

Bridging Divides in a Fragmented World: Building Resilience through Innovation

Climate Week APCO Run-of-Show
New York, USA September 25, 2025

Climate Week NYC | UNGA

Bridging Divides in a Fragmented World: Building Resilience through Innovation

Date & Time: Thursday, 25 September 2025 | 8:00 - 9:45 AM

Venue: APCO, Nomad Tower, Floor 31, 1250 Broadway, New York

RUN-OF-SHOW

Background:

Climate Week NYC 2025 unfolds against a backdrop of deepening geopolitical, economic, and social fragmentation. Economic nationalism, fractured governance, disrupted supply chains, and waning multilateral cooperation are undermining the ability of countries, companies and civil society to address global challenges collectively.

In this environment, innovation is no longer just a growth driver. It is a critical instrument of resilience and sustainability. From rethinking value chains to unlocking new financing models and forging unconventional alliances, innovation offers pathways that can cut through political divides and market barriers. But for these solutions to endure, they must also be viable, bankable, scalable, and capable of attracting sustained investment and delivering measurable impact.

The roundtable will explore practical strategies for deploying innovation that strengthens systemic resilience, mobilizes capital and talent toward high-impact solutions, and creates new forms of cross-border collaboration beyond traditional diplomatic channels.

Objectives:

- Identify actionable strategies for deploying innovation to strengthen resilience in fragmented political and economic landscapes.
- Explore mechanisms to redirect capital, talent, and technology toward innovations with the highest potential for systemic impact.
- Foster new forms of cross-border cooperation beyond traditional diplomatic channels.
- Share cross-sector insights and best practices that can be adapted across industries and geographies.

Proposed timeline and format:

7:30 - 8:00 Guests arrivals, breakfast, networking

8:00 - 8:10 **Welcome & Setting the Scene**

Judit Arenas, Executive Director and Senior Adviser on International Affairs, APCO

Alzbeta Klein, CEO/DG, IFA and event moderator

8:10 - 8:40 Framing the Challenge

In a world of geopolitical and economic fragmentation, what kinds of technological, social, financial, or policy innovations have proven viable and bankable in strengthening resilience and sustainability?

8:40 - 9:10 Redirecting Capital, Talent, and Technology

What strategies are most effective in making these innovations investable at scale?

How can we ensure that innovation pipelines integrate financial viability early in the design process so that promising solutions don't stall for lack of funding, lack of political support etc?

9:10 - 9:30 New Models of Cooperation

Without relying on traditional multilateral governance, what alternative networks or alliances can pool resources, de-risk investments, and make cross-border projects bankable?

How can innovation bridge divides between public, private, and civil society actors, especially when the commercial incentives and political priorities are misaligned?

9:30 - 9:55 Scaling and Replicating Solutions

How can successful innovations be adapted for different geographies and markets while retaining both effectiveness and financial sustainability?

What examples show how solutions from one sector have been successfully transferred to others to drive systemic resilience?

9:55 - 10:00 Close

Alzbeta Klein, CEO/DG, IFA

Confirmed participants:

1. Rohitash Dhawan (CEO, ICMM)
2. Jon Creyts (CEO, Rocky Mountain Institute)
3. Dean Banks (CEO, Indigo Ag)
4. Faustine Delasalle, CEO (Mission Possible Partnership / ITA)
5. Anastasia Panina (Head of Sustainability and Inclusion for International Wealth and Premier Banking, HSBC Holdings)
6. Frederik Bjoerndal (Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Marketing, Manus)
7. Janelle Meyers (Chief Sustainability Officer, Kellanova)
8. Carl Ganter (CEO, Circle of Blue)
9. Hanna Opsahl- Ben Ammar (EVP, External Affairs & Chief of Staff, Yara)
10. Luiza Bruscato (Global Director at the Round Table on Responsible Soy, RTRS)
11. Kathy Pickus (Chief Sustainability Officer, ADM)
12. Gijsbert Appels (CSO, Al Dahra Group)
13. Guillermo Foscarini (Head of Agribusiness, Inter-American Development Bank)
14. Wagner Albuquerque de Almeida (Global Director, Manufacturing, Agribusiness, and Forestry, IFC)
15. Tom Cumberledge, Director (Carbon Trust)
16. Monica McBride (Global Partnership Director, Environment & Landscapes, Bayer CropScience)
17. Louise Kantrow (Former Ambassador to the United Nations for the International Chamber of Commerce)