VISION DOLOMITE CONFERENCE

ON GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

THIRD EDITION

17-19 OCTOBER 2024

DOLOMITES

VISION CONFERENCE
CLIMATE CHANGE

THIRD EDITION

VISION DOLOMITE CONFERENCE

REDESIGN GREEN POLICIES IN A POST 1.5 C WORLD

TRENTO

VISION
CRAFTING THE FUTURE

SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS

POLITECNICO MILANO 1863

Università Bocconi MILANO

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Creating Innovative Solutions for a Sustainable Future

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Chapter Zero Italy
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THE CONCEPT OF THE DOLOMITE CONFERENCE

AN OVERVIEW

Only one year has passed since the Second edition of **The Dolomite Conference on "Global Governance of Climate Change"**, yet the world we are living in today, has changed profoundly. As the words of UN secretary general António Guterres ring true "*at a time when we should be accelerating action, there is backtracking*", the paradox is that as data and science are painting an **increasingly alarming picture** the public opinion and political resolve to act is waning.

Global public outrage over 'green policies' has dominated the EU elections, while countries such as the United Kingdom seem to have regressed on their previous climate promises, and this has left many to wonder whether we are suffering from **"climate fatigue".**[1] In fact, across several European countries farmers have taken to the streets to express their anger on the unfair price they must pay because of this **green transition** headlined by the EU Green Deal, sparking political change in countries such as the Netherlands and France. In countries like India and China the trajectory is opposite, with citizens growing even more anxious about the devastating effects of drought and floods.

Part of the public opinions are scared by the transformation that sustainability will require, and yet the first months of 2024 were the hottest ones on record, with average global temperatures 1,45 degrees above the previous record set in 1990. Indeed, we are moving dangerously **close to the red line (1,5 degrees)** beyond which scientists have repeatedly warned of irreversible damage. Most likely we are already navigating in the "unchartered waters" and this will strongly call not just for much more money; but for entirely new intellectual instruments to understand complexity; radically reformed governance methods; a renewed determination to survive as a species.

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[1] See on this Vision's article on "CLIMATE FATIGUE" at https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/nov/08/climate-fatigue-europe-voters-green-costs;

The **3rd edition** of *The Dolomite Conference on "Global Governance of Climate Change"* aims to help jumpstart a change in global dialogue on climate crisis and act **as a catalyst for new ideas** and **offer solutions** to 'the single biggest health threat facing humanity'.[2]

The question that the 2024 Dolomite Conference seeks to address is therefore: **is there a way to reengage citizens from all generations, farmers, industry leaders and governments in a race against time, to help prevent climate doom whilst ensuring a just and equitable transition for all?** Is there a method to transform what is still a "zero sum game" (as for the title of the first edition of the Dolomite Conference) into a win-win strategy that leaves everybody is better off and nobody left behind? Can we transform the huge cost of such transformation into a portfolio of investments with enough and clear economic and social return to be entice private investors and reduce the taxpayer burden? Can we redesign climate policies and the institutions that will implement them to become more inclusive and productive?

This Conference on Climate Change is one of three cornerstone projects led by the Think Tank Vision including **The Siena Conference on "Europe of the Future"** in partnership with the European University Institute, University of Siena and the Institute for European Policy Making at Bocconi, and **a new conference on the "governance of Artificial Intelligence",** in collaboration with USC and *The Conversation,* set to take place in Los Angeles. The ultimate ambition of this network of events is **to become a "new Davos",** proposing real solutions to some of the greatest political, managerial, communication and intellectual challenges of the 21st century.

The Dolomite Conference on Climate Change is a yearly initiative promoted by **Vision Think Tank** together with **Trentino Marketing**. The scientific partners reach out many different academic domains and regions of the world: **University of Bocconi** in Milan; **Politecnico of Milan**; **CEBRI** from Rio De Janeiro, Brazil; **TERI** from New Delhi, India; **INET** from New York, USA. The founding partners are **Gruppo AXA Italia** and **Autostrada del Brennero**. Corporate partners will also be **Gruppo Dolomiti Energia**. Another new partnership is with **Chapter Zero**, the association of Non-Executive Directors, that is meant to reach out boardrooms in many other corporations. Further corporate partnership is set to be announced ahead of the conference.

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[2] United Nations: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/08/fastfacts-health.pdf;   4

Vision's primary goal is to convey **the need to start a change in the approach towards the climate crisis, now we can before we hit a limit.** This requires a radical change in the mechanisms and of the intellectual instruments we use to govern global problems (most of them conceived in a different century). The conference objective is thus to **act as a catalyzer of new ideas** (both in terms of governance and projects to pursue) and as a permanent forum to discuss and solve problems related to climate change and sustainable development. We thus intend to be involved in the decision-making processes and influence the debate. The Conference is also a pragmatic and informal occasion before the annual **UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP)**, where Vision Think Tank presents the proposals emerged at the Dolomite Conference and conveyed into the **"Dolomite Manifesto".**

The Dolomite Conference follows a particular structure that Vision successfully experimented with the previous editions as well as with the *Siena Conference on the Future of Europe,* which is a key element to achieve the goal of problem-solving. For its third edition, the structure will be reviewed so that, we will have:

- **Plenary sessions**, dedicated to a curated group of 80 participants (academics, policy makers, journalists and politicians) broadcast by our social channels and the ones of our media partners. These sessions focus on wide topics (ranging from new paradigm of mobility to the challenges for agrifood; from on how to make big events – like Olympics – sustainable to the technological gap vis-à-vis a model of distributed energy production), outlined in the concept paper prepared by Vision and its scientific partners.

- **Problem-setting / Problem-solving groups**, focused on specific issues based on a concept paper prepared by Vision's team and a **group of students** from the scientific partners (Universities) of the conference. These groups follow the *Chatham House Rule*, with the purpose of finding concrete solutions to the questions posed by the concept paper.

- **Public sessions**, open to the public and, more specifically, to the media, citizens and visitors of Trento. Here the Dolomite Manifesto will be presented to the public. We will also have several public events in Trento, focused on the specific impact of climate change on the Dolomites and on local strategies of adaptation and mitigation.

A special feature of The Dolomite Conference is the prominent involvement of **younger generations** (students from our partner Universities) throughout the whole conference – from the problem setting to the problem solving –, **the global reach** (with participants from all the main regions of the world), the presence of **big media**, as important as **policy makers**, and **companies** that are key in unleashing technological progress and blending it towards human needs.

Media partners of the 2024 edition will be **Al Jazeera** – to reach the Global South – and Italy's public broadcaster **Rai**. The sessions of last years' editions were chaired by journalists at Al Jazeera, Rai Radio UNO, The Economist, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Financial Times, Corriere della Sera, Sole 24 Ore, CNBC and many others.

Another distinctive feature of the conference is its **multidisciplinary approach**: climate change is a multifaceted challenge which needs to be addressed from different points of view, the conference intends to facilitate this debate. The second edition focused on climate change under a gender/age agenda, climate migrations (and "climate refugees"), the Middle East countries as leaders of renewables, green infrastructures, the much-needed reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions and so on.

Amongst the **2023 proposals** we envisage to further discuss and promote (at COP 29 and G20):

1. **A proposal that will make the "loss and damage" facility more politically acceptable and, thus, more likely to outreach the "places" that have already suffered or are about to suffer from climate change.**[3]
2. **A toolkit to simplify and make more effective the methods through which the COPs and the UN is establishing the goals (and the targets) that countries negotiate.**[4]
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).**[5]
4. **A simulation of the impact of the decision taken at DUBAI – COP 29.**[6]
5. **Work from scientific partners on how to "measure less and measure better" sustainability of companies and on how to increase the amount of money available for impact finance.**

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[3] The proposal called NEXT GENERATION PLANET is drafted her
https://www.thinktank.vision/en/media-en/publications/next-generation-planet;
[4] https://www.thinktank.vision/en/media-en/publications/global-governance-of-climate-change-a-toolkit;
[5] https://www.thinktank.vision/en/media-en/publications/a-reform-of-cop-three-ideas-to-kickstart-the-debate;
[6] https://www.thinktank.vision/en/media-en/publications/stocktake-of-cop28-global-stocktake;

Just like the first two editions, the 2024 edition will be **a three-day meeting (from 17th to 19th October 2024)** held in the beautiful locations of **Trento**, close to the Dolomites. The Dolomites are, in fact, one of the most famous and beautiful, territorial symbols of the fight to counter climate change in Europe. Their community and economies are strong and yet highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, but they also provide instructive cases of how smartly communities can fight back when the challenge becomes existential. In fact, the Trentino Alto Adige Region is doing so through both the application of leading-edge technologies and the social innovation typical of its local communities.

We will be joined from experts from universities, companies and the regional government who will share more about this pioneering and transformative work.

There are going to be 80-100 participants in presence, selected based on **gender, generational, national and professional balance** (policy makers, journalists, natural and social scientists, managers, entrepreneurs, influencers).

In the 2024 edition, Vision is also willing to reinforce both **the link with international institutions** (e.g. UNESCO and OECD) and with the **territory** (organizing public events, besides the usual plenaries/problem solving groups, aimed at promoting the local experience of the Dolomites).

KEY PARTICIPANTS

Some key people of the third edition: **Vibha Dhawan** (Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute); **Rohinton P. Medhora** (Chair of Governing Board Institute of New Economic Thinking, Distinguished Fellow at Centre for International Governance Innovation); **Chaitanya Giri** (Fellow, Centre for Security, Strategy & Technology, Observer Research Foundation); **Ann Florini** (Vice Chair at Climate Democracy Initiative; Vice Chiar at Economics of Mutuality Foundation; Fellow at New America); **Andrea Ribeiro Hoffmann** (Professor at the Institute of International Relations at PUC-Rio, CEBRI); **Sharmini Peries** (Editor at the Institute for New Economic Thinking); **Alexandra Borchardt** (Co-Director Climate Research Explorer Program at Constructive Institute and Senior Research Associate at Reuters Institute at Oxford University); **Letizia D'Abbondanza** (Chief Customer and External Communication Officer at Gruppo AXA Italia); **Martin Powell** (AXA Group Head of Sustainability); **Stefano Granella** (CEO Gruppo Dolomiti Energia); **Maurizio Rossini** (Director of Trentino Marketing); **Barbara Kolm** (CEO at SDG und ESG Advisory GmbH, Supervisory Board Member at Vienna Insurance Group); **Diego Cattoni** (CEO Autostrada del Brennero); **Camilla Lunelli** (Vice President Ferrari Trento); **Ernesto Seppi** (President of Consorzio Melinda); **Paulina Velasco** (Senior Vice President at Velada Consulting); **Cliff Prior** (CEO at Global Steering Group for Impact Investment); **Marcello Milani** (Managing Director AMSA); **Gioia Ghezzi** (Chairperson of ATM MILAN); **Abdul Kareem Aouir** (Al Jazeera); **Carlton Reid** (Writer for Forbes.com and WIRED.com); **Will De Freitas** (Commissioning Editor at The Conversation Media Group); **Joseph Hammond** (Writer and Africa Director of Faith for Our Planet); **Giancarlo Loquenzi** (Rai Radio UNO); **Enrico Giovannini** (Professor of Economic Statistics at University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Italian Former Minister of Labour and Social Policies); **Ennio Macchi** (Emeritus Professor at Politecnico di Milano and Advisory at Energy Dome); **Flavio Deflorian** (Professor of the University of Trento); **Alberto Bramanti** (Associate Professor at Bocconi University); **Miriam Allena** (Associate Professor at Bocconi University); **Paolo Silva** (Professor at Politecnico di Milano); **Giovanni Dotelli** (Professor at Politecnico di Milano); **Jesse Scott** (Visiting Research Fellow at Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung e.V. (DIW Berlin); Adjunct Professor teaching Policy Strategy & Influencing, Executive Leadership at Hertie School); **Mirco Tonin** (Professor of Economic Policy at the Free University of Bozen Bolzano and Director of the Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies within the Foundation Bruno Kessler); **Kurt Van Dender** (Head of the Tax Policy and Statistics Division - Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD); **Elisabetta Balzi** (Head of Unit B4 - Ocean, Seas and Waters, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission); **Alessandra Proto** (Head of OECD Trento Centre for Local Development); **Mara Nemela** (Director at Fondazione Dolomiti UNESCO); **Stefania Giannini** (Deputy Director General at UNESCO); **Maurizio Fugatti*** (President of Provincia Autonoma of Trento).

The 2024 edition wants to scale up the previous experimentations in terms of influence of the project on the international debate, the policy agenda and the size and quality of the conference's community.

THE AGENDA[7]

THURSDAY 17th
TRENTO

10.30 – 11.20   *Registration in Grand Hotel Trento and Welcome Coffee at Palazzo della Provincia (Sala Depero)*

11.20 – 11.45   **INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS**
With **Maurizio Fugatti*** (President of Provincia Autonoma of Trento)

11.45 - 12.00   **INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM**
With **Chiara Mezzogori** (Vision Think Tank), **Letizia D'Abbondanza** (Chief Customer and External Communication Officer at Gruppo AXA Italia) and **Maurizio Rossini** (Director of Trentino Marketing)

12.00   *Palazzo della Provincia (Sala Depero)*

OPENING SESSIONS

12.00 – 13.10   **A NEW APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY PARADIGM – A FEEDBACK TO VISION CONCEPT PAPER**
Introduction: Francesco Grillo (Vision Think Tank Director, Professor at Bocconi and Senior Fellow at EUI)
Discussants: Rohinton P. Medhora (Chair of Governing Board at the Institute for New Economic Thinking, Distinguished Fellow at Centre for International Governance Innovation), **Ann Florini** (Vice Chair at Climate Democracy Initiative; Vice Chiar at Economics of Mutuality Foundation; Fellow at New America), **Vibha Dhawan** (Director General at The Energy and Resources Institute), **Razan al Mubarak*** (Managing Director at Emirates Nature-WWF), **Maria João Rodrigues*** (President of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies and Former Portuguese Minister of Employment)
Chair: Rachel Dobbs* (Environment Editor at The Economist) or **Sharmini Peries** (Editor at the Institute for New Economic Thinking)

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[7] * Participants to be confirmed; D Online participants;

13.10 – 13.30   **INTRODUCTION TO THE FOUR PROBLEM-SETTING/SOLVING GROUPS FROM EACH INTRODUCER**
(5 minutes each) - The PSSGs will take place all simultaneously. The participants of the conference will be divided into each group.

The problem-setting/solving groups (PSSG) are the most creative moment of the Conference. They offer a space for collaboration among young dynamic students, knowledgeable professors and diverse conference participants.

They are prepared by four groups of students and professors/tutors interacting with some of the participants/opinion leaders joining the conference in the months before the event. Each group will distribute a paper before the event. The groups are framed around four different trade-offs/puzzles related to climate change.

All participants will be asked to choose one of the four groups to join. The format will be following a problem-setting/solving debate with each participant briefly commenting or elaborating further on the paper. The four groups will report the work done on Saturday and will directly feed the Dolomite Manifesto.

13.30 – 14.30   *Lunch at Grand Hotel Trento*

PROBLEM-SETTING/SOLVING GROUPS SESSIONS AT GRAND HOTEL TRENTO

14.30 – 16.00   **GROUP 1.**
HOW TO MANAGE THE TRADE OFF BETWEEN LIMITED PUBLIC MONEY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS? THE CASE OF WASTE INTO MEGA CITIES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD
When scrutinizing the efficacy of existing waste management infrastructures in megacities in the developing world, we often overlook socioeconomic and environmental trade-offs. Several unique challenges arise when attempting to address this problem, which this PSSG will discuss: what unique challenges do these megacities in the developing world face? Where does the waste come from and go to? What impact does the large investment in waste management have on other social factors?

Mega cities in the developing world are experiencing urbanization that has never been seen before with rapid population growth and urbanization the main pressures affecting the social and environment. The demands on healthcare, education, and basic infrastructure are always short-term compared to the investments in sustainable waste management. Is there a technology that can solve the problem in an affordable way (off grid toilet as the one experimented by the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation)? How do we evaluate funding allocation strategies for each city, given their different stages of development and infrastructure? What is the role of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in filling in the funding gaps? How can such collaborations be structured to ensure equitable access to waste management services across all socio-economic groups? This problem-solving group will debate the trade-off involved in prioritizing waste management initiatives within the constraints of scarce public resources.

Introduction: Alberto Bramanti (Associate Professor at Bocconi University)

Amongst the discussants of the PSSG paper: Vibha Dhawan (Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute), **Rossella Miccio** (President of Emergency ONG ONLUS), **Cliff Prior** (CEO at Global Steering Group for Impact Investment), **Aidah Nakku** (Climate and Gender Justice Advocate), **Koert Debeuf** (Distinguished Adjunct Professor at Brussels School of Governance)

Chair: Joseph Hammond (Writer and Africa Director of Faith for Our Planet)

Rapporteurs: Tarun Puppala, Aldo Napoletano, Magali Masri Koussa (Students from Bocconi/POLIMI)

14.30 – 16.00

GROUP 2.

IS THERE A CHOICE TO BE MADE BETWEEN OLD (FOSSIL) AND NEW (TECHNOLOGICAL) DEPENDENCIES? A MACRO "BUSINESS MODEL" ON GRIDS/ BATTERIES SO TO TRANSIT TO A DISTRIBUTED ENERGY MODEL

According to IEA, in the next 30 years, the percentage of non-fossil in primary energy supply will increase to 50%, from 20% in 2020. As the discourse around energy paradigms evolves, the dichotomy between entrenched fossil-fuel reliance and

emergent technological dependence presents a critical juncture for energy transition strategies. Currently, energy is created in a centralized manner. It is generated in power stations and then sent to consumers over long distances through large grids. The next step could be distributed energy system. But how do we tradeoff between the two models to decarbonize the world? What are the strategies to deal with the existing fossil fuel factories and develop distributed energy system in household and city level respectively? Is it possible to use carbon dioxide as the tool to fight climate change based on the storing and dispatching techniques in the batteries? Specifically, we analyze the potential of established grids and emergent battery technologies under macroeconomic lens, with a critical evaluation of case studies of startups (like Energy Dome).

Introduction: Paolo Silva (Professor at Politecnico di Milano)

Amongst the discussants of the PSSG paper: Rosemary Idem (Program Manager Gender and Youth at Sustainable Energy for All), **Ennio Macchi** (Emeritus Professor at Politecnico di Milano and Advisory at Energy Dome), **Mirco Tonin** (Professor of Economic Policy at the Free University of Bozen Bolzano), **Julia Paletta** (Energy and Climate Change specialist, CEBRI), **Jesse Scott** (Visiting Research Fellow at Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung e.V.), **Qingyun Yu** (Student from NEOMA and UIBE), **Tingting Yang** (Former Deloitte China Tech Consultant, Student from Bocconi and Politecnico di Milano), **Cheikh Oumar Seydi*** (Senior Advisor, Africa at Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Senior Advisor)

Chair: Sharmini Peries (Editor at the Institute for New Economic Thinking)

Rapporteurs: Eleni Parathyra, Evangelia Moumtzi, Fleur Gangelhof (Students from Bocconi/POLIMI)

14.30 – 16.00

GROUP 3.

HOW TO MAKE THE GREEN AGENDA POPULAR AGAIN? A METHODOLOGY TO DESIGN INCENTIVES SO TO REDUCE THE FOOTPRINT OF (OLD) BUILDINGS IN EUROPE?

As the momentum behind the Green Agenda wanes, revitalizing public and institutional commitment to sustainable practices has become a critical challenge.

Recently, the socio-political factors including economic downturns, political polarization, and regional war contribute to the decline in enthusiasm for the Green Agenda. Delving into the psychological and behavioral aspects, the public's perception of sustainability can be reshaped through targeted incentives and public engagement campaigns. The incentive design framework focuses on both the financial and non-financial side. Setting the old building renovation as an example, the incentives could be tax breaks, subsidies for retrofitting, and recognition programs that reward environmentally responsible behavior. But as citizens lose trust and interest in green agendas, we hope to find more innovative ways to achieve this sustainable goal. For example, more than 90% of the venues for the Paris Olympics were renovated from existing buildings. In the context of "Olympics", the world event reflecting the power of a country, people will be more likely to accept the lower-cost renovation of old buildings compared to the construction of new buildings. Respyre's development of a upcycled, bio-receptive concrete and moss-coating also catches citizens' preference on the nature. We'll extend this topic to craft more subtle incentives for the public in the case of sustainable old buildings.

Introduction: **Giovanni Dotelli** (Professor at Politecnico di Milano)

Amongst the discussants of the PSSG paper: **Kaj Embren** (Senior Advisor in Sustainability and Climate Strategies, Podcast producer of Transformers), **Paulina Velasco** (Senior Vice President at Velada Consulting), **Haytham Sadeq** (Director, Senior Transportation and Road Safety Engineer at Seero), **Andrew Wyckoff**[D] (Senior Fellow at Florence School of Transnational Governance), **Kurt Van Dender** (Head of the Tax Policy and Statistics Division at OECD), **Yuhan Rao** (Research Scholar at North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies), **Taube Van Melkebeke**[D] (Policy Manager at Green European Foundation), **Andrea Ribeiro Hoffmann** (Professor at the Institute of International Relations at PUC-Rio, CEBRI), **Auke Bleji*** (Respyre)

Chair: **Will De Freitas** (Editor at The Conversation)

Rapporteurs: **Eleonora Variolo, Marco Izzo, Olga Murolo** (Students from Bocconi/POLIMI)

14.30 – 16.00   \underline{\textbf{GROUP 4.}}

HOW TO TRANSFORM AN ENVIRONMENT PROBLEM INTO AN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY? – THE CASE OF ELECTRONIC WASTE

The increasing volume of discarded electronics, driven by rapid technological advancements and consumer culture, has outpaced traditional waste management practices. This growing crisis of e-waste can be strategically leveraged as an economic opportunity through innovative recycling, recovery, and reuse practices. The economic opportunities embedded in e-waste management, focusing on the recovery of valuable materials such as precious metals (gold, silver, palladium) and rare earth elements. But to realize its economic value, there must be a complete and orderly product chain behind. From waste collection to material extraction and finally to material utilization. Each step is crucial. After breaking through technical difficulties, waste collection has become an even more critical link. *"Smaltire i RAEE è un gioco da ragazzi"* *('disposing of WEEE is child's play')*, a co-marketing campaign between AMSA and ERION consortium, is the most important Italian ERP scheme on issues related to the correct disposal of end-of-life household WEEE and portable batteries and accumulators. The initiative aims to raise awareness and spread good practices related to the topic. With the support of AMSA Milan, we'll discover more hints on the economic value of electronic waste and process to scale up.

Introduction: Alice De Nuccio (Research Fellow at Bocconi University), **Miriam Allena** (Associate Professor at Bocconi University)

Amongst the discussants of the PSSG paper: Marcello Milani (Managing Director AMSA), **Anastasios Xepapadeas** (Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics of the University of Bologna), **Ann Florini** (Vice Chair, Climate Democracy Initiative; Vice Chiar, Economics of Mutuality Foundation; Fellow, New America), **Chiara Corbo** (Head of Food Sustainability Observatory), **Maja Groff** (Founder/Director, Climate Governance Commission; Chair, Planetary Governance Program, The New Institute), **Chaitanya Giri** (Fellow, Centre for Security, Strategy & Technology, Observer Research Foundation, India)

Chair: Carlton Reid (Writer for Forbes.com and WIRED.com)

Rapporteurs: Teresa Tilocca, Matteo Caruso, Christian Abd El Nour (Students from Bocconi/POLIMI)

16.00 – 16.15   *Coffee Break at Palazzo della Provincia (Sala Depero)*

16.15 – 17.15   ## PLENARY 1.
THE REVOLUTION OF AI IN CLIMATE SCIENCE AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE IPCC

The Artificial Intelligence revolution represents a transformative shift which offers unprecedented opportunities and challenges for the world as we know it. Artificial Intelligence's potential to revolutionize climate science through improved forecast tracking, mapping of deforestation and processing large amounts of data offers us a new tool in the fight against climate change. According to the IPCC '*the energy sector is the largest contributor to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions*, in 2010, approximately 35 % of total anthropogenic GHG emissions were attributed to this sector'. AI itself is an energy intensive enterprise with data centres and storage facilities consuming in a year more electricity than a country such as Italy or Australia produces at the same time. This raises several questions of which this plenary will attempt to answer: How do we maximize the benefits of the artificial intelligence revolution whilst limiting its negative effect on the planet? How do we encourage innovation and fund potentially lifesaving AI innovation whilst ensuring it complies with the IPCC's recommendations? What regulations do we implement to ensure that an equitable and just distribution of the benefits and costs of artificial intelligence powered climate solutions are distributed between the public, government and companies?

Introduction: Chaitanya Giri (Fellow, Centre for Security, Strategy & Technology, Observer Research Foundation, India)

Discussants: Yuhan Rao (Research scholar at North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies), **Rohinton Medhora** (Chair of Governing Board Institute of New Economic Thinking, Distinguished Fellow at Centre for International Governance Innovation), **Andrew Wyckoff** [D] (Senior Fellow at Florence School of Transnational Governance), **Manuel Roveri*** (Associate Professor at the Department of Electronics, Information and Bioengineering at Politecnico di Milano)

Chair: Abdul Kareem Aouir (Senior Journalist in Al Jazeera Media Network)

17.15 – 18.15

PLENARY 2.
A PROPOSAL ON LOSS AND DAMAGE AS A LEVER TO MEND THE FRACTURE BETWEEN NORTH AND GLOBAL SOUTH (IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AXA)

In November 2023 Sultan Al Jaber the president of COP28 gathered in Dubai to assess progress on climate change, kicked off the summit with an early success: the adoption of a proposal entitled "Operationalisation of the new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage". This fulfilled a pledge made a year ago at the COP in the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheikh, where rich countries, chiefly responsible for historic carbon emissions, agreed to compensate mostly poor countries that did little to cause global warming but are the most threatened by its consequences. A closer look to the text does hint, however, significant margins of improvement. At Dolomite Conference 2023 Vision advanced an idea "NEXT GENERATION PLANET" that can make the "loss and damage" facility more politically acceptable and more capable to attract private investments. The 2024 Dolomite Conference will provide the opportunity to better operationalize the proposal with the support of large financial institutions: the objective is to promote it at the G20 in Rio and COP29 in Baku.

Introduction: **Francesco Grillo** (Director of Vision, Professor at Bocconi, Senior Fellow at EUI) and **Jing Wang** (Vision Think Tank)

Discussants: **Martin Powell** (AXA Group Head of Sustainability), **Vibha Dhawan** (Director General at The Energy and Resources Institute), **Jesse Scott** (Visiting Research Fellow at Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung e.V.), **Andrea Ribeiro Hoffmann** (Professor at the Institute of International Relations at PUC-Rio, CEBRI), **Aidah Nakku** (Climate and Gender Justice Advocate)

Chair: **Kaj Embren** (Senior Advisor in Sustainability and Climate Strategies, Podcast producer of Transformers)

18.15 – 18.30

Coffee Break

18.30 – 19.00

STORAGE FOR THE FUTURE: TRENTINO AS A VIRTUOUS EXAMPLE OF SYNERGY AND INNOVATION

With **Stefano Granella** (CEO at Gruppo Dolomiti Energia) and **Alexandra Borchardt** (Co-Director Climate Research Explorer Program at Constructive Institute and Senior Research Associate at Reuters Institute at Oxford University)

Pumped-storage plants are emerging as key players in the transformation of the national electrical system, playing a vital role in ensuring its flexibility and resilience. They are, in fact, the ideal solution for managing grid congestion, an increasingly urgent issue in today's context. Within the framework of the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan, an ambitious goal is being outlined: to install over 10 GW of new storage systems by 2030. Many of these will be realized through hydroelectric pumped-storage plants. The Gruppo Dolomiti Energia, convinced that the most effective solutions arise from careful attention to local needs and synergy between all stakeholders, is exploring innovative flexibility solutions in Trentino as well. Pumped-storage systems will not only help stabilize the grid, but in the case of Trentino, they could also represent an opportunity for the entire community to build a more sustainable and resilient energy future. Together, we can face today's challenges and ensure a better tomorrow for future generations.

19:00 – 19:45   **CONFERENCE BROADCAST:**
THE DOLOMITE PARTICIPANTS AT ZAPPING RAI RADIO UNO WITH GIANCARLO LOQUENZI [D]

20.15   *Dinner at Palazzo Roccabruna in Trento*

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FRIDAY 18th
TRENTO

8.45   *Palazzo della Provincia (Sala Depero)*

8.45 – 9.45   **BACK TO THE PROBLEM-SETTING/SOLVING GROUPS**

9.45 – 10.00   **INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND DAY**
With **Alexandra Borchardt** (Co-Director Climate Research Explorer Program at Constructive Institute and Senior Research Associate at Reuters Institute at Oxford University) and **Greta Aurora Zottoli** (Vision Think Tank)

10.00 – 11.00   **PLENARY 3.**

THE GOVERNANCE OF EVERYBODY'S PLACES WHERE THE CRUCIAL BATTLES WILL TAKE PLACE: ANTARCTIC, AMAZON AND OCEANS

According to the IPCC even if global temperature increases remain within the 1,5 to 2°C band we risk triggering irreversible changes in key global ecosystems like the Antarctic, Amazon, and the Oceans. Often these critical ecosystems, referred to as '*everybody's places*', are the most at risk from the effects of climate change. This plenary will follow on from the simulation study conducted by Vision on the impacts of COP28. Now more than ever, it is vital that the world works together to avoid a tragedy of the commons, whether that be deforestation in the Amazon, melting of the polar ice caps or irreversible pollution of the oceans and its ecosystems. By bringing together academics, policymakers and business leaders the aim of Vision is to create actionable global solutions to global problems.

Introduction: Maja Groff (Founder/Director at Climate Governance Commission; Chair at Planetary Governance Program)

Discussants: Rohinton P. Medhora (Chair of Governing Board Institute of New Economic Thinking, Distinguished Fellow at Centre for International Governance Innovation), **Julia Paletta** (Energy and Climate Change specialist, CEBRI), **Elisabetta Balzi**[D] (Head of Unit B4 – Ocean, Seas and Waters, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission), **Ann Florini** (Vice Chair, Climate Democracy Initiative; Vice Chiar, Economics of Mutuality Foundation; Fellow, New America), **Andrea Ribeiro Hoffmann** (Professor at the Institute of International Relations at PUC-Rio, CEBRI), **Giuseppe Nesi*** (Full Professor of International Law at Università of Trento)

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

11.00 – 12.00   **PLENARY 4.**

THE DESIGN OF EFFICIENT AND CITIZENS ENGAGING CARBON TAXES

Governments across the world can be seen as hesitant in implementing carbon taxes due to public acceptability issues. Therefore for the taxes to be successful these public acceptability issues must be addressed. In fact, only 27 countries worldwide have implemented one. According to a study by ASVIS Higher green spending would stimulate aggregate demand, it increases long-term productivity, which will lead to a global GDP in 2050 that is 1.9% higher than in the baseline scenario. These additional tax revenues could be reinvested in redistributive measures that would help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure equitable tax burden for all. This plenary will discuss how we can implement policies to achieve this whilst improving the political and social acceptability of the tax. Various valuation systems such as VBA and IFVI as future systems of environmental finance will also be debated.

Introduction: Kurt Van Dender (Head of the Tax Policy and Statistics Division at OECD)

Discussants: Enrico Giovannini (Professor of Economic Statistics at University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Italian Former Minister of Labour and Social Policies), **Mirco Tonin** (Professor of Economic Policy at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano), **Carlo Carraro** (Former Rector of Ca Foscari, Member of IPCC), **Anastasios Xepapadeas** (Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics of the University of Bologna)

Chair: Will De Freitas (Editor at The Conversation)

12:00 - 14:00   *Lunch at Grand Hotel Trento*

14:00   *Back to Palazzo della Provincia (Sala Depero)*

14:00 - 15:00   PLENARY 5.

THE PARADOX OF THE AGRIFOOD INDUSTRY: HOW TO TURN PROBLEMS INTO OPPORTUNITIES (IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHAPTER ZERO AND POLIMI)

It was the protest of farmers in Amsterdam, Brussels, Berlin, and Rome, which signalled that climate change[8] was meant to be one of the few EU wide policies at the centre of the 2024 EU elections. And yet it is the farming industry which is literally the most physically exposed to climate change.

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[8]As for recent Vision's column on The Guardian at https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/nov/08/climate-fatigue-europe-voters-green-costs

It is this paradox that this session will investigate having as a starting point, a paper that Vision has drafted together with its partners. This position paper is structured into two sections. The first the problem setting - assesses the impact of climate change on different types of food and their contribution to climate change. The second section – the problem-solving - identifies potential solutions such as policies, technologies, and business practices and assesses their complexity and effectiveness. It will do so with a global prospective comparing the EU with other agrifood superpowers like India.

Introduction: Chiara Corbo (Head of Food Sustainability Observatory, POLIMI), **Gaudiana Giusti** (Steering Committee, Chapter Zero Italy) and **Valerio Rosa** (Vision Think Tank)

Discussants: Vibha Dhawan (Director General at The Energy and Resources Institute), **Camilla Lunelli** (Vice President Ferrari Trento), **Ernesto Seppi** (President of Consorzio Melinda)

Chair: Abdul Kareem Aouir (Senior Journalist in Al Jazeera Media Network)

15.00 – 15.15   *Coffee Break*

15.15 – 16.15   **PLENARY 6.**

GLOBAL EVENTS IN THE 21st CENTURY AND SUSTAINABILITY AS THE PARADIGM – FROM PARIS TO CORTINA/MILANO

In the 21st century, sustainability has emerged as a key focus for major global events, including the Olympic Games, which serves as both a reflection of and a catalyst for broader environmental objectives. The Paris Olympics set the aspiration to become *the first carbon-neutral international sporting event*, aiming to create jobs and stimulate economic growth while advancing sustainability. The guiding principles of "Do with Less" and "Do Better" encapsulate this vision. For example, 95% of the venues utilizes existing or temporary infrastructure (less), and there is a commitment to sourcing catering locally (better). The Olympic games was also seen as the opportunity for unprecedented environmental achievement like making it possible to swim in the Seine River for the first time after one century long ban. And yet those targets proved challenging in the short period (as the games showed when athletes were asked to swim in the river); and they are still to be measured in the longer one.

Looking ahead, the Milano-Cortina 2026 Olympics also prioritize sustainability, aiming for a realistic, concrete, and progressive approach that involves all stakeholders. Building on the strengths and addressing the pitfalls of past events, additional problem-solving strategies should be considered. The sustainability of the event still has the additional complexity of taking place in different locations in one of the most fragile environments (the Dolomites). The plenary will explore these cases to highlight the dual role of the Olympics as both an opportunity and a challenge for sustainability. The mission is to foster a dialogue on aligning mega-events with long-term environmental goals, ensuring they contribute positively to global sustainability efforts.

Introduction: Alessandra Proto (Head of OECD Trento Centre for Local Development)

Discussants: Mara Nemela (Director at Fondazione Dolomiti UNESCO), **Julia Paletta** (Energy and Climate Change specialist, CEBRI), **Maurizio Rossini** (Director of Trentino Marketing), **Imelda Padilla**[D] (Council Member from City of LA), **Elisabeth Gsottbauer*** (Endowed Professor at Free University of Bozen-Bolzano), **Andrea Varnier*** (CEO of Milano-Cortina 2026)

Chair: Paulina Velasco (Senior Vice President at Velada Consulting)

16.15 – 17.15

PLENARY 7.

EXPERIMENTATIONS, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND SCALE UP AS KEY TO ACCELERATE INNOVATION: THE CASE OF MOBILITY

Energy transition to achieve neutrality requires a massive transformation of societies. Mobility is a very clear example of this. Technologies (electric cars and bikes, platforms to share vehicles, even drones and solar panels of third generation to charge cars from roads) are often available, although they still need scales for the cost to go down; we still lack infrastructures (as for battery chargers) and we will certainly need to replan cities (for reducing avoidable trips); the most demanding challenge will, however, be to turn around behaviours and psychologies of individuals and families. What does it take to change a privately owned, fossil car-based transportation model? *Vision argues that experimentation is key.* We need to experiment different models with different mix of technologies, infrastructures and incentives/nudges in

icomparable cities; to measure success on few key performance indicators; to generate from both successes (and failures) transferrable knowledge; to use knowledge to scale up winning solutions. Introducers and panelists will discuss a new method to design sustainable cities that has already been ventured in countries as different as Finland, Canada and China.

Introduction: Gioia Ghezzi (Chairperson of ATM MILAN) and **Miriam Allena** (Associate Professor at Bocconi University)

Discussants: Carlo Costa (General Technical Director at Autostrada del Brennero), **Haytham Sadeq** (Director, Senior Transportation and Road Safety Engineer at Seero), **Edoardo Croci** (Director of the Sustainable Urban Regeneration Lab at Bocconi University), **Lorenzo Maggi** (Souliton Advisor at SAP Italia), **Frans Anton Vermast** (Strategy Advisor and International Smart City Ambassador for Amsterdam Smart City)

Chair: Carlton Reid (Writer for Forbes.com and WIRED.com)

19.15 - 20:00	*Transfer from Grand Hotel Trento to Rovereto – Museo di Arte Moderna e Contemporanea (Bistrot MART)*
20.00	*Dinner at Senso Mart Restaurant of Michelin-starred chef Alfio Ghezzi*

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SATURDAY 19th
TRENTO

9.00	*Palazzo della Provincia (Sala Depero)*
9.00 – 9.05	**INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS** with **Flavio Deflorian** (Professor of the University of Trento), **Stefania Giannini** [D] (UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education) and **Franco Ianeselli*** (Mayor of Trento)
9.05 – 9.15	**INTRODUCTION TO THE FINAL DAY** With **Alexandra Borchardt** (Co-Director Climate Research Explorer Program at Constructive Institute and Senior Research Associate at Reuters Institute at Oxford University) and **Greta Aurora Zottoli** (Vision Think Tank)

09:15 - 10:00   **PRESENTATION OF THE PROBLEM-SETTING/SOLVING GROUPS PROPOSALS**

by the Chairs/Introducers and the Rapporteurs of the four PSSGs

10:00 - 11:00   <u>**PLENARY 8.**</u>

A NEW NARRATIVE FOR RENEWABLES: THE PARADIGM OF THE DISTRIBUTED ENERGY MODEL (IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GRUPPO DOLOMITI ENERGIA)

Today, considering the regional distribution of energy generation and consumption, rural areas produce electricity and urban areas consume electricity, so how can we address this imbalance? And what are the next steps for the future of our energy systems? This session is held in partnership with Gruppo Dolomiti Energia who have been recognized as a Leader in Sustainability (Sole 24 Ore). This plenary will concentrate on the theme of a distributed energy model and how we can achieve it. Gruppo Dolomiti Energia has seen a huge growth in decentralized energy generation (smart grids), which offer a real opportunity for a reduction in emissions but remain a costly option for many, how can we finance this smart transition by utilizing public private partnerships? This plenary will seek to facilitate debate from industry leaders, policymakers, journalists and academics. Other topics to be discussed will include: What kind of renewables could be expanded in the smart grid? How can we approach the problem of storing decentralized energy? And how can we improve the effectiveness of each energy community?

Introduction: Francesco Faccioli (CEO at SET Distribuzione at Gruppo Dolomiti Energia)

Discussants: Antonio Volpin (Chairman of the Board at PerPetum Energy), **Koert Debeuf** (Distinguished Adjunct Professor at Brussels School of Governance), **Amjad Abdulla**[D] (Head of Partnerships at International Renewable Energy Agency), **Nanis Kanana**[D] (Sustainability & Compliance Professional), **Taube Van Melkebeke**[D] (Policy Manager at Green European Foundation)

Chair: Cliff Prior (CEO at Global Steering Group for Impact Investment)

11:00 - 11:30   *Coffee Break*

11:30 - 11:45   **INTRODUCTION TO THE INSTITUTIONAL SESSION**
With **Maurizio Fugatti*** (President of Provincia Autonoma of Trento)

12:00 - 13:00   **CLOSING PLENARY.**
PRESENTATION TO MEDIA AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE DRAFT DOLOMITE MANIFESTO "HOW TO TURN THE PROBLEM OF THE 21ST CENTURY INTO THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A NEW WORLD ORDER"
With: **Francesco Grillo** (Vision Think Tank Director, Professor at Bocconi and Senior Fellow at EUI), **Cliff Prior** (CEO at Global Steering Group for Impact Investment), **Diego Cattoni** (CEO Autostrada del Brennero), **Silvia Arlanch** (Presidente Gruppo Dolomiti Energia), **Barbara Kolm** (Director at Austrian Economics Center), **Ahmad Humbatov*** (Head of Energy and Sustainable Development Program and the IDD in Baku)
Chair: **Emanuele Bompan** (Editor-in-Chief Renewable Matter)

13:00 - 14:00   *Lunch at Grand Hotel Trento*

VISION TEAM

Who worked on this agenda

Francesco Grillo, Vision Director

Greta Aurora Zottoli, Vision Project Manager

Valerio Rosa, Vision Associate

Chiara Mezzogori, Vision Associate

Jing Wang, Vision Associate Intern

✳ ## VISION THINK TANK ✳

Vision is the think tank that brings together and young professionals who all share work and study experiences gained in the best universities and European capitals, and the belief that the technological revolution we are experiencing will lead to a radical change in the form of institutions and in the governance of economic systems.

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