

# **UNFCCC COP 26**

Glasgow, UK

## **Outcome Document**

### **Future of Governance: Choose Your Own Adventure**

**Organised by:**

B Lab UK

Chatham House

Global Challenges Foundation

Global Citizen Assembly

IBGC

SustainaMetrix/COBALT

8<sup>th</sup> November 2021

14:30-16:00

# “Marrakech Partnership Future Labs at COP26: Future of Governance: Choose Your Own Adventure”

## Key Messages:

From the boardroom to the council chamber, and beyond, governance shapes the decisions that affect us all. This session explored the way in which decisions need to be made in the future, and the consequences for people and planet in the here and now.

Governance takes many forms and happens in many spaces. This interactive ‘Choose Your Own Adventure’ event on the Future of Governance was designed to showcase how decisions made in different settings are deeply interconnected. What happens in a city chamber impacts choices made in boardrooms. There are barriers, bottlenecks, tensions and challenges in making these decisions – especially when considering different dimensions at play such as the impacts across time horizons, the speed of implementation and the breadth of consultation. And, of course, these decisions all take place in the context of a global system where international bodies have a role to identify these bottleneck necks and find ways to overcome them.

It isn’t always clear what the right answer is – and sometimes we need to recognise the importance of taking a pluralistic approach. Ultimately inclusivity is key to the Future of Governance – we must find ways to listen and empower those that are not always represented in these spaces, including the generation that will inherit the consequences of the decisions.

## Outcomes:

1. *Explored bold, imaginative ideas for systems change aimed at accelerating climate action and catalysing the transition to a regenerative and just world.*

We used an interactive ‘Choose Your Own Adventure’ model to position a series of decisions in an imaginative and immersive context to make concepts that can otherwise feel abstract and distant land more concretely for our audience. This involved a live dramatization of a multi-scene story involving a set of decisions – designed and told by best-selling author Malka Older – where the audience had a key role to decide what would happen next based on choices they were asked to make in real time. Over the 90 minutes we showcased a range of governance settings and models through the story, invited global experts to reflect on the

decisions, and shared the possible 'sliding door' moments that existed if one path was followed rather than another.

- 2. Span intellectual, demographic, cultural, geographic and gender boundaries; creating space for voices often excluded from decision making.*

We actively sought to include a range of diverse voices from across generations, geographic regions, expertise areas in order to create as wide a frame as possible - inviting the valuable perspectives that come from different lived experiences. A key theme from both the design and structure of this event - as well as from the insights that emerged from the conversations on the stage - was the critical importance of inclusivity in decision-making.

- 3. Demonstrate 'pockets of the future in the present' where ambitious and just systems transformation (aligned with MPGCA 1.5 pathways) is already underway.*

'The future is already here... it just isn't evenly distributed' – William Gibson. We purposefully created space for a range of bold voices to share their expertise and ideas in an event format designed to explore both tensions and bottlenecks as well as innovative and imaginative solutions to governance challenges. In order to enable the system change required to transition to a regenerative and just world we will need both regulatory change as well as culture change – this session picked up on new governance ideas and innovations that are already being seeded in both these key areas such as the Global Citizen Assembly model, network weaving at the School of International futures and the Future Generations Commission of Wales. We also had leading thinkers and doers reflect on both the challenges and opportunity spaces that exist to create stronger, more trustworthy and inclusive governance structures which put life at the centre of the decision-making process.