Chapter Zero Alliance

**Adopted 31 July 2026**

# The Charter

## Preamble

The world faces a climate and nature crisis that is reshaping markets, supply chains and communities at accelerating pace. Most greenhouse gas emissions arise from business activity. Boards of directors — as the ultimate stewards of organisational strategy, risk and accountability — are therefore central to whether companies adapt, create lasting value, and contribute to the transition to a resilient, net-zero, and nature-positive economy. Climate disruption, nature loss, and geopolitical shocks are reshaping the global economy, creating opportunities that demand a new kind of board leadership.

The purpose of Chapter Zero Alliance is to provide support — and to make effective climate and nature governance on boards the global norm. We do this through a community of national Chapters, board directors, subject matter experts, partners and ambassadors, united by a shared conviction that equipping board directors has a unique power to drive the change the world needs.

This Charter is the foundation of the collaboration between Chapter Zero Alliance and its Chapters. It is supplemented by the *Chapter Commitment Framework*, which sets out the baseline obligations of a Chapter in more detail.

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## Articles

### Article I. Identity and Purpose

Chapter Zero Alliance is an independent, non-profit organisation registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in England and Wales.

**Our *vision*** is a world where effective board governance drives sustainable innovation and value creation, balancing opportunity and risk to ensure prosperity within planetary boundaries.

**Our *mission*** is to mobilise a global ecosystem that equips board directors to lead strategic transformation toward a resilient, net-zero, and nature-positive economy — creating long-term value for business, investors and society.

**Our *goal*** is that effective climate and nature governance on boards is the norm.

### Article II. Values

Chapter Zero Alliance is impact-focused, collaborative and innovative — driven by the ambition to make a measurable difference, committed to working with others, and willing to learn from experience and adapt as the world changes.

Chapter Zero Alliance is business-minded in its approach: it engages with the private sector based on credibility, practical relevance and mutual interest, not ideological prescription. Its work is grounded in the best available science, and its understanding of that science recognises climate change and nature loss as inextricably linked challenges that must be addressed together.

Chapter Zero Alliance does not permit its community, its brand or its convening power to be used to misrepresent the climate or nature performance of any organisation. It does not engage in political advocacy and takes no position on matters of party politics or electoral processes.

## Article III. Guiding Principles

Chapter Zero Alliance is committed to promoting and translating into boardroom practice the *Guiding Principles for Climate and Nature Governance* jointly published by Chapter Zero Alliance and the World Economic Forum (*Board Leadership for Growth and Resilience*, January 2026). These Principles, and the foundations of skills and knowledge, stakeholder collaboration and culture on which they depend, define what effective board governance of climate and nature looks like in practice. Upholding, promoting and implementing these Principles is Chapter Zero Alliance's core intellectual commitment and the standard against which progress toward the goal is measured.

## Article IV. How We Work

Chapter Zero Alliance pursues its mission by reaching board directors — in the real economy and the financial sector — through a trusted global community of Chapters, Partners and Ambassadors; equipping them with timely, relevant knowledge, tools and peer connection; and supporting them to embed effective climate and nature governance in their organisations. Chapter Zero Alliance tracks global trends to keep its community aligned with the best available evidence, and monitors progress toward the goal through implementation of the Principles. Chapters are the primary engine of this work, mobilising board directors and providing local insight to transform Chapter Zero Alliance's global mission into effective boardroom engagement on climate and nature.

## Article V. Governance

**Legal status.** Chapter Zero Alliance is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) based in Cambridge, United Kingdom. It is registered in England and Wales with the Charity Commission under charity number 1208079.

**Board of Trustees.** The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Chapter Zero Alliance and holds ultimate legal responsibility for the charity's management and administration under the Charities Act 2011. The responsibilities of the Trustees are prescribed by law.

## Article VI. Application of this Charter

This Charter supersedes the Charter of the Climate Governance Initiative approved on 15 January 2022. Chapters recognised under the previous Charter are recognised as Chapters of Chapter Zero Alliance upon adoption of this document, subject to their acceptance of its terms.

This Charter may be amended by the Chapter Zero Alliance Board of Trustees. Any such amendment will be clearly communicated to Chapters with a reasonable notice period.

## Article VII. The Commitments of a Chapter

Chapters are the primary organisational structure of the Chapter Zero Alliance network, and the primary means of impact. In exchange for recognition as a Chapter of Chapter Zero Alliance and as a constituent part of the Chapter Zero Alliance network, each Chapter accepts the obligations set out below and in the Chapter Commitment Framework.

**Identity and purpose**

Each Chapter commits to maintaining a clear identity aligned with Chapter Zero Alliance's mission, operating consistently with this Charter and applicable Alliance policies, and upholding the reputation and standing of Chapter Zero Alliance in all its activities.

**Governance**

Each Chapter commits to maintaining a clear leadership structure and governance arrangements that provide appropriate accountability and continuity, as set out in the Chapter Commitment Framework.

**Board director engagement**

Each Chapter commits to building and sustaining meaningful, sustained engagement with board directors and non-executive directors in its national or regional context — bringing Chapter Zero Alliance's mission to life through activities, programmes and peer connection.

**Integrity and conduct**

Each Chapter commits to upholding high standards of ethical conduct, transparency and integrity by its organisation and its representatives, and to ensuring that the Chapter Zero Alliance brand and community are not used to misrepresent the climate or nature credentials of any organisation.

**Brand**

Each Chapter commits to complying with the brand guidelines of Chapter Zero Alliance, and to using the name, brands and marks of Chapter Zero Alliance, and its partners including the World Economic Forum, only in accordance with the terms set out in the Chapter Commitment Framework and any applicable brand or licence agreement.

**Network participation and reporting**

Each Chapter commits to participating actively in the Chapter Zero Alliance network and to engage with Chapter Zero Alliance's monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks and impact data reporting.

**Legal compliance and incidents**

Each Chapter commits to complying with applicable local laws and regulations, and to notifying Chapter Zero Alliance promptly of any material incident that may affect the Chapter's standing or the reputation of Chapter Zero Alliance.

*The Chapter Commitment Framework sets out the operational detail of each commitment above and establishes the framework for support, remediation and status review.*

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Chapter Zero Alliance expresses the conviction that business, governed well, can be a force for addressing the twin challenges of climate change and nature loss - and that board directors, equipped and connected, are among those best placed to lead the change. Each Chapter that adopts this Charter joins a community that holds itself to that conviction.

The Charter and Chapter Commitment Framework are a foundation from which our shared ambition can be realised, and can grow.