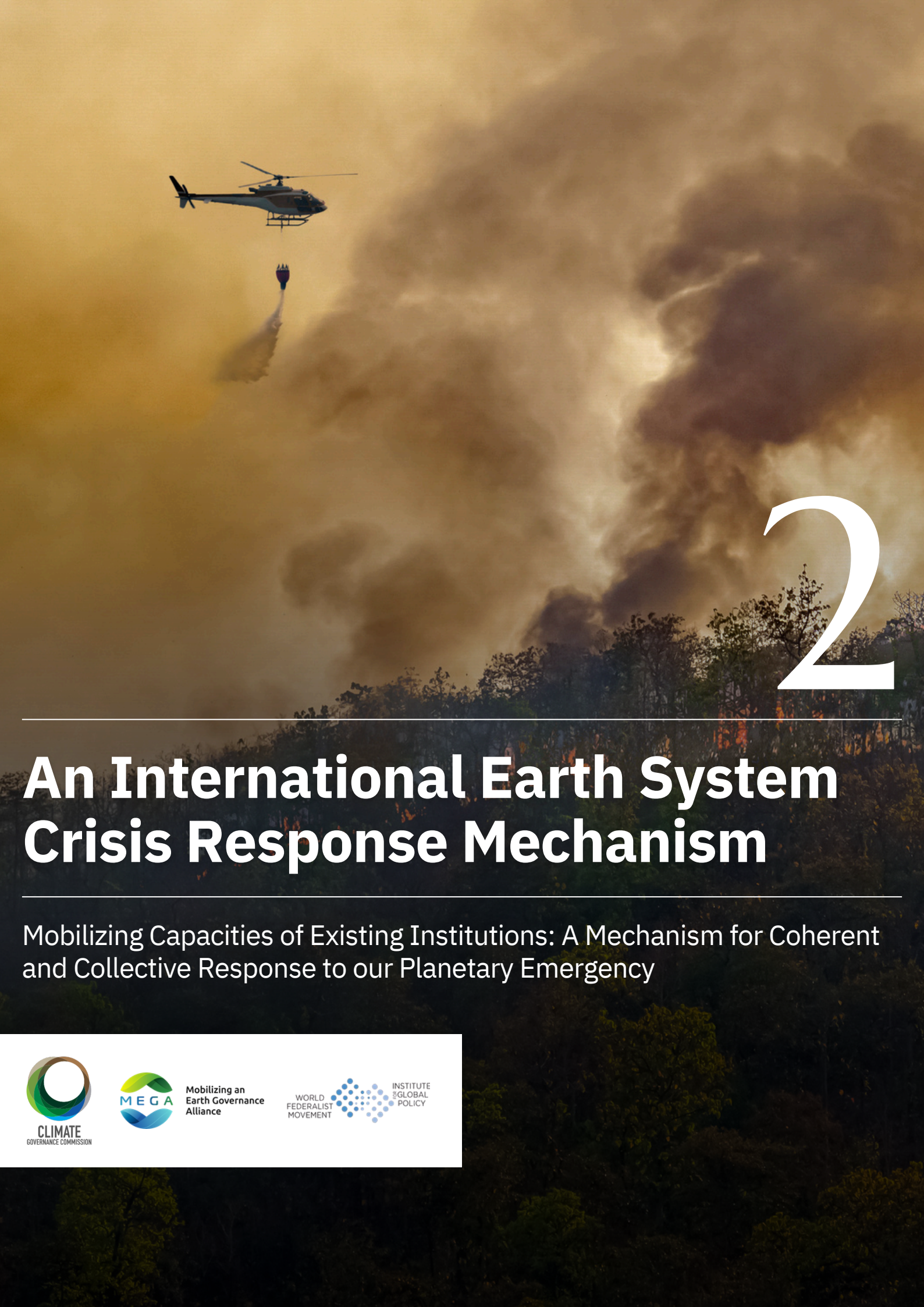

2

An International Earth System Crisis Response Mechanism

Mobilizing Capacities of Existing Institutions: A Mechanism for Coherent and Collective Response to our Planetary Emergency

CLIMATE GOVERNANCE COMMISSION

MEGA Mobilizing an Earth Governance Alliance

WORLD FEDERALIST MOVEMENT INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL POLICY

An International Earth System Crisis Response Mechanism

This policy brief details the proposal to convene a Planetary "Emergency Platform" or a similar international crisis response mechanism, designed for high-level coordination of the international response to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

Fragmented International Governance

The world is experiencing a "triple planetary crisis" of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. These threats are pushing the entire Earth system — humanity's "safe operating space" — into unprecedented levels of catastrophic risk.[1] The Earth has already crossed seven of the nine Planetary Boundaries, the physical and ecological thresholds beyond which the Earth's operating system may no longer be able to self-regulate to support planetary health and stability.[2] As temperatures continue to rise, so does the risk of crossing potentially irreversible Earth system tipping points.[3] Yet, despite the severity and urgency of these threats, the international response remains highly fragmented and inadequately coordinated. Existing multilateral mechanisms are operating in silos, with institutional mandates, policy frameworks, and financing structures unaligned with the pressing need to address the systemic, cross-cutting nature of today's global risks, and to act at the speed and scale required. This fragmentation undermines timely and effective action, leaving communities, ecosystems, and economies increasingly vulnerable to environmental shocks and stresses.

The Case for a Planetary Emergency Platform

The UN Secretary-General has suggested the convening of international Emergency Platforms, when needed, to address relevant global shocks, including those due to climate change, as the existing, conventional crisis response mechanisms have proved insufficient for effectively managing multi-dimensional threats at the global level.[4] Rather than a new standing body or entity, the platform would employ a flexible set of protocols that would leverage the UN's convening power and enhance global coordination in the face of complex global crises. As the UN Secretary-General explains, "a complex global shock can be broadly understood as an event with severely disruptive consequences for a significant proportion of the global population that leads to secondary impacts across multiple sectors."[5]

Managing the impacts of the broader "triple planetary crisis" requires national, subnational, and hyperlocal responses. However, they also require a robust global response, due to their quintessentially global nature. The "triple planetary crisis" is causing complex shocks that have transboundary and cascading impacts on the global economy, migration flows, political stability, and more.[6] A specific international Earth system crisis response mechanism, elaborating on the UN Secretary-General's proposal for an Emergency Platform, could be convened to help manage the rapidly accelerating complex consequences of climate change and the crossing of Planetary Boundaries.[7]

Carefully synchronized with COPs and other relevant international processes,[8] such a platform or

mechanism could bring together relevant national and international authorities, scientists, financing bodies, members of the private sector, and other appropriate stakeholders to collectively coordinate response.[9] It would connect and leverage existing mechanisms and institutions to harmonize and significantly accelerate action across the international system. A platform of this kind could also support the development of a planetary crisis response plan and assist with any follow-on steps issued from a UN General Assembly Declaration on Unprecedented Earth System Risks (see separate policy brief: *A Code Red for Humanity*). Such a platform could provide the high-level coordination processes needed to translate vital international scientific guidance into coordinated policy responses, supporting a just and sustainable transition and ensuring multilateralism is capable of meeting the speed and scale of current ecological challenges.

Next Steps: Toward a Smart Coalition for a Planetary Emergency Platform

Next steps involve working collaboratively with interested UN Member States and key stakeholders to explore the value and potential design of such an international Earth system crisis response mechanism. This will include convening informal dialogues and expert roundtables to better understand national perspectives and identify common priorities. These will build on those carried out in 2025 by the CGC and MEGA. A key focus will continue to be on shaping an approach that reflects diverse needs and concerns, and a design that does not affect national sovereignty, but that supports national responses, enhances cooperation, and strengthens the international system's ability to respond coherently and effectively to complex global shocks.

Who We Are

The Climate Governance Commission (CGC) works to fill a crucial gap in confronting the planetary emergency of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution by developing and advancing feasible, high-impact global governance solutions to enable urgent and effective action to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C or less, and to tackle broader Earth system risks. Co-chaired by Mary Robinson (former President of Ireland and Chair of The Elders), Maria Fernanda Espinosa (73rd President of the UN General Assembly), and Johan Rockström (Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research), the Commission brings together climate scientists, former heads of state, civil society leaders, and other experts to operationalise solutions outlined in its flagship report, Governing Our Planetary Emergency.

The World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP) seeks to create more effective, equitable, and accountable global governance. It does this by strengthening existing governance mechanisms and establishing new ones.

Mobilizing an Earth Governance Alliance (MEGA) is hosted by the CGC and the WFM-IGP and is a global coalition working to address climate change and environmental collapse by strengthening the governance of the Earth system at the international level. It draws from the seminal CGC report, Governing our Planetary Emergency, and works with the CGC and partners to bring together experts across sectors to advance practical, evidence-based reforms. MEGA identifies governance gaps, take forward actionable reform proposals, and mobilizes coalitions to concretely support and inform global decision-making.

Endnotes

[1] Johan Rockström et al., *Global Catastrophic Risks 2024: Managing Risks Through Collective Action* (Global Challenges Foundation, 2024); UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, "What is the Triple Planetary Crisis," accessed December 1, 2025.

[2] Planetary Boundaries Science (PBScience), *Planetary Health Check 2025* (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), 2025).

[3] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report* (2023), 3.1.1; Tim Lenton et al., *Global Tipping Points Report 2025* (Global Systems Institute, 2025).

[4] UN, *Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 2: Strengthening the International Response to Complex Global Shocks – An Emergency Platform* (2023).

[5] UN, *Our Common Agenda Brief 2*, 4.

[6] Susana Ferreira, "Extreme Weather Events and Climate Change: Economic Impacts and Adaptation Policies," *Annual Review of Resource Economics* 16 (2024): 207–231.

[7] Maja Groff and Mary Robinson et al., *Governing Our Planetary Emergency* (Climate Governance Commission, 2023), 39–42; Lenton et al., *Global Tipping Points 2025*.

[8] Groff, Robinson et al., *Governing Our Planetary Emergency*, 39–42.

[9] Groff, Robinson et al., *Governing Our Planetary Emergency*, 39–42.

This policy work is an evolving and iterative process. We are constantly adapting our research, communications, and coalition-building to the evolving international landscape and the related challenges and opportunities. Version: April 2026.