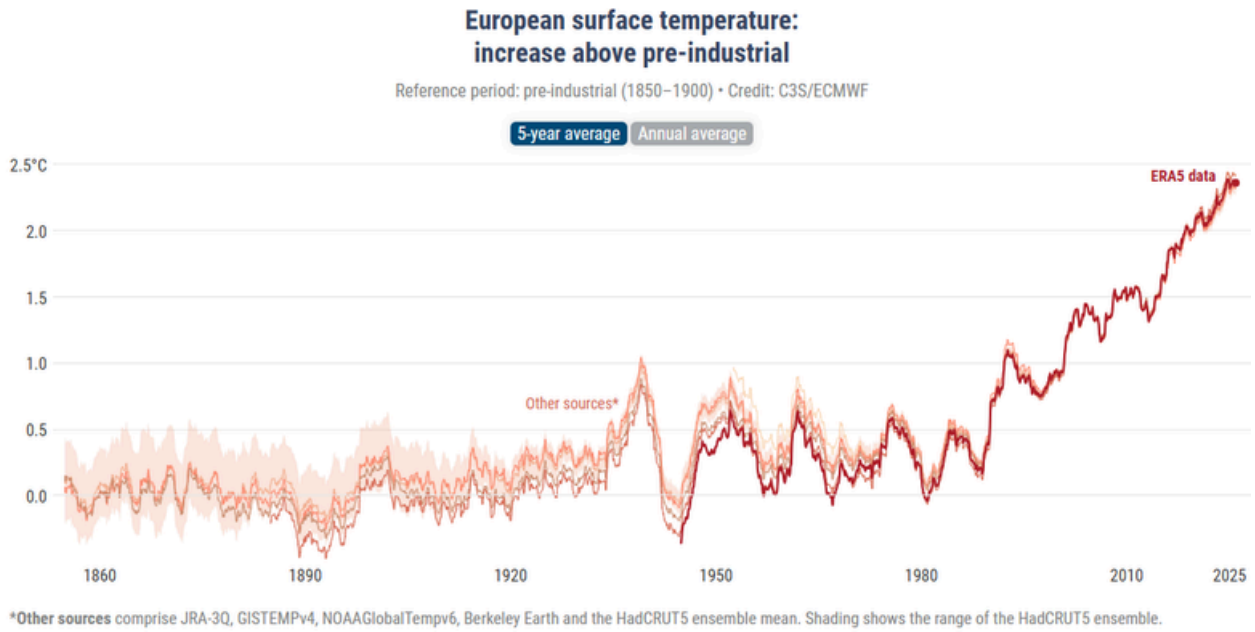
How can we turn the worst crisis into our greatest opportunity?

In the last couple of years, the climate change agenda has experienced its most challenging phase since 1995, when the first Conference of the Parties (COP) made it what is the most interesting and pressing case of global governance. The final agreement reached at the last COP in Belém (30 years after the first in Berlin) failed even to mention the necessity of a formal roadmap to phase out fossil fuels. It was the usual political deadlock, notwithstanding the great job done by the Brazilian presidency and the absence of the United States, which should have had the paradoxical effect of making negotiations easier.1 The delegation of the most powerful country in the world (and the one that has historically contributed the most to climate change) was not there (although there were plenty of individuals and organizations coming from the US). However, even more worryingly, Vision delegates did not even see the pavilions of some of the largest multinational companies (especially from TECH and management consulting) that played a role in previous COPS, and much fewer global media networks (including the ones that do not seem aligned with the agenda of the President of the United States).

And yet, while the climate change agenda is struggling with politics in the USA and Europe, the technologies necessary for "phasing out" fossil fuels are advancing much more quickly than in the past. It is interesting what one of the most visionary managers said to the Vision team while drafting this concept paper: “for the renewables to more quickly replace fossil, government should be asked to do … nothing. The cost of solar and wind is already well below fossil”. Technological progress is speeding up, and it is doing so especially in the so-called "global south" (in China, India, West Asia, and Africa). In the so called “west” while governments and electors have sceptical and withdrew from “excessive regulation”, firms (some of them) have become even more convinced that sustainability is a competitive advantage and as one of the background papers demonstrates have made it central to the core strategy.

In the meantime, climate change is here: we do not even need science - a thermometer is enough, as it is the experience of everybody (especially of farmers and of people living along the coastline) - to prove that it is already part of our existences and economies. A thermometer is enough and, in these very days while we are updating this agenda, temperatures are reaching 36 degrees in Milan. It is 9 degrees above the average for this day (29th of June) and today, as for the nine days before, we broke the record of the highest ever temperature (since 1970) each day at each hour of the day. It is not, of course, such an extreme event.

1 https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/oct/13/donald-trump-withdrawal-paris-agreement-tackling-climate-crisis-easier



As for the above chart, in Europe, temperatures have already passed both red lines (the 1.5 and 2.0 degrees of increase vis-à-vis pre-industrial averages2) which were considered by the Paris agreement the limit crossing, beyond which the climate goes out of our control (Hansen et al. – Feb 20253). True European electors have been sceptical of climate policies; and yet they do not see to be in denial. The last editions of the Venice conferences argued that they just need to be better engaged4.

It is also worth noting that climate change does not follow a linear path. We may be close to triggering what climate change scientists call tipping points: thresholds beyond which accumulated change calls for automatic (and without further human action) further deterioration in a self-reinforcing process. The Amazon forest provides an example of such an event: rising temperatures mean more droughts, which translate into greater damage from (often human-made) fires. However, fewer trees mean even less rain and even more devastating fires. The entire process may become unstoppable and self-perpetuating when we cross a red line that AI may help define more clearly (the Conference will dedicate a session to this).

The next figure 5 identifies fifteen of such tipping points. Some of them (even the most impactful of all, with the collapse of the Antarctic ice sheet) may be even dangerously nearby. And the even more worrying fact is that these tipping points may end up interfering with each other: the overturning of the Atlantic Meridional circulation (which may, indeed, paradoxically freeze Northern Europe) seems further away, and yet may become more likely if Greenland's glaciers collapse.

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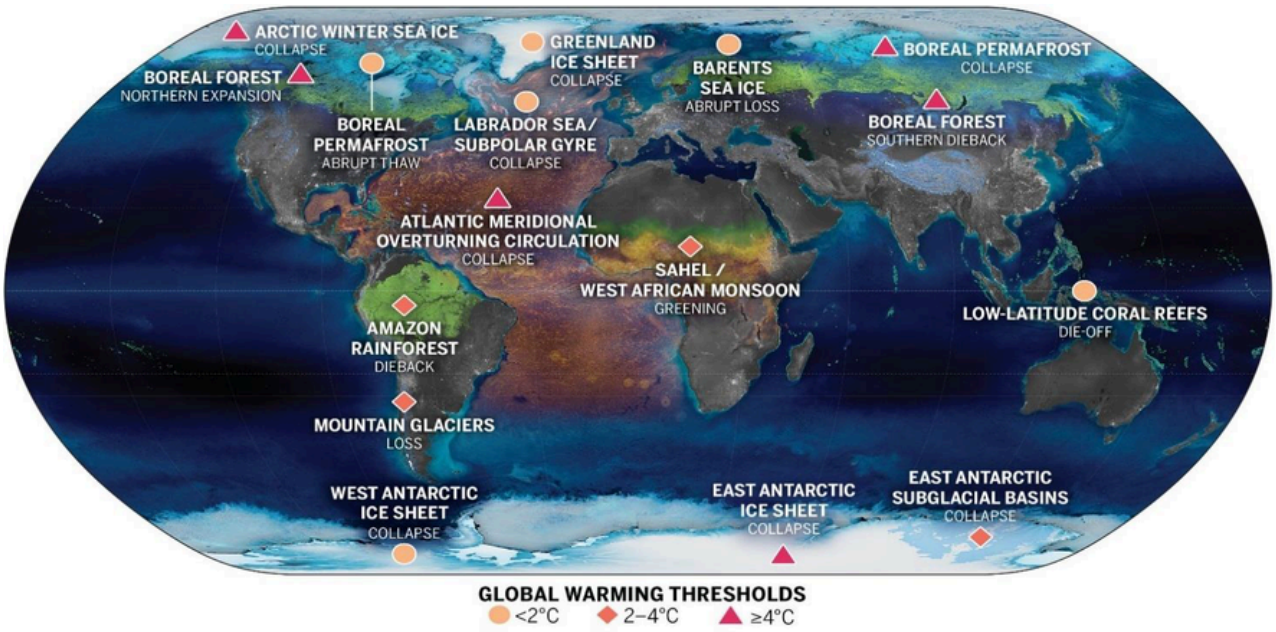
2 As for the measurement of the World Meteorological Organization https://wmo.int/news/media-centre/wmo-confirms-2024-warmest-year-record-about-155degc-above-pre-industrial-level

3 https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00139157.2025.2434494#abstract

4 https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/nov/08/climate-fatigue-europe-voters-green-costs

5 David I. Armstrong McKay et al., Exceeding 1.5°C global warming could trigger multiple climate tipping points.Science377,eabn7950(2022).DOI:10.1126/science.abn7950 https://www.science.org/doi/abs/10.1126/science.abn7950



However, the battle to fight/adapt to climate change is changing in scope and language. As Vision suggested, it is no longer about dividing people between "good" and "bad" along moral lines, but between innovators and defenders of a status quo that is unsustainable for environmental, economic, and security reasons. The objective of the fifth edition of the Dolomite conferences is to find the ideas, the force, and the power6 to turn a crisis into an opportunity to radically redesign the sustainability agenda and strengthen it. Beyond COP is the title of the fifth edition, and it also calls for the courage to start a frank dialogue and reflection on how to reform a global governance framework that urgently needs to be made more efficient and inclusive.

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Only four years have passed since the first edition of The Dolomite Conference on "Global Governance of Climate Change"7, yet the world we live in today has changed profoundly; the fifth edition of the Conference is thus revising its format to achieve a more ambitious objective vis-à-vis an acceleration of history.

We need to speed up to "not go gently into that good night8"; but also, quickly understand how we can make the entire agenda

6 As Donald Trump's advisor, Stephen Miller would say (reference)
7 https://www.thinktank.vision/en/media-en/events/proceedings-dolomite-conference
8 As for the poem from Dylan Thomas, much referenced by Interstellar, the movie directed by Chris Nolan starring Matthew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway.

1. more capable to engage people: farmers, homeowners, local communities will be part of the conference; they are to be considered as part of the solutions and not just on the receiving sides of a “manual of instructions” that scientists are providing to “save the world”.
2. broader in terms of instruments (proposals for 5th generation nuclear energy and geoengineering will also be amongst the proposals to be discussed in Venice).
3. pragmatic and aware that climate change is also about shifting geopolitical equilibria: paradoxically, there are even countries that may benefit from the crisis (for instance, thanks to the opening up of polar routes).
4. wider as far as the objectives the climate change umbrella may cover, we are not just talking about avoiding a natural disaster, but also about designing more secure energy value chains, making energy bills more affordable, reducing other huge costs we have already been paying to pollution9.

Climate change has been a powerful way to put together various objectives, because it powerfully conveys the idea that we are technically “one world”: that we cannot avoid to be impacted by what happens to the rest of the world; that we cannot pretend that there is a link between the future of younger generations, the choices we make today, an history made of progress and mistakes. And yet climate change may just be a name we gave to a wider, even more profound question: it is about the future; about **how to make the future again something that markets, prices, and politicians incorporate into their decisions, into the signals they provide.**

Climate change divides – as the President of COP 28 (in Dubai) rightly said – the world not just between good and bad people, but also between those who are aware that we cannot avoid innovation and those who prefer to preserve a status quo that is literally evaporating.

Recent COPs have reminded us that the magnitude of the effort needed to avoid further deterioration is growing (with estimates of at least USD 5.1-6.8 trillion required to complete the "transition away from fossil fuels" within the next decade). Global financial coalitions of asset managers, banks, and central banks committed to net-zero emissions have shown increasing signs of fragmentation. And yet again, the conceptual mistake we are making is that we continue to treat as a cost what is an investment that can generate a return.

These are some contradictory terms that the **Fifth edition of the Conference on Global Governance of Climate Change and Sustainability** will try to navigate. It will take place in Venice (like the 2025 edition and after the first three editions in Trento/ Bolzano), the city that is one of the places that may naturally become the global "capital" where climate change strategies are drafted, considering the political, managerial, communication, and intellectual challenges of the 21st century.

9 The European Environment Agency (EEA) estimates air pollution caused about 240,000 deaths in the EU in 2022 from exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5), 70,000 from ozone (O3), and 48,000 from nitrogen dioxide (NO2).

Vision's core mission is to emphasize the urgency of shifting our approach to the climate crisis while there's still time to act before we reach an irreversible tipping point. This calls for a fundamental overhaul of the frameworks and intellectual tools currently used to address global challenges, many of which were designed in a bygone era. The Conference aims to catalyze innovative ideas, foster new governance models and actionable projects, and establish a continuous platform for dialogue and problem-solving around climate change and sustainable development.

Amongst the proposals from the past editions:

1. A frame that will make the "loss and damage" facility more politically acceptable and, thus, more likely to reach the "places" that have already suffered or are about to suffer from climate change10.
2. A toolkit to simplify and make more effective the methods through which the COPs and the UN are establishing the goals (and the targets) that countries negotiate11.
3. Three ideas on how to kick-start a pragmatic debate on how to reform COP (which is something that many consider as impossible as the old chimera to reform the UN)12.
4. A simulation of the impact of the decision taken at COPs13.
5. A proposal to promote a market of independent evaluators of the sustainability of companies, paid directly by consumers/ investors/ citizens14.

FIVE SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF THE 2026 CONFERENCE

First, the location. After the Dolomite region, the Conference is now hosted in the Venice lagoon (specifically, the island of San Servolo). If one place can be defined as the world's "capital" of strategies to govern climate change (especially those on adaptation), that place is Venice.

The second is the format of the conferences and the importance of companies. Each session will be co-organized by Vision with **a company that decided to use sustainability as a strategic lever.** Vision and its partners believe this is a response to the crisis of (especially European) regulation that ends up being "one measure fits all" (as with the EU corporate sustainability directives). Our companies come from agrifood, fashion, digital/ AI, insurance, shipbuilding, highways, mobility, renewables, nuclear, waste management, and real estate development.

Third, a **strong, structured link between the Venice Conference and the COP** process is further reinforced. In collaboration with the European University Institute, the Conference will host Climate Negotiation Workshops with an experimental approach designed to overcome negotiation gridlocks, providing a blueprint that may be useful to COP30 in Antalya.

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10 The proposal called NEXT GENERATION PLANET is drafted here https://www.thinktank.vision/en/media-en/publications/next-generation-planet

11 https://www.thinktank.vision/en/media-en/publications/global-governance-of-climate-change-a-toolkit

12 https://www.thinktank.vision/en/media-en/publications/a-reform-of-cop-three-ideas-to-kickstart-the-debate

13 https://www.thinktank.vision/en/media-en/publications/stocktake-of-cop28-global-stocktake

14 https://www.thinktank.vision/en/media-en/articles/real-problems-and-wrong-tools

The reform of COP itself is a question that we believe cannot be postponed, and we believe that Antalya may and should be the first COP to be brave enough to pose itself the question of how to reform itself.

Fourth, a **focus on what the EU should do in terms of not just reducing its own emissions** (as in the approach that used to be of the so called "green deal"), **but, more importantly, becoming a strong contributor to the negotiations amongst the macro regions of the world** (China, India, South America, and we would argue that United States and Russia will have to be re engaged) **and amongst the main stakeholders** (not only governments, but also business, local communities and cities, ordinary citizens and families academia, media). This objective will be facilitated by the engagement of participants from China, India, South America, the Middle East, Africa, Canada, the UK, and the USA. And it will benefit from the Vision's sister projects (see below) on the Europe of the Future in Siena and on Skills for the AI world in Dubai.

Fifth, an even greater emphasis on the problem setting/problem solving dimension of the project, through expanded interdisciplinary working groups (PSSGs) composed of PhD candidates and tutors from leading academic institutions. The fifth edition is making the effort to go beyond Italy and Europe, and it will include **Bocconi University, Politecnico di Milano, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, LUISS Guido Carli, SDA Bocconi School of Management, Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia** (IUAV)**, Venice International University (VIU). Nova School of Business and Economics, and Guangdong University are envisaged to join the scientific partners**. The outputs of these groups will feed into the VENICE MANIFESTO, which will be discussed with international (COP) and European institutions and will reach global public opinion via our media partners.

THE PARTNERS AND THE VISION ENDEAVOUR

The Fifth Venice Conference on Climate Change and Sustainability is an initiative led by **Vision**. The event has been organized in partnership with a network of important academic and research institutions, including **Università Bocconi, Politecnico di Milano, European University Institute, Guangdong University, Nova Business School** and **LUISS**, as well as the Venice-based universities: **Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia** (IUAV)**, Venice International University** (VIU)**, and Università Ca' Foscari Venezia.**

The founding partner of the Dolomite Conference is **AXA**.

The **Media partners** are: **The Conversation**, the global media agency that acts as a link between the best universities and the general public; illuminem, the global platform focused on sustainability and business; **GEDI**, one of the major Italian media

groups with **La Repubblica** and **La Stampa**; **RAI**, the national public broadcaster, which will convey some of the contents.

The Conference is one of three flagship initiatives spearheaded by Vision Think Tank. Alongside it, there is the **Siena Conference on "the Europe of the Future"**15, whose previous editions have been organized in collaboration with the European University Institute, the University of Siena, and the Institute for European Policy Making at Bocconi. Additionally, Vision is launching the **first Conference on "Skills for the AI World",** to be held in **Dubai**. This new initiative wants to create a global hub where innovators, policymakers, and educators can co-design the skills, governance models, and ethical frameworks needed for an AI-driven world.

THE AGENDA

THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER

Afternoon

14.30 - 15.30 ***Registration of participants***

15.00 - 15.10 **INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS**

Carlo Carraro (Professor and Former Rector at Ca' Foscari and Ex Vice-president Working Group III IPCC), **Benno Albrecht** (Rector of Iuav), **Bernd Huber** (Board Member of Venice International University and President Ludwig Maximilian di Monaco)

15.10 - 15.20 **INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

Francesca Stefani (Vision Think Tank), **Alexandra Borchardt** (Co-Director Climate Research Explorer Program at Constructive Institute and Senior Research Associate at Reuters Institute at Oxford University)

15.20 - 16:20 **A FEEDBACK TO VISION CONCEPT PAPER**

Introduction by: **Francesco Grillo** (Vision Think Tank Director, Professor at Bocconi, and Visiting Fellow at EUI)

Discussants: **Phoebe Koundouri** (Professor Athens University of Economics & University of Cambridge), **Longyue Zhao** (Dean of the School of International Governance Innovation at Guangdong University of Foreign), **Enrico Giovannini** (Former Italian Minister of Infrastructures and Transports, and Professor of Economic and Statistics at the University of Rome "Tor Vergata")

Studies Chair: Bill Emmott (Former Editor at The Economist)

16.30 - 18.15 **FIRST PROBLEM SETTING/ SOLVING BREAKOUT SESSIONS | TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS: MATERIALS, MOBILITY AND URBAN ADAPTATION**

One of the Conference's distinctiveness is the problem-setting/ solving groups. They offer a space for crafting possible solutions. The fifth edition of the Conference envisages two rounds of such activities: the first on Thursday 15th in the afternoon, and the second on Friday 16th in the afternoon.

They are prepared by six groups of PhD candidates and professors/ tutors (at Bocconi, Polimi, Ca' Foscari, LUISS, SDA Bocconi, Nova) before the event.

The groups will be framed around different trade-offs/puzzles related to climate change. Each group will first try to better define the terms of the trade-off and then generate possible solutions. The Conference will respond to these proposals to better operationalize them.

The three PSSGs envisaged for Thursday will run in parallel. All participants will be asked to join one of the three. This session will use the Fishbowl method: students sit in the inner circle to present and debate proposals, while experts and participants join the discussion in rotation to react and enrich the ideas. This ensures focused participation and delivers actionable insights for the Dolomite Manifesto.

The six groups will report on Saturday's work and will directly feed the Dolomite Manifesto.

16.30- 16.45 **INTRODUCTION TO THE 3 TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS RELATED PROBLEM SETTING/ SOLVING GROUPS (PSSGS) FROM EACH INTRODUCER (5 minutes each)**

16.45 - 18.15 PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS

PSSG 1 **THE MOBILITY OF THE FUTURE – A BUSINESS CASE FOR THE ETERNAL CITY – HOW TO INTEGRATE THE TIBER INTO ROME'S PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

PSSG WITH TUTOR AND STUDENTS FROM BOCCONI/ POLIMI IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BCG

"The humans call themselves homo sapiens to highlight their superior intelligence. And yet when I observe the technology that they use to move themselves, I do wonder if they deserve that name". That is what a visitor from Mars might well say.

"Basically for 90% of the kilometres that they travel – the extra-terrestrial would continue - they use a vehicle on four wheels that they call a car. They have something like 1.4 billion of these tools. Yet these vehicles are not used for 90% of their usable life (they, indeed, occupy space called parking lots), only a fraction of their potential power is deployed (they normally run at 40 KPH although they are designed to go four times faster) and they use an energy (petrol or diesel) which costs ten times more than the most efficient one (electricity)".

Cars indeed had enormous merits. Invented one and half century ago by two German engineers turned into entrepreneurs (Daimler and Benz), they have been the cornerstone of the industrial society that made possible the most gigantic leap into wellbeing of history.

It is not even true that cars were unavoidably fed by fossil energy. In 1902, the American inventor and entrepreneur Thomas Edison, famous for inventing and commercializing the lightbulb, opened in New Jersey a factory dedicated to the most promising technology16: a rechargeable electric battery that fuelled a kind of automobile that promised to replace the louder and more polluting internal combustion engine. That venture failed, with Edison's electric cars being outnumbered by fossil fuelled ones and was gradually forgotten in an increasingly industrialized society.

It is, however, not just about the radically important switching between fossil and electricity which consumes most of the media and political attention but other five not less transformative innovations are possible:

a. a shift from private ownership to sharing so that the space occupied by idle vehicles is reduced;
b. self-driving cars which would allow optimization of travels;
c. cars whose dimensions and power are adaptable to needs;
d. vehicles which could even distribute themselves into empty spaces (somebody even argues that flying cars/ small helicopters may become a convenient way to move people around in mega cities);
e. and probably most importantly redesign cities.
f. It is a huge, very high added value transformation. A transformation which, however, is not happening and this problem solving group will propose a business model to

unleash what appears to be an industrial revolution as big as the one that Daimler Benz triggered.

Not less fundamental, however, is the redesign of infrastructures (roads, squares, ..) and entire cities. After all, old cars could only become the cornerstone of industrial civilization thanks to the redesign of cities which were meant to host carts carried by horses.

Introduction by: **Miriam Allena** (Director of Master of Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi/ Polimi) and **Giuseppe Collino** (BCG)

Amongst the discussants of the PSSG paper: **Luca Volterrani** (Head of Ecosystem & Asset Exploitation for A2A), **Davide Zotti** (Project Manager for A2A), **Paulina Velasco** (Chief of Staff for the city council of Los Angeles), **Stefania Iandolo** (Safety, Environment and Real Estate Director Italia at Schneider Electric Italia), **Maria Grazia Davino** (Managing Director BYD Europe), **Frans Anton Vermast** (Strategy Advisor and International Smart City Ambassador for Amsterdam Smart City)

Chair: **Laura Hood** (The Conversation)

Rapporteurs: **Caterina Morganti** (Master's Student in Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi University); **Filippo Angiolini** (Master's Student in Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi University); **Valerio Spiniello** (Master's Student in Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi University); **Chiara Sena** (Master's Student in Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi University); **Victoria Fiumi** (Master's Student in Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi University); **Eleonora Andreoli** (Master's Student in Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi University); **Vittoria Marino** (Master's Student in Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi University).

PSSG 2 REBUILDING VENICE - HOUSING, CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND PRACTICAL URBAN RETROFITTING - A PLAN

PSSG WITH TUTOR, STUDENTS, AND PHD CANDIDATES FROM CA' FOSCARI AND IUAV

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VENEZIA CITY COUNCIL

The historic centre of Venice – the most famous lagoon of the world - is facing a paradox that is paradigmatic of a crisis that the entire Europe is living17. According to a recent Vision paper, 170,000 inhabitants used to live there in the early fifties; today the figure has shrunk to less than 50,000, and it can be estimated that, on average, approximately 32,000 people sleep in Venice (adding residents, tourists, and students)18. This means that, in theory, 26% of its houses are not used. Yet, the prices for renting (or buying) are amongst the most expensive in Europe. The paradox points to a much-debated problem of "affordability" which is, indeed, a question of adaptation and reuse of real estate that had been abandoned because of high water and that the MOSE (the gigantic infrastructure built to protect the city from flood makes possible), obsolescence and low energy efficiency, market failures that makes demand and supply efficiently matched and investments feasible. Housing is a question where sustainability, energy, and affordability come together in a way that brings the entire climate change agenda much closer to the needs of everybody.

This PSSG aims to develop a practical project that brings these elements together. Iuav will work on feasible retrofit and adaptation strategies for Venetian building types, while Ca' Foscari will focus on housing models, economic viability, and governance tools that could support implementation. The goal is to produce a concrete that shows how Venice can combine affordable housing, climate resilience, and sustainable retrofitting in a realistic, replicable way.

Introduction by: **Enrica De Cian** (Professor at Ca' Foscari and Senior Scientist CMCC and Iuav), **Francesco Musco** (Professor of Urban Planning and Director of Research at the Iuav), **Luca Velo** (Iuav)

Amongst the discussants of the PSSG paper: **Thibault Muzergues** (Political Director at Shared Ground), **Rocco Steffenoni** (Head of Local Energy Infrastructure – Engie), **Cristian Matti** (Sustainability and innovation policy expert at European Commission Joint Research Centre), **Jules Pipe** (Deputy Mayor of London for Planning, Regeneration and Skills).

Chair: **Andrea Gori** (CEO, Illuminem)

Rapporteurs: **Students** from Ca' Foscari and Iuav

PSSG 3 **BEYOND DIFFERENTIATION: THE ROBOTIZED SELECTOR AND THE FUTURE OF WASTE**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AMSA

PSSG WITH TUTOR AND STUDENTS BOCCONI/ POLIMI IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AMSA

Introduction: **Marcello Milani** (CEO AMSA) and **Giovanni Dotelli** (Full Professor of Materials Science and Technology at Polimi)

Amongst the discussants of the PSSG paper: **Caroline Chal** (Head of International Relations, Syctom), **Stéphanie Cau** (Chief Communication, Sustainability & Public Affairs, Suez), **Andrea Razzini** (Direttore Generale, Gruppo VERITAS), **Riccardo Leonardi** (CEO ReLearn), **Nicolas Buchoud** (Fellow at Global Solutions Initiative), **Julia Paletta** (Head of Ocean Energy Pathway), **Riccardo Parrini** (CEO NEST)

Chair: **Annalisa Piras** (Journalist and Movie maker)

Rapporteurs: **Connor Van Heulen** (Student of Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi/ Polimi); **Jule Franziska Jessen** (Student of Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi/ Polimi); **Gabriele Coppa** (Student of Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi/ Polimi); **Gabriele Ghilotti** (Student of Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi/ Polimi); **Mathieu Camille Lionel Echevin** (Student of Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi/ Polimi); **Edoardo Pietro Sibilla** (Student of Transformative Sustainability at Bocconi/ Polimi).

18:15 - 19:45 **THE MOBILITY OF THE FUTURE. BETWEEN SCIENCE FICTION BECOMING TRUE AND INERTIA HOLDING US BACK. PRESENTATION OF A BCG – VISION PAPER WITH**

Giuseppe Collino (BCG) – **Francesco Grillo** (Vision) – **Maria Grazia Davino** (BYD) and **Laura Hood** (The Conversation)

19:45 ***Dinner***

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER

Morning

9:30 - 9:45 **INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND DAY**

Gabriele Dell'Anno (Vision Think Tank), **Alexandra Borchardt** (Co Director Climate Research Explorer Program at Constructive Institute and Senior Research Associate at Reuters Institute at Oxford University)

9:45 - 10:30 **INTERVIEW IBRAHIMA CHEIKH DIONG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FUND FOR RESPONDING TO LOSS AND DAMAGE – FEEDBACK TO A PROPOSAL FROM VISION & McKINSEY**

The Fund for responding to Loss and Damage is most likely one of the greatest achievements of the last COPs. In addition, the Fund is pioneering new methods for fine-tuning its instruments and becoming an interesting case for new forms of global governance.

And yet the resources are still below the needs to which the Fund will try to provide an answer. A paper from Vision and McKinsey provides few ideas to fill the gap and a vision that may turn the challenge into a strategic opportunity. The chance is to have the Fund as the global coordinator of locally conceived plans to manage the risks from climate.

10:40 - 11:40 **PLENARY 1**

INSURANCE AT A STRATEGIC CROSSROAD: CLIMATE UNPREDICTABILITY, NEW PRODUCTS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AS A TRIGGER OF PERSONALIZED RISK MANAGEMENT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AXA

50' Panel + 10' Q&A

Two disruptions are reshaping the foundations of the insurance industry. On one hand, climate is making forecasts based on the past much more complex. On the other hand, artificial intelligence is promoting individualized risk management, with the potential to completely change the nature of insurance as a business that has focused on pooling and mutualizing risks.

As the probability of extreme weather events increases and so, thus, the average loss that such events produce, entire areas of both developed and developing countries become less insurable. Recent discussions at COP30 and UNEP's latest calls for action underline a clear message: safeguarding insurability requires stronger prevention, broader resilience, and shared responsibility across society. Today, the challenge is not only quantifying rising risks but also ensuring that households, businesses, and public systems can withstand them. Adaptation infrastructure, early warning systems, resilient supply chains, and nature-based solutions are becoming essential to limit losses before they occur. Yet funding gaps and uneven preparedness continue to widen the climate protection gap. AI can be a solution, yet it poses a challenge that may require a reinvention of insurance itself.

This panel will explore how insurers and reinsurers can respond to this shifting landscape by rethinking adaptation investment and driving risk-reduction measures. It will also examine how public–private collaboration can help keep climate risks insurable and maintain accessible protection in a world undergoing rapid environmental and technological change. The evolution of new products (parametric insurances) will also be explored.

What is at stake is not just about making a certain category of risks insurable but also about enabling a transformation which has to do with both private (insurance) and public means.

The session will also explore the possibility that insurance may partner with the "fund for loss and damage" (as for the paper that Vision and McKinsey produced for the conference). The vision is that such a partnership may transform the Fund into the pivot for globally coordinating local strategies for adaptation to climate change.

Introduction: **Martin Powell** (Head of Sustainability AXA)

Discussants: **Piero Gancia** (Co-Leader Global P&C Insurance Practice, McKinsey), **Bruno Burlon** (Key Account Manager Southern Europe, Swiss Re), **Gianfranco Pellegrino** (Director, AXA Luiss Lab on Climate Change, Risk and Justice), **Daniele Franco** (Scientific Director Fondazione Giorgio Cini and Former Italy's Minister for Economics and Finance), **Dario Mangilli** (Head of Sustainability at IMPact SGR SpA), **Ibrahima Cheikh Diong** (Managing Director Fund for Loss and Damage).

Chair: Pilita Clark (Environment Editor, FT)

11:40 - 12:40 **PLENARY 2**

FROM AI'S ENERGY CHALLENGE TO CLIMATE INTELLIGENCE: CAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROVE ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VALUE BY TURNING COMPUTING POWER INTO CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND REAL-WORLD IMPACT

50' Panel + 10' Q&A

Artificial intelligence is becoming a new layer of global infrastructure. Yet its rapid expansion also exposes a strategic tension: the same technologies that can accelerate climate science, energy efficiency and industrial optimization also require growing amounts of power, cooling capacity and grid readiness.

This plenary will address that tension directly. It will ask how the AI industry can move from defending its footprint to demonstrating its value in the climate transition. With NVIDIA bringing to the debate its experience in accelerated computing, advanced chips and AI infrastructure, the discussion will explore how more efficient architectures, responsible model design, renewable energy procurement and smarter data-center operations can reduce the environmental intensity of AI.

But the session will go further: it will examine how AI can become a practical tool for mitigation and adaptation, from higher-resolution climate and weather modelling to grid management, early warning systems infrastructure resilience, industrial decarbonization and better decision-making for governments and companies.

The central question is whether artificial intelligence can become not only compatible with a decarbonizing world, but essential to navigating it. Climate change may be the clearest test of AI's real economic and social value: turning computing power into resilience, efficiency, scientific insight and measurable public benefit.

Discussants: **Jean Pierre Kempeneers** (former Dutch Ambassador and Board member of Nexperia), **Nicola Villa** (Member of the Global Futures Council at World Economic Forum, and Former Executive Vice President for Strategic Growth at Mastercard), **Mario Mariniello** (Bruegel Non resident Fellow), **Chaitanya Giri** (Fellow at ORF's Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology, Mumbai), **Andrew Wickoff** (EUI, Former Director of the Directorate for Science & Technology at OECD), **Celine Caira** (Economist & Policy Analyst at the OECD, Lead on AI and the Environment), **Laura Cozzi** (Director of Sustainability, Technology and Outlooks at the International Energy Agency).

Chair: **Barbara Carfagna** (RAI)

OR

CLOUD, AI AND THE CLIMATE TRANSITION: TURNING AI'S ENERGY CHALLENGE INTO EFFICIENCY, RESILIENCE AND MEASURABLE CLIMATE VALUE

50' Panel + 10' Q&A

Artificial intelligence is no longer only a software revolution: it is becoming a new layer of physical infrastructure, built on cloud capacity, data centers, energy, water, networks and advanced chips. This creates a strategic tension. The same infrastructure that enables generative AI at scale also places growing pressure on power systems and local resources. The challenge is therefore not whether AI should expand, but how it can expand responsibly while proving its value for the climate transition.

This plenary will explore how cloud infrastructure can turn AI's energy challenge into a platform for climate intelligence. With Amazon bringing to the debate its experience in scalable cloud infrastructure, data-center efficiency and digital tools for sustainability, the discussion will address how more efficient design, carbon-free energy procurement, water stewardship, custom AI chips, workload optimization and transparent carbon measurement can reduce the environmental intensity of digital growth.

At the same time, the session will examine how AI can help companies, cities and public institutions act on climate: optimizing energy use, improving forecasting, supporting resilient grids, accelerating carbon accounting, reducing inefficiencies across logistics and buildings, and enabling scalable tools for mitigation and adaptation.

The central question is whether AI can move beyond hype by delivering measurable climate value. If digital infrastructure becomes more efficient, transparent and useful to the real economy, AI can become not just compatible with decarbonization, but one of its practical engines.

Discussants: **Uljan Sharka** (CEO Domyn), **Jean Pierre Kempeneers** (former Dutch Ambassador and Board member of Nexperia)**, Nicola Villa** (Member of the Global Futures Council at World Economic Forum, and Former Executive Vice President for Strategic Growth at Mastercard), **Mario Mariniello** (Bruegel Non-resident Fellow)**, Chaitanya Giri** (Fellow at ORF's Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology, Mumbai), **Andrew Wickoff** (EUI, Former Director of the Directorate for Science & Technology at OECD), **Celine Caira (**Economist & Policy Analyst at the OECD, Lead on AI and the Environment), **Laura Cozzi** (Director of Sustainability, Technology and Outlooks at the International Energy Agency), **Franco Spicciariello** (AWS) , **Mattero Bassi** (Amazon)

Chair: **Jan Piotrowski** (Finance and Economic Editor at The Economist)

12:45 - 14:15 ***Lunch***

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER

Afternoon

14:25 – 14:30 **INTRODUCTION TO THE AFTERNOON**

Flavia Piras (Vision Think Tank), **Alexandra Borchardt** (Co-Director Climate Research Explorer Program at Constructive Institute and Senior Research Associate at Reuters Institute at Oxford University)

14:30 – 16:00 **SECOND PROBLEM SETTING-SOLVING BREAKOUT SESSIONS: GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE**

One of the Conference's distinctiveness is the problem-setting/ solving groups. They offer a space for crafting possible solutions. The fifth edition of the Conference envisages two rounds of such activities: the first on Thursday, 15th, in the afternoon, and the second on Friday, 16th, in the afternoon.

They are prepared by six groups of PhD candidates and professors/ tutors (at Bocconi, Polimi, Ca' Foscari, LUISS, SDA Bocconi) before the event. The groups will be framed around different trade-offs/puzzles related to climate change. Each group will first try to better define the terms of the trade-off and then generate possible solutions. The Conference will respond to these proposals to better operationalize them.

The three PSSGs envisaged on Friday will run in parallel. All participants will be asked to join one of the three. The six groups will report on Saturday's work and will directly feed the Dolomite Manifesto.

14.30 – 14:45 **INTRODUCTION TO THE 3 GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE PROBLEM SETTING/ SOLVING GROUPS (PSSGS) FROM EACH INTRODUCER (5 minutes each)**

14:45 – 16:00 PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS

PSSG 4 **REFORMING COP**

PSSG WITH TUTOR AND STUDENTS AT EUI

The Mutirão Decision, the final political draft of COP30, remains lackluster and vague, making no explicit mention of fossil fuels and ignoring calls from President Lula and more than eighty countries for a clear roadmap to phase out fossil fuels and halt deforestation. Instead, it simply reiterates the trajectory outlined in Dubai, vaguely referring to a "transition away" from coal, oil, and gas to be achieved by 2050, without concrete mechanisms or accountability.

"The barely adequate result achieved in the final hours of COP30 keeps the Paris Agreement alive but highlights the resounding failure of developed countries to meet their commitments under that agreement," commented Rachel Cleetus of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

The outcome in Belém exposed structural limits of the COP process: slow decision-making, weak accountability, persistent North–South divisions, and the constraints of the unanimity principle. Strengthening the COP architecture may require moving beyond strict unanimity, introducing decision-making mechanisms that allow progress even amid disagreements, while safeguarding the voices of vulnerable countries, indigenous communities, and key ecological territories. Linking negotiation outcomes to funding, technical support, and local implementation can transform symbolic agreements into effective climate action.

Taking inspiration from three ideas outlined by a recent Vision position paper19, the Problem Setting/ Solving Group developed a practical framework for reforming the COP process: connecting negotiation design with enforcement, inclusivity, and tangible climate outcomes, it aims to create scalable models for global climate governance capable of delivering real, measurable, and just progress.

Introduction by: Simone Borghesi (UNISI and EUI), **Kalypso Nicolaidis** (Chair in Global Affairs at the School of Transnational Governance (EUI), **Jacopo Bencini** (EUI) **and Johanna Pandera** (EUI and Energii Forum)

Amongst the discussants of the PSSG paper: Enrico Giovannini (Former Italian Minister of Infrastructures and Transports, and Professor of Economic and Statistics at the University of Rome "Tor Vergata"), **Izabella Teixeira** (Former Minister of Environment of Brazil and Member of the International Advisory Board at CEBRI), **Nicolás Buchoud** (Fellow at the Global Solutions Initiative),

Benito Muller (Managing Director at the Environmental Change Institute at Oxford Climate Policy), **Liliana Śmiech** (Chairwoman of the Foundation Council at Warsaw Institute and Director General for International Affairs at Ludovika University of Public Service); **Tahyné Kovács** (Associate Professor of the Department of Environmental and Competition Law at Pázmány Péter Catholic University), **Yangyang Li** (Macao International Carbon Emission Exchange and Guangdong Dong University); **Márk Vargha** (Advisor, Directorate General for International Affairs, Ludovika University of Public Service), **Eli Hadzhieva** (Director of the Brussels-based think tank Dialogue for Europe)

Chair: **Stephan Kahn** (Chairman at the Conversation)

Rapporteurs: **Students** from EUI

PSSG 5 MANAGING GEOENGINEERING: RISK, RESPONSIBILITY AND GLOBAL OVERSIGHT

PSSG WITH TUTOR AND STUDENTS FROM LUISS

Geoengineering raises profound questions at the intersection of justice, geopolitics, and climate strategy. Decisions about whether and how to intervene in Earth's climate bring to the forefront issues of legitimacy, unequal exposure to risk, and the vulnerability of communities that may bear the consequences without having shaped the choice. In a context marked by diplomatic fragmentation, even small-scale experiments can become sources of tension, with the potential to trigger disputes over authority, territorial impacts, or the strategic use of climate modification.

At the same time, the mere availability of these technologies reshapes the political landscape of mitigation, tempting governments to postpone emission cuts in the expectation of future technological fixes. Ensuring that experimentation proceeds responsibly, therefore, requires clear boundaries, transparent criteria, and shared procedures for risk assessment, monitoring, and accountability - especially when potential effects extend beyond national jurisdictions.

Fostering a space in which these dilemmas can be examined collectively is essential for identifying governance pathways that safeguard equity, prevent geopolitical escalation, and reinforce, rather than weaken, global commitments to climate mitigation.

Introduction by: **Silvia Menegazzi** (Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, LUISS Guido Carli) and **Yelena Yermakova** (Postdoctoral Researcher on ethics of ocean geoengineering at LUISS Guido Carli University)

Amongst the discussants of the PSSG paper: **Gianfranco Pellegrino** (Director, AXA Luiss Lab on Climate Change, Risk and Justice), **Chaitanya Giri** (Fellow at ORF's Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology, Mumbai).

Chair: **Oliver Morton** (Briefing Editors at The Economist)

Rapporteurs: **Students** from LUISS

PSSG 6 DEVELOPING RENEWABLES IN AFRICA: GRIDS, FINANCE AND DISTRIBUTED SOLUTIONS (FOCUS ON SOLAR)

PSSG WITH TUTOR AND STUDENTS SDA BOCCONI

Africa has one of the greatest geographic advantages for generating renewable energy. Yet it receives under 2% of global clean-energy investment. Today, over 600 million people still lack access to electricity, and the IEA estimates that achieving full access will require around USD 15 billion per year in new power and grid infrastructure. The main barriers are weak grids, limited interconnections, high financing costs, and uneven regulation. Africa is also a strong demonstration that energy transition is not just about mitigation: it is about development, enabling better food production, and literally saving hundreds of thousands of people who do not have access to basic electricity-powered services (for instance, in healthcare).

There are positive signs: Kenya, Morocco, and South Africa are expanding utility-scale renewables, and nearly 700,000 people gained electricity through renewable mini-grids between 2016 and 2019. For many rural areas, mini-grids and off-grid solar remain the fastest and most realistic path to electrification.

This leads to a central question: how can African countries scale renewables - both large-scale and distributed - while addressing grid constraints, financing challenges, and regulatory fragmentation?

The PSSG will examine grid expansion, new financing models, distributed systems, regional power pools, and regulatory frameworks to outline practical, investment-ready solutions for accelerating renewable deployment across the continent.

Introduction by: **Matteo Castelnuovo** (SDA Bocconi) **or Valentina Bosetti** (SDA Bocconi)

Amongst the Discussants of the PSSG paper: **Julia Paletta** (Head of Ocean Energy Pathway in Brazil), **Carolina Nizza** (Head of Sustainability, Statkraft), **Lisa Hehenberger** (Associate Professor & Director, ESADE Center for Social Impact; Chief Impact Advisor, Oryx Impact), **Jesse Scott** (EUI, Florence School of Government, Visiting Scholar)

Chair: **Andrea Gori** (Illuminem)

Rapporteurs: **Anna D'Este** (SDA Bocconi); **Melody Dean** (Master's Student in Sustainability Management, SDA Bocconi); **Mathilde De Pins** (Master's Student in Sustainability Management, SDA Bocconi); **Shrikant Bacha** (Master's Student in Sustainability Management, SDA Bocconi); **Federico Puteri** (Master's Student in Sustainability Management, SDA Bocconi); **Rithika Clifford** (Master's Student in Sustainability Management, SDA Bocconi); **Katrina Davis** (Master's Student in Sustainability Management, SDA Bocconi).

16:00 - 16:20 ***Coffee Break***

16:20 - 17:20 **PLENARY 3**

MATERIALS AS A COMPETITIVE FRONTIER: HOW CO INNOVATION AND ADVANCED POLYMERS ARE RESHAPING FASHION, PACKAGING AND INDUSTRY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VENISIA

50' Panel + 10' Q&A

Advanced materials are at the intersection of sustainability, industrial competitiveness, and innovation – and few sectors illustrate this more vividly than fashion and packaging. The global polymer market is undergoing a structural shift: while commodity segments stagnate, high complexity segments such as biopolymers, functional advanced materials, and chemical recycling are growing rapidly. European regulation (SUP Directive, PPWR, Advanced Materials Act) is accelerating this transition, creating both pressure and opportunity for industrial players.

VeniSIA – the Deep Tech Venture Builder of Ca' Foscari University of Venice – is implementing an Open Innovation programme focused on advanced materials. The programme engages industrial districts in North East Italy (including fashion and sportswear), scouts deep-tech startups, and activates Proof-of-Concept partnerships aimed at positioning Versalis as the privileged innovation partner in the Italian North-East ecosystem. Strategic focus areas include high-performance functional materials, smart recycling and multi-material traceability, and AI-driven R&D cycle compression (from molecular simulation to generative polymer design).

This panel will explore the question: Can Italy's fashion and manufacturing districts turn the smart materials revolution into a global competitive advantage – and how can co-innovation models between research institutions, corporates, and deep-tech startups accelerate this transformation while meeting sustainability goals?

Introduction: **Maria Claudia Pignata** (VeniSIA, Ca' Foscari), **Carlo Bagnoli** (Full Professor, Research Institute of Innovation Management, Ca' Foscari), **Cucinelli**

OR

SMALL MODULAR REACTORS (SMRs) AT THE EDGE OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION: RELIABLE LOW-CARBON POWER, INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS AND THE TEST OF TECHNOLOGICAL CREDIBILITY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EDF

50' Panel + 10' Q&A

Small Modular Reactors are moving from technical debate to strategic choice. As electricity demand rises, industrial systems decarbonize and grids integrate larger shares of renewables, the need for reliable, low-carbon and flexible power is becoming increasingly urgent. SMRs promise a new generation of nuclear solutions: smaller, potentially faster to deploy, more adaptable to industrial sites and capable of supporting electricity, heat, hydrogen and other energy intensive uses.

This plenary will examine whether SMRs can genuinely become a game-changer for the energy transition, or whether expectations are running ahead of technological, regulatory and financial reality. EDF's work on SMRs and low carbon energy systems makes this debate especially relevant, as the discussion will focus on how proven technologies, safety standards, licensing processes, supply chains and public acceptance can determine whether modular nuclear becomes scalable and bankable.

The session will also address the trade-offs that remain unresolved: capital costs, regulatory harmonization, waste management, construction timelines and the relationship between nuclear and renewables in a decarbonized energy mix.

The central question is not whether SMRs are promising, but under what conditions they can become credible infrastructure for climate neutrality, energy security and industrial competitiveness.

Introduction: **Cristophe Grudler** (Coordinator of the Commission for the Industry, Research and Energy at the European Parliament).

Discussants: **Rohinton P. Medhora** (Professor of Practice, McGill University, Founder of Digital Transformations for Health Lab and Distinguished fellow of the Centre for International Governance Innovation), **Gianfranco Brunetti** (Head of Unit "Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Waste and Decommissioning" at the European Commission), **Barbara Kolm** (Member of Austria's National Council with the Freedom Party and former director of the Von Hayek Institute).

Chair: **Matt Steinglass** (The Economist)

17:30 - 18:30 **PLENARY 4**

BEYOND THE HORIZON - OFFSHORE WIND AND THE NEXT CHAPTER OF GLOBAL ELECTRIFICATION

50' PANEL + 10' Q&A

The global energy transition has entered a decisive implementation phase. At the Bonn Climate Conference in 2026, the COP31 Presidency launched the "35 by 35" initiative, calling on the international community to increase electricity's share of global final energy consumption from just over 20% today to 35% by 2035. The initiative reflects a growing international consensus that deep electrification is no longer simply an outcome of decarbonisation—it is the primary pathway for achieving climate goals, strengthening energy security and enabling sustainable economic growth. As electricity demand accelerates across transport, industry, hydrogen production, digital infrastructure and artificial intelligence, the world will require unprecedented volumes of reliable, affordable and clean electricity. Offshore wind has emerged as one of the few renewable technologies capable of delivering that scale of generation while supporting resilient and diversified power systems. Meeting this ambition will require an extraordinary acceleration in offshore wind deployment. According to GWEC, the world is expected to add around one terawatt of new wind capacity between 2025 and 2030, with offshore wind becoming an increasingly important contributor as fixed-bottom projects continue to expand and floating wind moves towards industrial-scale deployment.

Looking further ahead, IRENA projects offshore wind capacity will need to grow from today's fleet to well above 500 GW by 2030 and approximately 2.5 TW by 2050 to support a net-zero global energy system. Achieving this scale will depend not only on technological innovation, but also on coordinated investment in grids, ports, supply chains, manufacturing, workforce development and long term policy certainty—particularly in emerging markets where some of the world's best offshore wind resources remain largely untapped. This panel will explore how international collaboration can accelerate this next phase of offshore wind deployment by sharing experience, reducing investment risks and building common approaches across regions. From marine spatial planning and integrated ocean governance to nature-positive development, coexistence with fisheries and maritime industries, and the opportunities presented by the blue economy, successful offshore wind deployment increasingly depends on balancing climate ambition with biodiversity conservation and inclusive economic development. Bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, financial institutions and international organisations, the discussion will examine how knowledge sharing, strategic partnerships and coordinated planning can help both mature and emerging markets transform offshore wind into a cornerstone of a resilient, competitive and sustainable global energy future.

Introduction: **Julia Paletta** (Head of Ocean Energy Pathway in Brazil) and **Rafael Palhares** (OW Business Development Director)

Discussants: **Rocco Steffenoni** (Head of Legal Local Energy Infrastructure at ENGIE), **IRENA** (International Renewable Energy Agency), **Cliff Prior** (CEO at the Global Steering Group for Impact Investment), **Luca D'Agnese** (CdP); **Antonio Volpin**

Chair: **Victor Mallet** (Senior Editor at Financial Times)

17:30 - 18:30 **PLENARY 5**

THE PARADOX OF AGRIFOOD: FROM COMPLIANCE TO REGENERATION - CORPORATE STRATEGIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAINS.

50' Panel + 10' Q&A

Food supply chains connect billions of consumers to producers worldwide — and few large food companies are as exposed to climate risk in their own backyard as Italy's pasta makers, whose core input, durum wheat, has already been hit by drought and heat stress at home. This is the paradox at the heart of agrifood: an industry that is both a meaningful contributor to emissions and among the most immediately and physically vulnerable to the crisis it contributes to.

The response increasingly being tested by large food companies is not simply tighter compliance and due diligence, but a shift toward regenerative agriculture as a business model — moving from auditing suppliers against a standard to co-investing with farmers in soil health, biodiversity, and water resilience, on the logic that a more resilient supply chain is also a more secure and cost-competitive one. This panel will use Barilla's experience — its multi-crop regenerative sourcing targets, its farmer-partnership charters, and its parallel investments in packaging circularity and renewable energy across its plants — as a working case study, alongside other corporate perspectives, to ask: can regenerative and circular models scale fast enough to outrun the climate risk to the crops themselves, and can that shift be replicated across a fragmented, small holder-heavy global supply base?

Amongst the Discussants: **Cristina Scocchia** (AD Illy), **Massimiliano Giansanti** (President of COPA the Committee of the European Agrifood Organizations – COPA – and of Confagricoltura, President of Agricola Giansanti and Managing Director Di Muzio Farm), **Paolo Cuccia** (President Artibrune), **Giovanni Pomella** (AD Lactalis); **Angelo Mastrolla** (Presidente di New Princes and Plasmon); **Danone**;

Riccardo Ricci Curbastro (President Equalitas), **Thibault Muzergues** (Political Director at Shared Ground), **Nicolas Buchoud** (Fellow at Global Solutions Initiative), **Marion Jansen** (Director of Trade and Agriculture at the OECD).

Chair: Susannah Savage (FT's commodities correspondent, covering agriculture, agricultural commodities, food and Agri companies, and farm/food policy).

20:00 ***Dinner***

SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER

Morning

9:15 - 9:25 **INTRODUCTION TO THE FINAL DAY**

Celine El Khoury (Vision Think Tank and Bocconi), **Alexandra Borchardt** (Co-Director Climate Research Explorer Program at Constructive Institute and Senior Research Associate at Reuters Institute at Oxford University)

9:30 - 10:00 **KEYNOTE SPEECH - HOW TO ACCOUNT FOR THE FUTURE?**

Colin Mayer (Oxford) **or Antara Haldar** (Cambridge)

10:05 - 10:50 **THE MOSE AND THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS: THE PARADIGM OF THE OLDEST CITY OF THE FUTURE**

The Ross Sea glaciers and the MOSE barrier share an invisible thread: both are representations of the tipping points that should worry us the most. This session moves from the global to the local, using Venice as a paradigmatic story – a city that has chosen to adapt rather than surrender. It will connect the science of Antarctic ice dynamics and global tipping cascades to the concrete experience of the Venetian lagoon: the physical impacts, the MOSE's engineering achievement (and its limits), the preservation of artistic and cultural heritage, and the paradox of mass tourism in a city fighting for its survival. Venice is not just a case study in adaptation – it is a model (with its errors included) that cities around the world can learn from.

Introduction by: **Carlo Barbante** (Professor and Director of the Institute for the Dynamics of Environmental Processes, Ca' Foscari, National Research Council), and **Renato Brunetta** (President of Venice Sustainability Foundation)

Discussants: **Francesco Musco** (Iuav) **and Pierpaolo Campostrini** (Corila).

10:55 - 11:55 **PSSGS GROUPS PROPOSALS PRESENTATION - NAVIGATING THE KEY TRADE-OFFS OF THE TRANSITION**

One representative from each of the six PSSGs will open the session with a concise presentation of the key proposals and outcomes developed in their group. The Chair will then lead a round-table discussion to compare the different initiatives and explore:

- shared priorities that emerge across the projects,
- common trade-offs and practical implementation challenges,
- governance choices needed to advance solutions.

To enrich the conversation, additional discussants will join the panel, bringing external expertise and cross-cutting perspectives (e.g. governance specialists, policymakers, stakeholder practitioners). An exchange with the audience will conclude the session.

Discussants: **Representatives of the six PSSGs**

Chair: **Jan Piotrowski** (Finance and Economic Editor at The Economist)

12:00 - 12:20 **MARCO POLO AWARD FOR RISING GLOBAL AWARENESS**

With **Renato Brunetta,** President of Venice Sustainability Foundation, and **Simone Venturini**, Mayor of Venice

Nominees: **Mary Robinson** (Chair of the Elders and Former President of Ireland), **Christiana Figueres** (Chair and Founder of Global Optimism and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), **Bono** (Lead Singer at U2, ONE Campaign), **Brunello Cucinelli** (Executive Chairman of Bruno Cucinelli and Humanist), **Kim Campbell** (Former Prime Minister of Canada)

Chair: **Alexandra Borchardt** (Co-Director Climate Research Explorer Program at Constructive Institute and Senior Research Associate at Reuters Institute at Oxford University)

12:25 – 13:10 **PRESENTATION TO MEDIA AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE DRAFT DOLOMITE MANIFESTO**

Introduction: **Francesco Grillo** (Bocconi and Visiting Fellow at the EUI), **Yesi Xu** (Vision, EUI and IE and Guangdong University) and **Alexandra Borchardt** (Co-Director Climate Research Explorer Program at Constructive Institute and Senior Research Associate at Reuters Institute at Oxford University)

Discussants: **Izabella Teixeira** (Former Minister of Environment of Brazil and Member of the International Advisory Board at CEBRI), **Ibrahima Cheikh Diong** (Executive director of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage), **Letizia D'Abbondanza** (Chief Customer & External Communication Officer, AXA Italia, Founding Partner of the Conference), **Andrew Wickoff** (EUI, Former Director of the Directorate for Science & Technology at OECD), **Francesco Perrini** (Associate Dean for Sustainability at SDA Bocconi School of Management, Full Professor of Management at the "Management & Technology" Department at Bocconi University), **Longyue Zhao** (Dean of the School of International Governance Innovation at Guangdong University of Foreign), **Maria Joao Rodrigues** (Chair of the Board of Re imagine Europa, Former President of FEPS and Former Portugal's Minister).

Chair: **Giacomo Talignani** (Green & Blue - GEDI)

13:15 – 13:35 **MARCO POLO AWARD CEREMONY – REDISCOVERING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH SPORT**

With **Antonella Baldino** (MD Istituto per il Credito Sportivo e Culturale) and **Alberto Stefani** (Governatore Regione Veneto)

A new annual recognition to excellence in sport, celebrating the link between sport/exploration/adventure, and the fight for making human civilisation sustainable.

With **Yemen Crippa**

Chair: **Andrea Geri** (President at Illuminem)

13:45 - 14:30 ***Light lunch***