

LEAD, POLICY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

The Role at a Glance

The Role	<p>The Lead of the Climate Champions' Policy Engagement Team plays a central role in overseeing a small team of policy experts and advisors tasked with providing geopolitical, diplomatic and policy advice to the UN High-Level Champions (HLCs) and senior members of their Climate Champions (CC) support team.</p> <p>The Policy Engagement Team Lead plays a central role in overseeing a small team (4 to 6 people) of policy experts providing geopolitical, diplomatic and policy advice to the UN High-Level Champions (HLCs) and the Climate Champions team.</p>
Contract type	Independent contractor or sponsored secondment from existing place of employment.
Contract duration	12 months, with potential extension.
Remuneration level	<p>For independent contractors, in line with market rates, and commensurate with experience and location. Remuneration is inclusive of annual leave.</p> <p>For sponsored secondments, we expect the employer to be responsible for all matters relating to remuneration and benefits.</p>
Start date	As soon as possible
Location	Flexible. We're a global team, and provide direct political advice and support to the UN High-Level Champions, so the role may require some travel.
Annual leave	For contractors, 5 weeks unpaid leave. If secondment, then adherence to the leave policy of the employer
Reporting to	Director, Policy & Strategy
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate is expected to work from home or other office space at own expense. In some locations, a collaborative office space may be available. • Occasional travel, as and when requested. Out of town travel and some other work-related expenses will be reimbursed in line with the CC Team's travel and expense policy. • The candidate is expected to provide and maintain their own ICT and work tools, including mobile phone devices, with assistance provided to connect to and use CC team digital communication platforms.
Recruitment process	Please submit your CV and brief cover letter (no more than one A4 page) to opportunities@climatechampions.team



	<p>Please mention 'HLC Policy Lead' in the subject of your email.</p> <p>Applications will be considered on a rolling basis beginning Monday 18 April, with shortlisted candidates invited to virtual interviews soon after.</p>
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BACKGROUND

The Climate Champions Team provides support to the UNFCCC High Level Climate Champions to deliver on the mandate from Parties: to drive climate action and enhance ambition by non-state actors. Working with the Marrakech Partnership and other partners, we mobilise businesses, investors, cities, regions and civil society and act as a bridge between non-state actors and national governments to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement. At COP26, the two serving High Level Climate Champions launched [a five year plan](#) to deliver on the mandate from Parties. It sets out objectives and details of the tools employed to achieve them, across six key functions for the work of the Climate Champions Team for the period 2021 - 2025.

The global team is resourced to support the major campaigns [Race to Resilience](#), [Race to Zero](#) and [Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero \(GFANZ\)](#), as well as sector-focused systems transformation using the [Climate Action Pathways](#) and [2030 Breakthroughs](#). Alongside this, we are continuing to strengthen the accountability mechanisms of the campaigns and assess the overall state of systems transformation as we prepare to support the global stocktake.

COP27 offers a unique moment to drive transformational change, scaling action for climate-vulnerable communities, and mobilising finance to developing and emerging economies, to move from ambition to implementation and halve global emissions and protect four billion people from climate impacts by 2030.

THE ROLE

The Climate Champions' Policy Engagement Team provides geopolitical, diplomatic and political economy advice, analysis and briefing to inform the UN HLCs' engagement with governments and non-state actors (NSAs), specifically the business, investor, subnational and cities communities, with the overall aim to encourage and accelerate climate action, and support greater national ambition, including through countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), net zero policies and plans, National Adaptation Plans, and flows of climate finance under the Paris Agreement.



Leveraging NSA efforts to enhance global climate action requires a deep understanding of the geopolitical and international policy landscape, as well as the key political moments and levers for enhanced climate action at the national, regional and global levels.

The Policy Team's diplomatic and policy advice and sectoral expertise informs overall HLC strategy development and coordination across the CC Team, and seeks to build the groundswell of climate action through NSA climate campaigns, initiatives and collaborative platforms, including working with the broader team to expand membership and accelerate robust delivery on NSA commitments through the Race to Resilience, and the Race to Zero and the Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ).

Working closely with the HLCs and the Climate Champion's Senior Leadership Team, primary responsibilities include:

- Lead on the refinement and execution of the Climate Champions strategy to channel NSA climate leadership to support ambitious climate policy and action at the national, regional and global levels.
- Oversee and contribute to the work of the Policy Engagement team, including the formulation of geopolitical, diplomatic and political economy analysis, providing briefing and strategic advice to inform the HLCs' and Climate Champion's Team collaboration on policy engagement with non-state actors in different countries and regions around the world.
- Contribute international and regional climate policy, diplomacy and finance insights and expertise to inform overall HLC strategy development and coordination across the Climate Champions Team, working closely with campaign teams and sector leads.
- Contribute political and diplomatic advice and strategy to current and emerging sectoral coalitions and campaigns, particularly those likely to garner high-level political attention and involvement in the lead-up to and at COP27, including the Global Stocktake.
- Deepen HLCs' connections with local partners in currently underrepresented regions, including emerging, developing and particularly vulnerable countries in the run up to COP27.
- Work closely with HLCs priority sector and stakeholder leads to identify, develop and execute plans to mobilise NSAs in support of ambitious climate policy and action.
- Provide diplomatic and political input and preparation for HLC and CC Team private and public engagements, including: meetings, high-profile events, multilateral political moments (e.g. G7, G20, UNGA), etc.



- Connect with other NSA networks, including policy and diplomatic experts and the COP Presidency teams to build trusted relationships to deliver these objectives; and to share insights and identify opportunities for NSA engagement.
- Provide political insights in the development and implementation of work to enhance NSA commitment transparency & accountability.
- Support the HLCs and CC team's technical and political understanding of UNFCCC negotiations and delivery on the improved plan for the Marrakech Partnership.
- Contribute to HLC communications in liaison with the Climate Champions Strategic Communications Team, including development of broad political narratives, identification of key political trends and moments, and briefing for events and high-level meetings, including accompanying / joining HLCs on relevant trips and calls when needed.

About you

The successful candidate will be accomplished and experienced in climate policy / clean energy / economic / finance policy, preferably with government / diplomatic experience and/or exposure to the UNFCCC and related international and diplomatic processes.

Essential requirements

You will be / have:

- Strong high-level connections into and within the international climate community, and relevant contacts in priority countries, including with leading policy-makers and influential NSAs.
- An outstanding analytical thinker and first-rate writer, capable of collecting and organising complex inputs into short, sharp written briefings and political economy analysis.
- You will be a highly motivated self-starter, willing to work across different time zones and cultures in a high-profile, fast-paced environment.
- You are very skilled and experienced in building coalitions and fostering collaboration across a wide range of stakeholders, including senior government officials, the private sector and civil society actors.
- Strong team management skills, capable of implementing systems for the efficient and successful operation of a small team of part- and full-time advisors.
- A very strong communicator, fluent English is essential. Fluency in other languages is a significant advantage.
- A collaborative and collegial working style, and a strong team player
- The ability to handle and manage ambiguity and change

The Climate Champions Team



- A strong personal and professional commitment to help drive ambitious climate action
- A commitment to the Climate Champions core values (below)

Core Values:

- **Unite behind the science:** make the changes scientists tell us are needed.
- **Build upon the incredible work to date:** we will cross-fertilise and amplify the work of the many heroes who have already contributed so much to address climate change.
- **Be open top, and take into account different ideas and perspectives:** be willing to be challenged and to challenge other Ideas, we look for the best in people and the best, most sound and most credible ideas, wherever they come from.
- **Practice stubborn optimism:** we recognise the scale of the problem, combined with an absolute determination to help build our way out.
- **Seek progress not perfection:** all of us can be criticized and many of those best able to advance this issue are currently the biggest causes of it. We can't allow cynical greenwashing, but all who are serious about tackling climate change positively will be welcomed.
- **Be humble and generous:** we keep our egos in check and work together as a team for the good of the whole and the overall mission.

Code of Conduct

As a member of the Climate Champions Team, you will be required to adhere to the highest standards of conduct and behaviour, protecting the integrity of the mandate from Parties, the UNFCCC process, the UNFCCC institution and the COP Presidency. Shortly after joining, you will be asked to participate in a number of mandatory induction meetings to ensure you have the information and tools required to adhere to the highest standards.

Contract information

The Climate Champions Team is a programme of work under the not for profit administrative host body Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA). The contract for this role will be drafted within the Climate Champions Team and signed by the post holder and a senior representative of RPA.

Find out [more about RPA here](#).