Climate change is one of the most significant challenges facing humanity. Its disastrous effects - famine, floods, fires and extreme heat - threaten our existence. The final consequences of the climate crisis will depend on our societies’ ability to reduce our carbon footprint in the coming years drastically.

Climate change has been on the international political agenda for decades, there is a basic consensus on the scale of the challenge we face, and we have clear recommendations for the direction in which we should be heading. Following the Paris Climate Agreement adopted in 2015, the world agreed to limit global warming to 1.5°C to avert disaster. The planet is currently about 1.2°C warmer than it was at the end of the 19th century, and, if we continue at this speed, we will double the 1.5°C frontier by the end of this century.

To ensure its very existence, humanity needs to evolve into a carbon-neutral, resource-sustainable and resilient society by 2050. This transition will pose challenges, but it will also be a unique opportunity to generate wealth, jobs and modernise and transform our communities positively.

Long-term visionary policies and strategies will be essential. The ‘short-termism’ inherent in political decision-making and the constraints imposed by the temporality of democratic mandates are seriously affecting progress in the fight against climate change. The private sector, far from being the problem, is a large part of the solution to the energy, economic and social challenges we face. It is, together with civil society, a vital actor with the capacity to innovate and influence the definition of a comprehensive and long-term vision.

The transition to Net Zero can only be achieved with consensus and leadership from the public-private sector, international organisations and civil society. The goal is ambitious but achievable.

The Leadership for Climate Neutrality initiative aims to generate an international and multidisciplinary debate that values the role of leadership in the fight against climate change. Leadership capable of developing and assuming political, business and social measures aligned with climate neutrality and ensuring public support.

The transition to a world with zero net emissions is one of the most significant challenges of our time. We will need to transform how we produce, consume and move, a global challenge requiring concerted effort.

Leadership for Net Zero proposes a strategic alliance between political, business and civil society leaders anchored on shared principles and values, in which each of them can contribute their experience and knowledge to jointly build a sustainable future and ensure the survival of future generations.
ACTIVITIES
To achieve this objective, the Initiative will be organised around the following activities:

1. Policy dialogues with Club de Madrid Members, representatives of the private sector and civil society, academia and international organisations.
2. Preparation of analysis and recommendations documents, which will serve as a basis for dissemination and advocacy work.
3. International public information campaign for information purposes.
4. High-level advocacy campaign:
   - UN Climate Change Conferences (COP28 and COP29).
   - United Nations General Assemblies.
   - UN Future Summit in 2023.
   - High-level missions to European institutions, UN headquarters, regional bodies and development banks.

IMPACT
Following its implementation, Leadership for Climate Neutrality will have:

- Created an international space for reflection and mobilisation of multidisciplinary knowledge to support political, business and social decision-makers with practical strategies toward climate neutrality.
- Inspired other political, business and civil society leaders to join climate neutrality efforts.
- Contributed to transforming the current narrative that perceives climate transition measures as a cost rather than a guarantee of sustainability and survival of future generations.
- Contributed to the continued evolution of the Global Climate Action Agenda.
- Giving visibility to good practices in Climate Leadership.

WHY CLUB DE MADRID?
Club de Madrid is the world’s largest forum of democratic former presidents and prime ministers, drawing on their individual and collective leadership experience and global reach to strengthen inclusive democratic practice and improve the well-being of people around the world.

The Club de Madrid and its Members are uniquely positioned to support and provide independent, practical and strategic leadership expertise on climate action. Historically, Club de Madrid Members have contributed significantly to the decision-making and construction of the Global Climate Action Agenda. Access, convening power and political leadership experience are the value added that Club de Madrid Members bring to the table.

LEADERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Festus Mogae President of Botswana (1998-2008) and United Nations Special Envoy for Climate Change

Oro Harlem Brundtland Prime Minister of Norway (1986-1989; 1990-1996) and United Nations Special Envoy for Climate Change

José Mario Figueres President of Costa Rica (1994-1998) and member of the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Group on Climate Change and Energy

Mary Robinson President of Ireland (1990-1997) and United Nations Special Envoy for Climate Change

Ban Ki-moon Secretary-General of the United Nations (2007-2016)

Felipe Calderón President of Mexico (2006-2012) and Honorary Chair of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate

Helen Clark Prime Minister of New Zealand (1999-2008) and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Han Seung-soo Prime Minister of South Korea and former UN Special Envoy on Climate Change

Ricardo Lagos President of Chile (2000 - 2006) and United Nations Special Envoy for Climate Change