



The Stockholm Series of Public Lectures on Climate Change and Democracy



From Limits to Growth to an Earth for All

Sandrine Dixson-Declève

Honorary President, The Club of Rome & Executive Chair, Earth4All



The Stockholm Series of Public Lectures on Climate Change and Democracy (“Stockholm Series”) is a cooperation between renowned Stockholm-based institutions with a particular focus on climate change and democracy from different perspectives, including the Stockholm Environment Institute; the Stockholm Resilience Centre; Future Earth; LSU – The National Council of Swedish Children and Youth Organisations; and We Don’t Have Time. It aims to inform, inspire, and engage experts and the general public alike by providing high-profile public lectures on the interlinkages between climate change and democracy, followed by debate.

Sandrine Dixson-Declève’s lecture **“From Limits to Growth to an Earth for All”** took place on Tuesday, 28 January 2025, at International IDEA’s Headquarters at Strömsborg in Stockholm, Sweden.

Fifty years ago, ‘The Limits to Growth’ warned that if growth trends continued, we would overshoot Earth’s capacity. Today, we stand at a cliff edge. But there is still time to change course. ‘Earth For All: A Survival Guide for Humanity’ has gathered the knowledge of an international team of scientists, economic thinkers, and multidisciplinary experts, presenting five extraordinary turnarounds to achieve wellbeing and prosperity for all, reduce social tension and ensure strong democracies within planetary boundaries, through its system dynamic analysis and modelling. Co-Author and Earth4All Executive Chair Sandrine Dixson-Declève will share insights from Earth4All’s findings and core strategies for steering the world towards a sustainable future at this complex time.

The lecture was followed by a conversation with Jens Orback, Strategic Advisor, Global Challenges Foundation, and Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary-General, International IDEA, as well as questions and comments from the audience, and a reception.

Stockholm,
28 January 2025

What an honour it is to be here at a time when we're really trying to understand how we can best support democracy worldwide. I am very grateful to International IDEA for inviting me because I think that this is the moment where we need to collectively defend democracy.

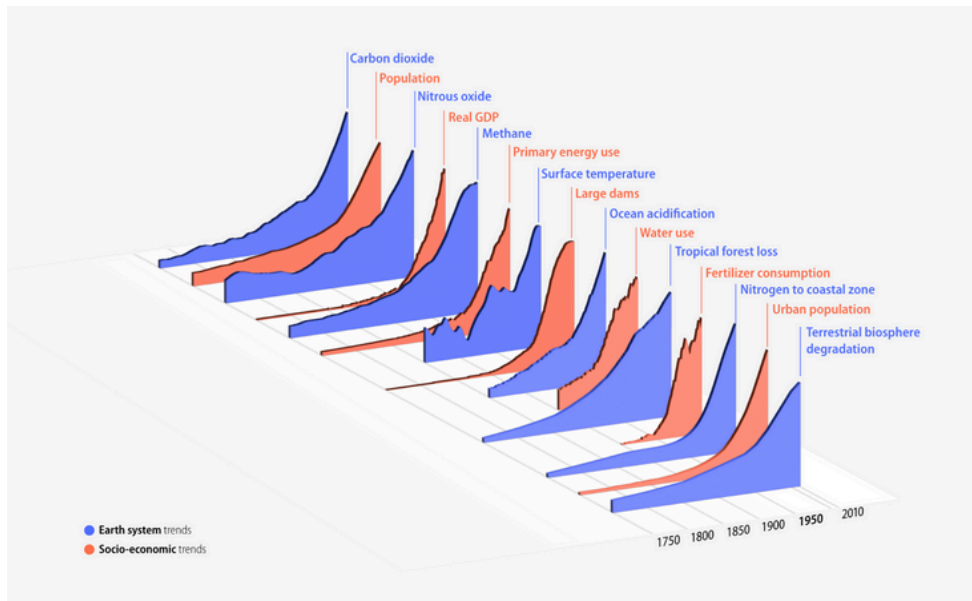
In this lecture, I want to lead you through a journey from the Club of Rome's publication of *The Limits to Growth* in 1972, to our thinking in *Earth for All* in 2022, and how we're implementing that thinking today.

If we look at this journey, we need to think about how it is that we are where we are today. How do we move into creating well-being on a finite planet? What does that look like, taking into consideration the history of *The Limits to Growth* and the 50 years that have passed since? Already in 1972, a group of MIT scientists and economists came together and developed system dynamic models, working with the trends that were happening at the time and starting to build scenarios looking into the future. Understanding that from 1972, if looking at the trends of continued industrial output, population growth and the increasing demand and consumption of natural resources, of energy and food production, we would start hitting the planetary boundaries—the ones that Johan Rockström is talking about today. Seeing in their models that some of the key impacts, the key tipping points, would start coming together already in the 2020s.

Now, fast forward 50 years. What we wanted to do with *Earth for All* was to understand what *The Limits to Growth* means in the 21st century. Understanding that we are in the midst of the predictive tipping points that we were proposed in the different scenarios of *The Limits to Growth*. Understanding that we've lost 50 years. That there was the time and the possibility to change course, but that if we were going to do so, we were going to have to put forward some key pathways of change. What would that look like within a 21st century context?

The book *Earth For All - A Survival Guide for Humanity* was published as the anniversary seminal report of *The Limits to Growth*. It builds on the fact that aspects of the scenarios in *The Limits to Growth* became a reality. If you look at *The Limits to Growth* models, you can see that starting from where we were in 1972, the scenarios show how the earth systems trends and the socioeconomic trends were to continue to grow—growth of carbon dioxide, alongside population growth—and start hitting our boundaries. We also looked at the relationship with GDP, now seeing that real GDP growth is decreasing, not increasing anymore. And that is because those earth system trends and socioeconomic trends are starting to have a real compound effect.

We are in the midst of the predictive tipping points that we were proposed in the different scenarios of *The Limits to Growth*.



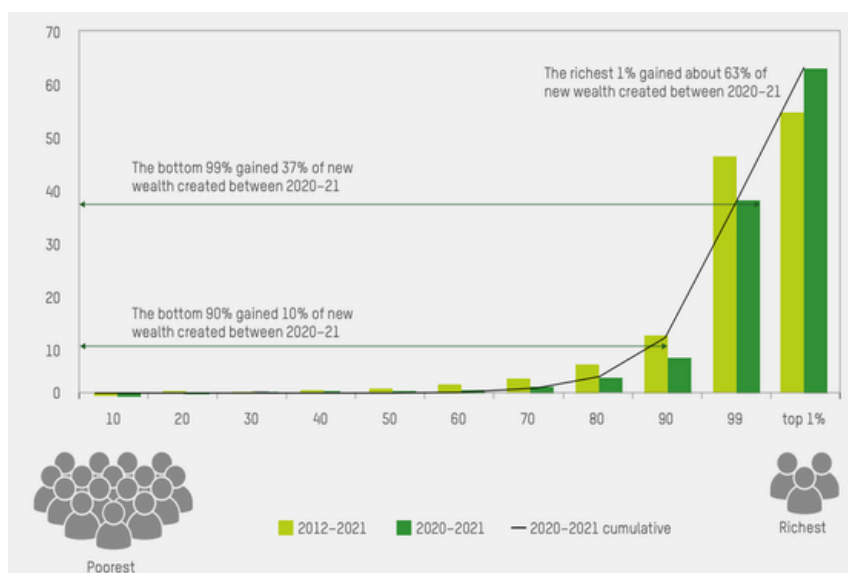
Since 1972: The Limits to Growth predictions have become a reality.

The elephants in the room

This is based on a series of what I call ‘elephants in the room’, and the first one concerns CO2 responsibility. Not only have we had deep impacts on an earth systems level and on a socioeconomic level, but we’re seeing how the wealthiest are having by far greatest impact on the planet. The elephant in the room is the fact that the top 1 per cent of the global population by income (or 10 per cent within that share of population) is having the greatest amount of consumption-based CO2 emissions. The link between the wealthiest and the impact on our planetary boundaries is fundamental—but also the fact that those that are the most vulnerable, the poorest in our societies, are the ones that are impacted the worst from climate change. So, we must address consumption and more precisely who consumes and should pay the price of that impact. This was one of the key messages in 1972, and yet a message that did not resonate during Reaganomics, during Thatcher, and all the other neoliberal governments who believed that there were no limits to growth, on the contrary, growth would solve all the world’s problems and trickle-down economics would raise the majority of citizens out of poverty. Neoliberal economics continues to determine our current economic paradigm and leadership.

The other elephant in the room with regard to the rich is that the poorest 50 per cent take less than 15 per cent of total earnings. We’re starting to see that within-country wealth distribution has been moving in the wrong way. Not only are the wealthiest having the greatest negative impact in terms of climate and environment, but we’re also seeing that the wealthiest are increasingly holding on to the wealth and inequality is growing at the same time. You can see in the graph (p. 4) that we are not enabling greater wealth distribution, not only, as we often say, between the Global South and the Global North—but also within the Global North. Inequality and poverty have increased in the West. It has increased in the United States and it has increased in Europe, while it also increased between the North and the South.

Inequality has increased in the United States and it has increased in Europe, while it also increased between the North and the South.



Within-country wealth distribution has been moving in the wrong way. Source: Oxfam

But here's another elephant in the room. If we continue to only push productivity and GDP growth, as we have seen up until now, we will see a growing cost of inaction. Cost of inaction is what we call the fact that we have not taken into consideration either social or environmental externalities. What we're seeing now is that at 1.5°C of global warming—and some of you may know that this year we have pretty much had an average temperature increase of about 1.5°C—we will lose upwards of 3 per cent of GDP. At 1.5°C of warming, food production, access to water etc. is already directly impacted, as are our economies, whether it be through weather events or whether it be through loss of potential of production because of climate impacts.

In addition to that, we know that if we move towards a 3°C world, we could have upwards of 10-12 per cent GDP loss. With that elephant in the room comes a question. Why do we continue to depend on GDP? We know that the continuous impacts of climate change—which is driven by overproduction, which is driven by natural resource loss—will continue to drive a loss of GDP. Hence, we need to think through the types of economic models that we are promoting today, shifting from a neoliberal consumption and extractive-based productivity model—which already in *The Limits to Growth* was put forward as a model which would create these tipping points—into a model which enhances greater well-being and protects people's lives and livelihoods.

Because here is the last key elephant in the room: We have been sold a lie. Over the last 50 years, we have been told through neoliberal economic thought that trickle-down will work. That wealth distribution will happen automatically when people and economies get wealthier. That we will have GDP growth and that will enable our people to live better lives

and livelihoods. But what we've seen through our analysis, through the *Earth for All* system dynamic model, which I'm going to lead you through, is that global well-being is declining. That with GDP growth plus population growth plus climate change, we are actually moving into negative well-being and high social tension. Take into consideration: these two elements are absolutely essential to enable thriving democracies. Because we know that when we lose global well-being, we have higher

With higher social tension there is less political space to make democratic long-term decisions.

social tension, and with higher social tension there is less political space to make democratic long-term decisions. This leads towards more autocratic governance models, and we're seeing this development in many countries.

And yet our [2024 Earth4All/Ipsos survey](#) across the G20 countries shows that what people want is a well-being economy: 69 per cent of G20 citizens want a well-being economy. They're not happy with the current neoliberal model. You can see it in our assessment. Therefore, we need to try to find a balance between average well-being going up and social tension going down. That is why our assessment, as we shifted from *The Limits to Growth* thinking into our new analysis around creating an *Earth for All*, was very much anchored in shifting beyond GDP.

Enhancing well-being: Shifting beyond GDP

The shift beyond GDP is anchored in five key principles. The first is to take into account social and environmental risk in financial and economic decision-making. It's about fundamentally getting back to what is most important for people and costing externalities, both environmental and social. The second principle is to correct the inequity between high- and low-income countries. It is about ensuring that we move away from this international finance and trade system—which is actually enhancing that inequity—and move into a system which starts to enable the Global South to actually thrive, not just survive. Taking into consideration trade deficits, taking into consideration debt cancellation.

The third key principle is that we have to have a very different perspective of public goods. It means that we have to socialise the rewards of environmental and social commons. The fourth key principle is that we have to increase the agency of women and of workers to drive the direction of the economy. This is something that we actually saw during Covid-19, in that transformation when we saw social workers as a fundamental part of our economy. Or, the fact that in Africa, for example, most of the farmers are women, but they're not included in the economy, instead mostly still working in a parallel economy and don't even own the land. How can we enable more women by getting them the education that they deserve, which then enables them to make decisions around how they integrate into the economy?

The last key principle connects to that elephant in the room around the cost of inaction and that we know that no matter what happens, since we are already at 1.5°C of warming, we are losing GDP growth. Hence, we need to buffer our GDP with new indicators that take into consideration nature, environment and social well-being.

There are a variety of economic models that are looking at these five core principles. There is the 'well-being economics' which is the one we tried to integrate into our thinking in *Earth for All*. But there is also, for instance, Mariana Mazzucato's work, which is very much focused on 'mission economies' that can drive a move towards environmental and socio-economic

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well-being, or 'green growth' or 'post growth' models, or 'donut economics', which has been put forward by Kate Raworth and is being adopted and adapted to local communities. And, the discussions around 'beyond GDP', which is now taking place even at the UN level, as part of a new high-level group of experts who will be thinking through what these new indicators could be.

All of these have very different facets of the five principles that I have talked about. I think that the beauty of the work that we tried to undertake in *Earth for All* was coming together in an understanding that there is a variety of different types of economies that—as long as they take into consideration these five core new economic principles—are fundamental in terms of moving us forward from the current neoliberal economic way of life. The way of life which has created the climate change that we're seeing in our everyday lives, that has created all of the different environmental and social impacts that we're seeing today and also that has created greater inequality and greater poverty.

A systems change agenda for well-being within the planetary boundaries

So, we have now shifted from *The Limits to Growth*, but anchored that thinking into the 21st century, building in an understanding of the planetary boundaries and trying to fit within that operating space, by addressing social and environmental equity at the same time. We produced *Earth for All* in 2022 as a report to the Club of Rome. Although it was a book, it was meant from the outset to be more than just a publication. We wanted to ensure that we were not simply read or shelved but that we engaged more people through new narratives and proper storytelling. In the book, we wanted to tell the story through the lives of four women, shifting from the scientific and the economic analysis, into what this could mean for people across the globe.

But it was also very important for us to anchor and link our scenarios and thinking to the SDGs, understanding the links with what the international community is thinking and in particular the countries that have anchored their policies in the SDGs.

'A systems change agenda for well-being within the planetary boundaries' is the key message that came out of our analyses, bringing together transformational economics for well-being with global and regional system modelling and the planetary boundaries science. We did this collectively, working together with the [Club of Rome](#), the [Norwegian Business School](#), the [Stockholm Resilience Centre](#), and the [Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research](#). The main aim of our analysis and modelling was to see how we could get as close as possible to a global state of economic well-being and show the difference between two scenarios: the 'too little too late' scenario and 'the giant leap' scenario. What we saw was that to reach 'the giant leap' scenario, we would need to enable the systematic and integrated implementation of five key turnarounds:

1. A reduction of poverty
2. Empowerment of women and workers
3. Decreasing inequality across the globe, between North and South but also within countries
4. A transformation of our food system
5. A transformation of our energy system

the national level, the regional level, and get even more granular at the city level. We had to include the social, economic and environmental indicators across the board, ensuring that we had verifiable interactions between them.

If you take our two key scenarios: the 'too little, too late' scenario (which is today's scenario), and 'the giant leap'—which is what we call our alternative future—a very important point to take into account is that the potential cost of GDP would be about 2-4 per cent. So, 2-4 per cent of global income would be needed to invest in a better future in the 'giant leap' scenario. A scenario where societies are more resilient, where extreme weather events are decreasing and where we're not getting into a total toppling of our economies but rather enhancing greater well-being for a majority of the population. Just 2-4 per cent would build resilience in our economies. This is about the amount, or actually I would even say it's less, than what we are spending on defence.

The 'too little too late' scenario, let me be very clear, is today's scenario, or I would say a 2022 scenario because I think that today's scenario would probably be worse, simply because of the backtracking that we now are seeing in the United States and the potential ricochet effect we might see outside of the US [United States].

The five key turnarounds

Looking at those five key turnarounds in detail—the turnarounds which enable us to get to the wellbeing economy—we wanted to unpack each of them with some core policy proposals.

If we were to end poverty and allow low- to middle income countries to reach a minimum income threshold of about USD 15,000 per person, per year, we would need to look at the International Monetary Fund and the way in which we are putting forward special drawing rights. We would have to address cancelling debt because for the moment we know very clearly that there is no fiscal space within the Global South because they are asphyxiated by debt and cannot have the proper budgetary possibilities to allocate towards a proper just transition. We would need to work on South-to-South trade, but also North and South trade in terms of removing obstacles to technology transfer, intellectual property constraints, energy, food etc.

On addressing inequality, policy proposals would include that the wealthiest 10 per cent don't take more than 40 per cent of national income. Because we know that the top 10 per cent currently takes up to 60-80 per cent of national incomes, depending on which country we're speaking about. And policy proposals would very much entail taxing the wealthiest. Some of you may be familiar with the work that we've been doing with the [Patriotic Millionaires](#) and [Oxfam](#) to tax extreme wealth.

There is also a great deal of push now at the OECD level, which has influenced the discourse on the necessity of creating greater funds for ensuring that we reduce inequality through the taxation of the super-rich.

Our policy proposals also include legislating and strengthening workers' rights, in order to enable the deeper transformation and the link between workers and

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the economy. Today, we are in an over-financialized economy which is predominantly dominated by shareholder value rather than by labour and workers. It also includes introducing citizen funds to give all citizens their fair share of national income, wealth and the global commons, through a fee and dividend scheme.

In terms of accelerating gender equality to improve well-being, and to ensure that we stabilize population growth, our policy proposals include providing access to education for all girls and women, achieving gender equity in jobs and leadership, and providing adequate pensions. So, this is not just about having a gender quota. This is about ensuring that girls and women are part of the economy and are properly given access to education across the globe.

We would need to transform the food system and transform the energy system. When you look at these, many of us have been united around similar types of policy action. But what's important here is that while we look at a regenerative food system and providing healthy diets for people, while we look at a carbon law pathway where we're actually reducing greenhouse gases by 50 per cent every decade, we are taking into consideration the empowerment of women and inequality. That is the difference with regard to our scenarios and traditional decarbonization pathways and this integrated systemic approach is what we are trying to show within *Earth for All*.

And then what happens? The proof is in the pudding. A world with less inequality is clearly apparent with 'the giant leap' scenario, that takes into consideration those five key turnarounds and the policy proposals that I've shown just now. It means that if you look at our *Earth for All* inequality index, if we start to apply those five key turnarounds, we will by 2040 see a net difference in terms of inequality between 'the giant leap' and the 'too little, too late' scenario. It also means that in terms of global poverty, we will see a net difference of about one-fourth starting already in 2030 and then reduced by the same proportion in 2040. This is quite fast. With these turnarounds, if we put them together, we start to see an acceleration in human development in low-income countries. Because we're reforming the system, not only in terms of our domestic tax laws, but we're also working at the international level through the international financial and the trade system.

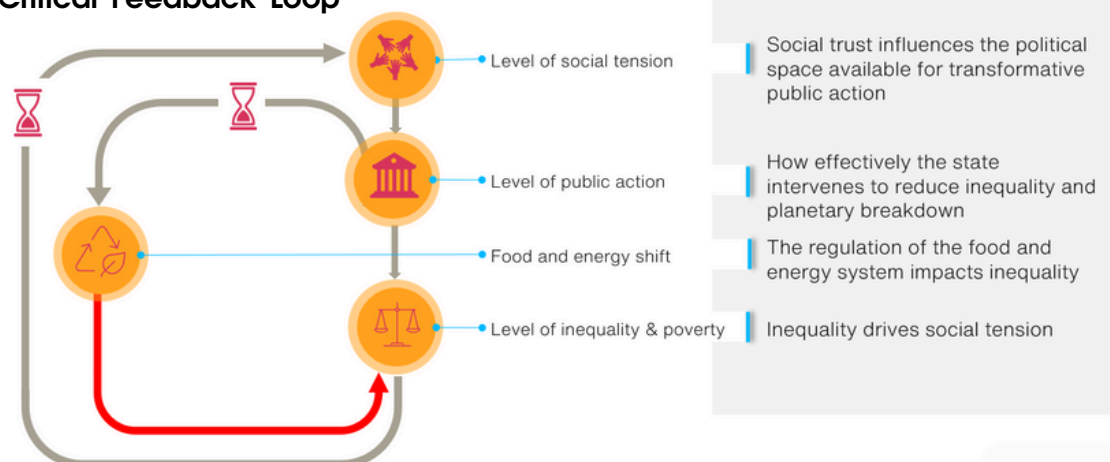
The critical feedback loop

I think what's fundamental here is that people understand the critical feedback loop between the action on the planetary boundaries being a function of action on inequality and poverty. The critical feedback loop, which most of us have seen unfold in front of our eyes, whether it be in terms of the US elections or whether it be here in Europe in terms of the farmers riots and the pushback that we have received at many different levels across our countries as we were moving into the European elections this spring/summer.

The fact that people are angry, that the level of social tension has increased because the quality of life of most people has gone down. That we have not taken into consideration that because of our over-financialized economy, people's lives and livelihoods are not being serviced and that

People's lives and livelihoods are not being serviced and that plus the compound effect of the pandemic, of climate change, has made people's anxiety go up and overall well-being go down.

The Critical Feedback Loop



that plus the compound effect of the pandemic, the compound effect of climate change, has made people's anxiety go up and overall well-being go down.

So, we need to take into consideration social trust. If we now look at democracy, at the principles and the upholding of democracy, we need to take into consideration what people are feeling and how they're starting to push back against what we would think would be democratic principles in some ways. We need to take into consideration how they are electing governments that are bringing in principles of fear, principles of loss, principles of climate denialism. This needs to be taken into consideration as we move forward in trying to support democracy worldwide. Taking into consideration the role of the state—for whom, for what? Intervening to reduce inequality, planetary breakdown, while protecting the weakest link, not just the wealthiest. If we look at the greatest transformation that most of us have ever seen, the transformations during Covid-19, the economies that in many cases were the strongest and best performing were those that protected everyone, ensured that they communicated properly to everyone, that everyone's life mattered, not just the minority or wealthiest.

It is very important to take into consideration this critical feedback loop when thinking through the elements that are important for democracy. Because we know that inequality reduces trust. If we look at what's happened in the United States, wage inequality has increased by 14 per cent between 1970 and 2010, but since 1978—and I use this statistic all the time because I'm gobsmacked—US CEO salaries have increased by 1460 per cent while employee salaries have only increased by 18 per cent. And this is starting to encroach on other parts of the world, as there is a competition between astronomical CEO packages. As we look at the earnings in the hands of just a few, we can also see that the level of trust in government and business has decreased and this has increased social tension.

So gone is the economy where most people think we have one organization around production, consumption and exchange. It's very clear that we have an overly monetized economy, a transactional economy where money is made on money and the shifting value of various assets from stocks and bonds to real estate, to intellectual property and to crypto. I mean, we're now hearing that the US dollar could collapse because of new cryptocurrencies that are being introduced by our own US president. That manipulation of financial assets now dominates economic decision-making across the globe. That is what we state in *Earth for All* and we talk about the fact that we need to redraw the game

board, we need to get away from this over-financialized economy, from this over-monetized economy, transactional economy, by starting to look at the possibility of setting up citizen funds, by ensuring that we tax wealth, that we reallocate government measures, that we get rid of the perversities in our market. We are still subsidizing fossil energy and industrial agriculture. We are subsidizing everything which is detrimental to our life, whether it be nature or whether it be our own economies.

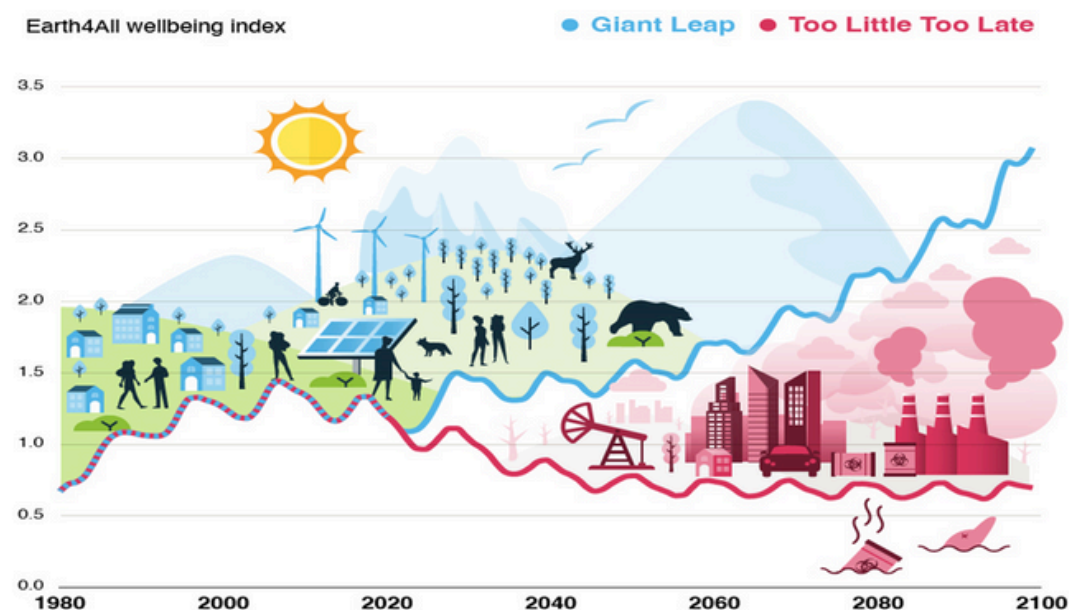
We have to reform the international financial system and we need to address new progress indicators in the context of well-being economies. This is an interesting point: we now see that the work that we have done in *Earth for All* on new indicators and moving beyond GDP is growing also in the way in which the European Commission and the EU institutions are looking at the economy, as well as the way in which the UN has integrated new indicators into their thinking with regard to setting up a new expert group, as mentioned before. And we are also seeing new well-being economies across the globe, economies that have gone beyond GDP and put in place indicators which are environmentally focused and socially focused alongside GDP growth.

Ensuring that we have feedback loops between the five turnarounds, we've been able to show that we can achieve well-being for all and reduce social tension.

'The giant leap' scenario also shows us that when we focus on new energy and food systems and reduce consumption, GHG emissions go down significantly.

By putting in place those five key turnarounds and ensuring that we have feedback loops between the five turnarounds we've been able to show that we can achieve well-being for all and reduce social tension.

What's also important here is the core theory of change. We believe that it is necessary to influence governments at all levels as well as engage with the business community and citizens through citizen assemblies and the right narratives to bring more people on this journey of change. Changing the narrative and embarking on a new type of storytelling in policy, media and public debate is essential.



Achieving well-being for all within a 'giant leap'. Source: Earth4All

Over the last few years we have applied this theory of change and have delivered national engagement strategies by using our *Earth for All* modelling in Germany, Austria and Kenya, and we're looking at Australia and Brazil to introduce new national programs that are built on *Earth for All* thinking. All of this is anchored in scientific evidence modelling and simulator work. This is important at a time when we know that science-based decision-making is getting a great deal of pushback.

Through our work, we have built a movement and we're trying to work with a series of different partners all over the globe, ensuring that *Earth for All* is not just a book but is translated into new school programs, is translated into discussions in book clubs, is translated into potential citizen assemblies, and is translated into policy at different levels from international all the way down to local.

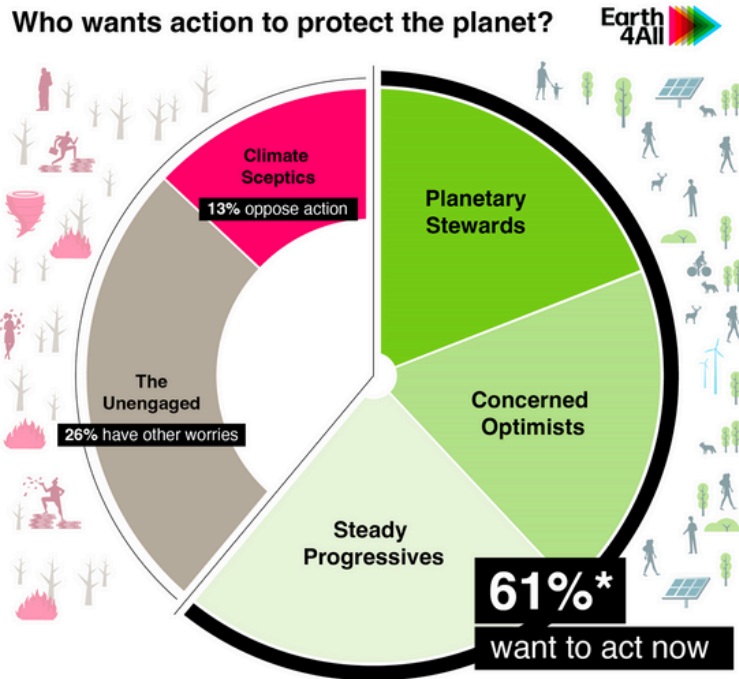
The Earth for All 2024 survey

Now let me quickly go through [the 2024 survey](#) that we undertook in order to stress test some of our thinking and to see if what we were seeing through *Earth for All* matched citizen opinion. We asked citizens across eighteen G20 countries and four additional countries their opinion on political and economic issues and policy proposals. From this survey 81 per cent say democracy is a good way of governing their country. But 40 per cent believe that having a strong leader who doesn't bother with parliament and elections is too—and we're seeing this mapping out in a variety of different countries now across the globe. The survey moreover showed that 39 per cent believe their government can be trusted to make decisions for the benefit of the majority. So, trust in government has gone down and tends to be the lowest in European countries, among older people and those dissatisfied with their household financial situation.

The survey also showed that there is a majority of support in the G20 for reform of national and global political and economic systems, with slightly more support for reform at the national level. So, although there is support for reform, we're seeing some contradictions in terms of the belief in governments to be able to do what they need to do. Furthermore, the survey showed that 69 per cent of people are aware that we are reaching tipping points. So, it is clear that across the G20, citizens understand that the earth is close to climate and nature tipping points due to human activities. And most people know that we need action now—71 per cent of people believe that the world needs to take immediate action within the next decade to reduce carbon emissions.

We saw that 81 per cent say democracy is a good way of governing their country. But 40 per cent believe that having a strong leader who doesn't bother with parliament and elections is too.

What was interesting is that overall, we saw broad support for the *Earth for All* recommendations. Government, healthcare, workers' rights and renewable energy have the highest support. There is also a majority of support for reform of national and global political and economic systems. This is because of that growing distrust, because of that growing social tension and people starting to wonder whether their governments are truly servicing their needs. But even policies with the



*G20 countries, excluding Russia. Source: Earth4All, Ipsos

lowest support in the survey are backed by over 50 per cent. So, we do know that most of the policies that we have proposed are getting support across the board.

The question is, how do we translate this? How do we understand where we should go? What type of persona do citizens have? How do we understand how we properly communicate and where we should focus our attention? If we look at what we call the 'planetary steward' segments of the population, who are driven by a sense of urgency and responsibility for the environment?

Where do we focus our attention if we want to influence change in public discourse and opinion? Do we look at the 'unengaged' or the 'climate skeptics'? Do we focus our attention on them? Or do we focus on the 'concerned optimists' or the 'steady progressives' and the 'planetary stewards'? Where should we focus our time? Because we know that we've reached a social tipping point where more people care for and want action to protect the planet than those who don't. 61 per cent of all of these different types of personas want to act now. Do we focus our time on the 'unengaged' and the 'climate skeptics'? Or do we focus our time on that 61 per cent?

Let's finish with this: 62 per cent feel optimistic about their future. But only 44 per cent feel the same about the future of their country and 38 per cent about the future of the world. We have so many different data points coming from citizens across the globe and we know we have broad support for the policies that we as *Earth for All* are bringing forward. We have a broad support for change and a broad support for an alternative future. And yet we know that the backlash against the values that we hold dear—democracy, social inclusion, diversity and climate change—is real, in particular in the United States.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a difficult time. It's a complex time. This is the decisive decade. Here in Europe, we know that the next Von Der Leyen EU Commission is going to

be the next five years of this decade. We're hopeful that she will leave a positive legacy in the same way she tried in her last five years.

It is important to remember, as Donella Meadows, one of the authors of *The Limits to Growth*, said: "There is too much bad news to justify complacency, but there's too much good news to justify despair". We have made great strides in the area of decarbonisation, moving net zero forward and even in addressing shifting beyond growth in some countries. But sadly the trends in the US and in some parts of Europe is to abandon these goals for greater competitiveness and the continuation of an extractive economy moving us further away from these goals.

So, how do we continue to convince the broader base of citizens and bring more citizens on an *Earth for All* journey? That is the key question that we're all faced with today. That is what my colleagues and I will continue to try to work on, with a variety of different governments, citizen groups and industries. To continue to shift the bar, to revamp our economies, and to bring an earth for all that embraces not only people but also planet and that enables us to thrive not just survive on this planet we call home.

Thank you very much.

A broad support for change and a broad support for an alternative future. And yet we know that the backlash against the values that we hold dear—democracy, social inclusion, diversity and climate change—is real.



Sandrine Dixson-Declève is an international climate change, sustainable development, sustainable finance, and complex system thought leader.

She is Honorary President and a Global Ambassador for The Club of Rome and Executive Chair of Earth4All. Sandrine divides her time between leading Earth4All, advising, lecturing, and facilitating difficult conversations.

She was recognised most recently by Reuters as one of 25 global female trailblazers and by GreenBiz as one of the 30 most influential women across the globe driving change in the low carbon economy and promoting green business.



The Club of Rome is a platform of diverse thought leaders who identify holistic solutions to complex global issues and promote policy initiatives and action to enable humanity to emerge from multiple planetary emergencies.

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Earth4All is a vibrant collective of leading economic thinkers, scientists, and advocates, convened by The Club of Rome, the BI Norwegian Business School, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

Building on the legacies of The Limits to Growth and the Planetary Boundaries frameworks, science is at the heart of our work. Leading scientists have developed state of the art systems dynamic models and run different scenarios for possible plausible futures.

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The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an inter-governmental think and do-tank with a sole mandate to advance democracy worldwide. In addition to its established programming on electoral processes, constitution-building processes, and democracy assessment, the Institute has emerging workstreams on climate change and democracy as well as digitalization and democracy.

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