

CLIMATE ACTION UNLOCKED: PATHWAYS TO GLOBAL SOLUTIONS



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ABOUT VOICES OF SUSTAINABILITY

Voices of Sustainability is a thought leadership platform launched by the Zayed Sustainability Prize to explore the challenges and opportunities of the global transition to an inclusive and

prosperous future. Each month, the series hosts the world's leading experts to discuss the latest trends and themes in the sustainability agenda.



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INTRODUCTION

On 27 February 2025, the Zayed Sustainability Prize aired its 45th episode of the Voices of Sustainability series, featuring John Kerry, Former United States Secretary of State and Co-executive Chair at Galvanize Climate Solutions. The episode examined the urgent need for accelerated global

climate action, emphasising key themes such as technological advancements, international cooperation, and the role of public-private partnerships. Kerry shared his perspective on how leadership, innovation, and policy shifts can drive sustainable solutions at scale.



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SUMMARY

In the 45th episode of Voices of Sustainability, the conversation focused on global pathways to achieving ambitious climate targets, featuring John Kerry, Former United States Secretary of State and Co-executive Chair at Galvanize Climate Solutions. This episode covered pivotal topics including energy transformations, AI-driven climate solutions, and the importance of galvanising action at all levels of society.

Kerry opened the discussion by highlighting the progress made in global climate policy over the past few decades, referencing landmark moments such as the Paris Agreement and the UAE Consensus at COP28. He stressed that while significant advancements have been made, the world remains behind on its emissions reduction goals. According to Kerry, urgent and decisive action is required to meet net-zero targets by 2050.

A key theme of the conversation was the role of emerging technologies in driving the clean energy transition. Kerry underscored the potential of AI in managing energy grids more efficiently, optimising resource distribution, and predicting environmental risks. He also pointed to the rapid advancements in battery storage, nuclear energy, and geothermal solutions as game changers in the quest for a sustainable future.

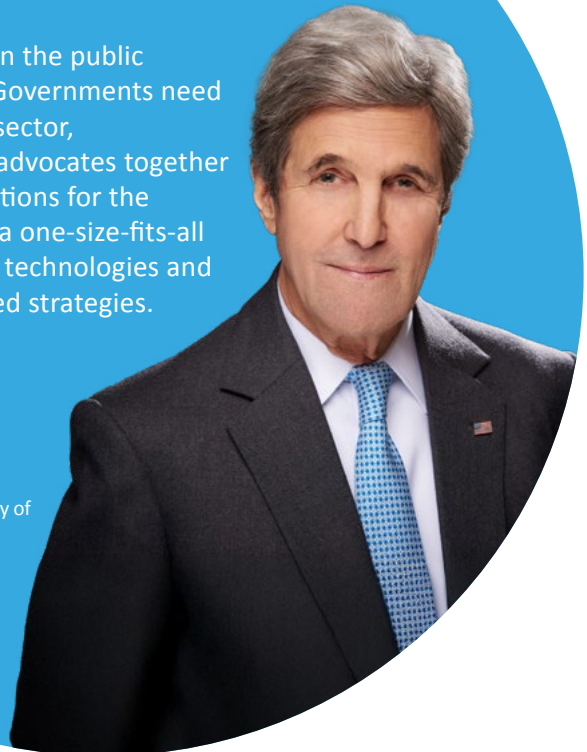
Another major topic was the role of financial markets and private investment in sustainability. Kerry discussed how firms like Galvanize Climate Solutions are working to de-risk investments in climate technologies and encourage capital flow



We believe entirely in the public component of this. Governments need to bring the private sector, philanthropies, and advocates together to find the right solutions for the right places. It's not a one-size-fits-all approach—different technologies and needs require tailored strategies. But collaboration is key to accelerating the transition.

John Kerry

Former United States Secretary of State and Co-executive Chair at Galvanize Climate Solutions



into renewable energy projects. He emphasised that climate action must be framed as an economic opportunity rather than just an environmental necessity, noting that investors who recognise the long-term financial benefits of sustainability will ultimately drive the transition.

Kerry also reflected on the importance of public-private partnerships in scaling climate solutions. He noted that governments must create the right regulatory frameworks and incentives, while private entities must be willing to invest in long-term, scalable solutions. He cited the example of carbon markets and how shifting subsidies from fossil fuels to clean energy could accelerate global energy transformations.



In addressing global climate leadership, Kerry pointed to the critical role of developing nations in the energy transition. He praised efforts in Africa and Asia to shift away from coal and embrace renewables, despite these regions being the least responsible for historical emissions. He emphasised that financial and technological support from wealthier nations is essential to ensuring a just and equitable transition.

The discussion concluded with a reflection on how platforms like the Zayed Sustainability Prize contribute to global climate action. Kerry noted that the Prize

plays a vital role in empowering young innovators and grassroots leaders to develop and scale climate solutions. He emphasised that local action, combined with international policy efforts, will be the key to tackling the climate crisis.

Through this episode, Kerry provided a compelling call to action, urging policymakers, businesses, and individuals alike to recognise the urgency of the climate crisis and take meaningful steps toward sustainable solutions.

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BIOGRAPHIES

John Kerry

Former United States Secretary of State and
Co-executive Chair at Galvanize Climate Solutions

John Kerry is Co-executive Chair at Galvanize, focusing on expanding investment strategies and leveraging expertise in technology, policy, and geopolitics to drive the energy transition.

From 2021 to 2024, he served as the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, securing renewed U.S.-China climate cooperation and shaping the UAE Consensus at COP28. As U.S. Secretary of State (2013–2017), he played a key role in the Iran nuclear deal, the Paris Climate Agreement, and elevating environmental issues in global security.

Previously, Kerry served as a U.S. Senator (1985–2013) and chaired the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (2009–2013), where he worked on international diplomacy and climate action.



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OUTCOMES



Accelerating clean energy transformations requires leveraging emerging technologies such as AI, battery storage, and geothermal energy



Private sector investment is crucial in funding large-scale climate solutions and making sustainable projects economically viable



Public-private partnerships play a vital role in creating the regulatory and financial conditions needed for climate innovation



Global cooperation is essential, particularly in supporting developing nations as they transition to clean energy sources



Platforms like the Zayed Sustainability Prize help amplify climate solutions by empowering young innovators and grassroots leaders



Local and national actions must align with global climate commitments to ensure a just and effective transition

Watch the full episode on the Zayed Sustainability Prize's YouTube channel

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