

PRO BONO



# Forum for the Future

Chair

**Posted:** 03/07/2020   **Apply by:** 07/08/2020   **Decision by:** 25/09/2020   **Location:** UK - London   **Shareable link:**

<https://www.nurole.com/roles/pHU1>

## About the organisation

International

### About Forum for the Future

Forum for the Future is a leading international sustainability non-profit with offices in London, New York, Singapore and Mumbai. Forum's mission is to address critical global challenges by catalysing change in key systems.

For over 20 years, Forum has been working in partnership with business, governments and civil society to accelerate the shift toward a sustainable future. Current focus areas include keeping global warming to 1.5°C, ensuring the sustainability of global food systems, and helping make supply chains more resilient and equitable.

Forum tackles the interconnected nature of these challenges by working alongside pioneering organisations to develop strategies that will help them change themselves and the systems around them. It convenes global cross-sectoral collaborations around key issues, and equips organisations and individuals with the skills needed to take meaningful action - through direct coaching, and through its School of System Change.

Forum is poised to play a pivotal role in what is being called the 'decade of delivery', building on its extensive experience in working with large global companies and other organisations to drive systems change for sustainability. Using futures techniques (e.g. scenario planning) and systems change practices, Forum is helping organisations rise to the enormous challenge of climate change and deliver against the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, Forum is helping leading organisations across all sectors understand how they can play a role in reimagining the systems they operate in, and ensure that everyone emerges from this crisis into a truly sustainable, just and more resilient world.

Over the past five years Forum has seen significant shifts in its approach: transitioning from a UK-centric organisation to one that is truly international in its outlook; developing more diverse funding streams; and refining its theory of change to ensure it is driving the greatest impact.

#### Forum's key areas of work

- Sustainable nutrition
- Energy transition including just transition
- Sustainable value chains & livelihoods

**Website:** <https://www.forumforthefuture.org/>

## About the role

### Role summary

Forum for the Future is a leading international sustainability non-profit, with a mission to address critical global challenges by catalysing change in key systems. It works in partnership with businesses, government and civil society to accelerate the shift toward a sustainable future, and is now looking to implement an ambitious new five-year strategy. It seeks a new Chair who will be able to provide inclusive leadership and work with the CEO to deliver on its strategy.

### Role type

Chair

### Pro bono sectors

Environment &amp; conservation - Climate change

### Location

UK - London

## Time commitment

4 Board meetings per annum + attendance at Committee meetings + regular discussions with CEO

## Role specification

The successful candidate will join a passionate team of Trustees and an effective Chief Executive and senior leadership team. The Chair will champion Forum's values, provide inclusive leadership to the Board of Trustees, ensure effective governance and have a strong focus on people and financial resilience.

### Key Responsibilities

- Ensuring that Forum fulfils its purpose in accord with its governing documents in accelerating the shift toward a sustainable future
- Supporting and challenging the Chief Executive and senior management team
- Leading the Board of Trustees with effective chairing and facilitation, ensuring board cohesion, regularly reviewing board performance, and fostering a strong working partnership with the Chief Executive and leadership team
- Representing Forum and its work at relevant national and international events, raising the organisation's profile
- Supporting Forum's fundraising team by engaging with potential funders whose support will enable key programmes to thrive into the future
- Ensuring that Forum has robust processes to manage its resources, financial resilience, and risks
- Leading by example to ensure that Forum adheres to its values, ethics and codes of conduct, demonstrates principles of equality and diversity, and complies with relevant legislation, regulations and codes

## Person specification

Forum for the Future seeks to appoint a skilful and dynamic Chair to lead it in this crucial and complex time, support the organisation's future trajectory, and ensure that Forum achieves maximum impact.

The successful candidate will be a natural Chair, with the necessary strong interpersonal skills to seek multiple views, ensure focused debates with clear outcomes, foster an inclusive culture and effectively lead the Board. They would have a collaborative and empathetic style in line with Forum's values, and would bring coaching and partnership skills to act as a critical friend to the senior management team and maintain cohesion between the Board and the executive team. They must also be committed to lead and represent Forum for the Future and its mission to address critical global sustainability challenges, in order to build confidence and trust in Forum's strategy both internally and externally.

As Forum is a lean enterprise with ambitious growth plans, the successful candidate will bring strong business development skills with an entrepreneurial approach, and will in particular understand the need to be dynamic and have strategic discipline. They will also demonstrate a strong understanding and interest in sustainability and passion for Forum's work. They will ideally have a track record in delivering transformational change agendas in their organisation, whether in business, government or philanthropy; it would also be useful to have an appreciation of systems change approaches as routes to accelerating progress towards sustainable development, although this is strictly desirable and non-essential. In addition, having an understanding of UK charity sector governance and a global outlook with international experience would be an advantage but are not required for the role.

# Candidate experience

## Required for this role

Transformational change experience	Structured skill
Executive committee-level experience of driving and managing a successful transformational change process in an organisation.	
Please evidence your most relevant roles including the focus of the project(s) or programme(s) undertaken, relevant metrics such as budget or headcount involved, and an outline of the outcome.	

## Desired for this role

Professional sustainability experience	Structured skill
A track record of working directly with issues related to sustainability in a professional capacity, as either an executive or non-executive / trustee.	
Please include your most relevant roles including particular issues tackled, key challenges and resultant changes made.	
Charity governance	Structured skill
Demonstrate experience of issues relating to charity governance, preferably having sat on the board of a charitable organisation.	
Please include your most relevant experience including role and key achievements.	
Senior international experience	Structured skill

Senior general management or functional leadership experience within an organisation or division whose remit covers a number of different countries or regions.

Please include your most relevant roles including geographic remit, international or regional bodies engaged with, and a brief description of the organisation's strategic objectives and any key challenges encountered.

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## Additional information

### Culture

**Forum's values:** Courageous | Adaptive | Empathetic | Inquisitive | Playful | Respectful

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### Board Composition

Keith Clarke CBE, Chair  
Andrew Winston  
Anita Tiessen  
Charlotte Ersbøll  
Fiona Thompson  
Heather Grady  
Jonny Wates  
Kelvyn Derrick OBE  
Laura McGonigal  
Noa Gafni  
Volker Beckers

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### Diversity

Forum for the Future seeks to have an inclusive and diverse Board, and therefore welcomes applications from everyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, faith or disability. All appointments will be made on merit, following a fair and transparent process. In line with the Equality Act 2010, however, the organisation may employ positive action where diverse candidates can demonstrate their ability to perform the role equally well.

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### Remuneration and Term of Appointment

This role is unremunerated but highly rewarding. All travel expenses will be reimbursed.

The Chair is appointed on a three-year term and is expected to serve for at least three years.

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### Process

This process is being run in-house by the organisation, who will view the applications without edits. We therefore advise applicants to avoid using 'see CV' or 'please call me to discuss further' in your application as it may restrict your chances of progressing to the next round.

#### Connected Parties

This organisation has requested that candidates do not contact them directly. Instead, if you know someone at the organisation please mention it in your Reason for Application. Members who do not respect this may risk having their membership terminated.

#### Questions & feedback

In the event you have any questions or feedback about the way the role or your application has been handled, please contact [enquiries@nurole.com](mailto:enquiries@nurole.com)

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### Timeline

Deadline for applications: August 7th

Candidates can expect to be contacted by: August 21st

Candidates can expect the process to be completed by: September 25th

The recruitment process begins with an initial screening, followed by two in-depth interviews with Forum for the Future's Trustees and Chief Executive, and a final meeting to select the successful candidate. It is at the Nomination Committee's discretion to introduce another meeting if required. All stages are scheduled for August / September.

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