

# FALLING WALLS CIRCLE

## PLENARY TABLE “CLIMATE ACTION FUTURE”

With climate change being the most pressing challenge of our time, securing a sustainable future depends on aligning core human needs with sustainable climate solutions. Despite growing awareness and international commitments, progress in climate action has been inadequate and slow, not doing enough to mitigate the impacts of climate change nor to prevent future degradation. This Falling Walls Circle investigates the reasons behind the failure, emphasises the need to reinvigorate the COP process with solution-driven methods in mind, and explores the role of Open Science in accelerating solutions, mobilising stakeholders, and triggering a Green Renaissance.

Panelists: [Frederick Fenter](#) (Frontiers, CH), [Lee Howell](#) (Villars Institute, CH), [Lars Peter Riishøjgaard](#) (World Meteorological Organization, CH), [Johan Rockström](#) (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, DE), [Massamba Thioye](#) (UNFCCC Secretariat, DE), and moderator [Vivienne Parry](#) (Science Writer and Broadcaster, UK).

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1. Clear political commitment to the mitigation agenda.** Taking place shortly before COP28, the discussion underscores the urgency of addressing climate change with immediate action and transparency. Johann Rockström calls for a "panic button" moment, urging clear political commitment to mitigation efforts and decisive regulatory actions: "We need credible pathways to phase out fossil fuels and this includes some hard regulatory decisions, such as an end date on internal combustion engines or prohibit the further exploration of oil and gas", he says. A collective reorientation is deemed essential to break free from the current cycle of insufficient progress in climate action.
- 2. Unlock collaboration and entrepreneurial ambition.** The panelists agree on the importance of breaking down barriers between disciplines, generations, and geopolitical divides to tackle climate change effectively. Lee Howell points out the pivotal role of younger generations in driving future climate action, emphasising the necessity to shift "from ecological anxiety to ecological ambition" and more entrepreneurial spirit. Due to the interconnected nature of climate challenges, collaborative efforts that combine policy making, innovative business models, and cooperative science are necessary to develop holistic solutions. Thus, we need an inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders.
- 3. Incorporate open science.** To level the international playing field and provide equal access to scientific knowledge for different stakeholders, the experts emphasise the rapid transition to open science. The Frontiers Research Foundation, for instance, has initiated the Open Science Charter, an open letter with the appeal to the scientific community to grant full open access to all scientific publications by 2030 in order to re-establish the public's faith and trust in science.

*This event is supported by Frontiers.*