

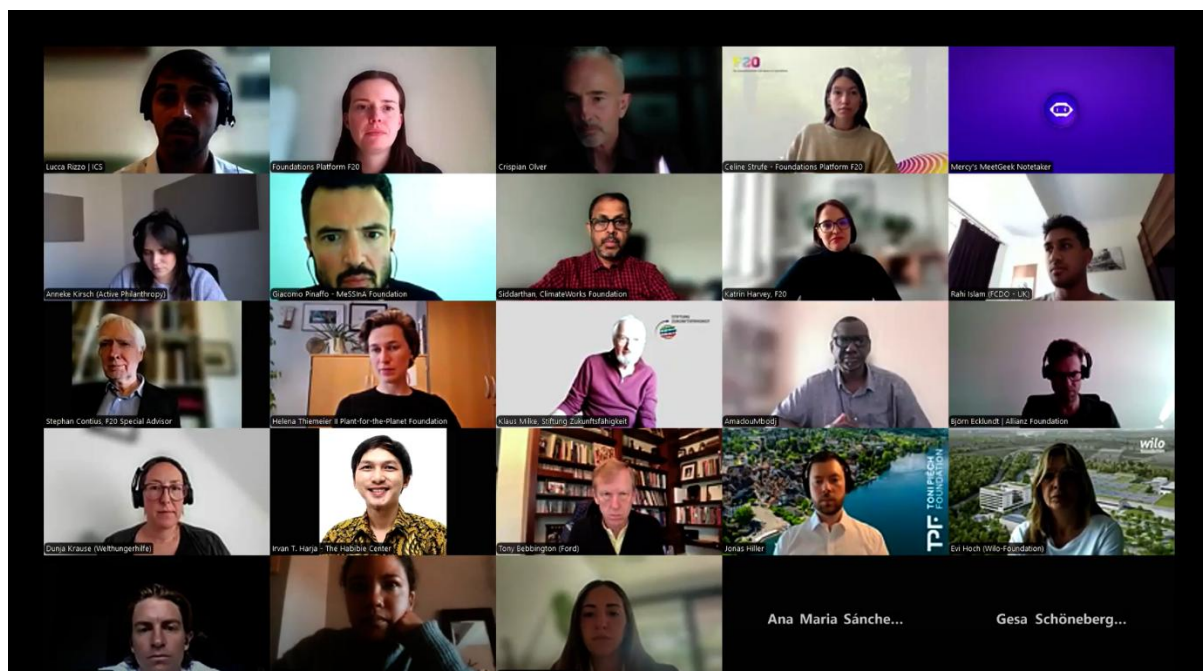


F20 Executive Members Call with Lucca Rizzo and Crispian Olver

Tuesday 6th May 2025, 2:00pm-3:00pm CET

Topic: Country Platforms in the G20 processes

Purpose: Examining the Country Platform Approach and how it can be used effectively in mobilization of climate action. A conversation between representatives from Brazil and South Africa and the UK, as a key point of the G20 transitions from Brazil to South Africa 2025. The call provided a chance for F20 members to engage directly with country platform experts, and to understand the ways in which philanthropy can engage and support actions throughout the year.



Country Platforms as Catalysts for Climate Action: Brazil and South Africa Lead the Way

In a recent virtual convening, the F20 member community from around the globe gathered to explore the potential of Country Platforms (CPs) as vehicles for mobilising effective climate and development action. The discussion, hosted by F20 and moderated by Katrin Harvey, featured deep insights from Lucca Rizzo, Specialist in Climate Finance at the Institute for Climate and Society (ICS) in Brazil, and Dr. Crispian Olver, Deputy Chair of the South African Presidential Climate Commission.

The Case for Country Platforms

Lucca Rizzo, whose extensive legal and finance background uniquely positions him at the intersection of sustainable development and climate finance offered a comprehensive overview of Country Platforms, defining them as “voluntary, government-led mechanisms designed to foster collaboration among development partners, anchored in shared national priorities.” First formally recognised in the G20’s 2020 Reference Framework under the Saudi Arabian G20 presidency, CPs are now gaining serious momentum, with growing interest across the Global South.



Rizzo underscored that CPs are not merely climate tools - they are broader development mechanisms that can integrate agendas such as health, housing, and energy within a single national vision. Drawing from Brazil's own Investment Platform, he illustrated how different sectors, including bioeconomy, mobility, and energy, can be coordinated under a national climate strategy. Importantly, Rizzo stressed that CPs are not one-size-fits-all, but rather adaptable frameworks requiring robust technical assessments, stakeholder engagement, and institutional support.

South Africa's Perspective and the Role of Country Ownership

Echoing the potential of CPs, Dr. Crispian Olver commended Brazil's pioneering role and reaffirmed South Africa's commitment to expanding the model. He highlighted that CPs must be firmly rooted in a country's own development and political economy to succeed. "If the platform is not aligned with the national strategy, it loses credibility," he warned, referencing lessons from South Africa's Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP).

Olver drew attention to the complexities of energy transition, where decommissioning coal-fired power is just one part of a multi-pronged process involving grid reform and renewable energy integration. For CPs to deliver transformational outcomes, he argued, they must be governed at the highest levels of government and supported by diverse coalitions - private sector, civil society, and grassroots leaders alike.

Tackling Finance, Governance, and Global Engagement

The call's Q&A session brought key questions to the forefront: How can developed countries engage meaningfully without dominating? What structural reforms are needed to scale CPs effectively? How can the philanthropic community support this process effectively?

Lucca Rizzo responded by emphasizing the importance of CPs as tools to strengthen institutional capacity in developing nations. They should be seen as instruments to improve the flow of funds and foster local project selection and ownership. Crispian Olver noted that with declining Official Development Assistance (ODA), there is a critical need to reform how such funds are allocated, moving toward more inclusive, locally led mechanisms.

Further comments from participants, including representatives from The Habibie Center and the UK's FCDO, reinforced these points, urging for stronger North-South collaboration, more flexible finance, and enhanced knowledge sharing. Philanthropic actors were encouraged to build fiduciary capacity and support the localisation of CPs to ensure real impact on the ground, while at the same time using their power of advocacy to create more buy in from governments across the world.

Looking Ahead

As the dialogue concluded, Olver predicted that 10 to 20 new Country Platforms could be launched by 2025. This, he stressed, represents an opportunity to create a new cohort of nations pursuing sustainable development through shared learning and innovation—especially across the Global South.



In his closing remarks, Rizzo called for immediate support to countries already developing CPs, arguing that providing technical assistance and institutional capacity building is one of the most cost-effective ways to accelerate climate action.

Katrin Harvey closed the session by thanking participants and affirming continued collaboration. As momentum builds and global cooperation deepens, Country Platforms could well become a cornerstone in the global response to the climate and development challenge.