

For Immediate Release

Chief Raoni, Leading Ambassador for Amazon Rainforest, Delivering Closing Speech at ChangeNOW 2023

Full programme announced for the largest event of solutions for the planet in Paris on 25-27 May

LONDON, UK — May 15, 2023 — Brazil's most venerated Indigenous leader and environmentalist, Chief Raoni Metuktire, will deliver the closing speech at ChangeNOW, the largest event of solutions for the planet returning to Paris from 25 to 27 May. Chief Raoni, alongside Chief Tapi and Chief Watatakalu, will use the summit to call for the protection of the Amazon rainforest and introduce a new generation of campaign ambassadors.

Chief Raoni, Honorary President of the AFV: Rainforest Association, will use the platform to highlight the importance of preserving the rainforest which plays a critical role in the health of the planet, while providing an irreplaceable home for Indigenous peoples, wildlife and local communities. As part of the newly unveiled [summit programme](#), Raoni's closing intervention, on Saturday, 27 May, will also welcome the next generation of Indigenous leaders who will continue to champion his environmental mission — Chief Tapi and Chief Watatakalu Yawalapiti.

Representing the sixth edition of the three-day event, ChangeNOW is being hosted across the Grand Palais Éphémère and other iconic venues, including the Eiffel Tower, and will bring together more than 35,000 of the world's leading policymakers, entrepreneurs, investors, companies and NGOs.

In addition to the 400 visionary speakers who will share their insights to address pressing issues surrounding climate, resources, biodiversity and inclusion, the summit is also being attended by representatives of the French Government and influential political leaders, including **Christophe Béchu**, Minister for Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion of France, **Marlène Schiappa**, Secretary of State for Social & Solidarity Economy & Associative Life of France, **Luiz Eloy Terena**, General Counsel for the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, and **Barbara Trachte**, Secretary of State of the Brussels-Region.

During the summit, a declaration to **Slow Fashion** will be pledged by ten European cities, including Bruxelles Capital Region, Milan, Bologne, Wroclaw, Gdansk, Lund, Métropole Européenne de Lille, Strasbourg, La Ciutat and Gijón. A letter of intent will be signed on site by cities including Paris, Lille, or Strasbourg, to cooperate on building a sustainable fashion industry across Europe. Measures will include guaranteeing human rights in producing countries while supporting sustainable activities in home territories.

Additionally, ChangeNOW will leverage the power of sponsorship to influence companies to pledge their commitment to the **Sport Sponsors Climate Pledge**, which aims at **correlating sport sponsorship with carbon performance**. The initiative will see financial support directed to positive performers in the sport ecosystem while promoting coordinated efforts to accelerate change within the sports industry. The pledge is being signed by major companies including EDF & Orange, and supported by major federations, athletes & clubs which will be revealed on May 25.

Other programme highlights include:

- The ‘**MIT Climate Pathways: Policies to prevent every fraction of a degree**’ conference on the opening day. Using the EnRoads simulator from the **MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative**, the interactive session will gather policy makers, activists, CEOs and scientists to explore the impacts of a range of climate policies and discuss priority actions needed to limit global warming.
- The **Ellen MacArthur Foundation** will host a **Circular Innovation Meet-up** to explore how to leverage innovation for a circular economy. It offers a chance to connect with the Foundation’s Network and learn more about solutions at the cutting-edge of science and technology.
- The “**From awareness to movements**” conference, on how to create systemic change and federate large scale global movements, with **Jeremy Heimans**, Chairman and Co-founder of Purpose and Avaaz, and **Luisa Neubauer**, the leading figure of Fridays for Future Germany.
- **Extreme Tech Challenge (XTC)** will host the launch of their inaugural **XTC Sustainability Startup Challenge**. The event will consist of a pitch competition of new ventures that have developed breakthrough innovations in climate solutions centred on the circular economy or urban development.

ChangeNow 2023 will also feature more than 1,000 innovative solutions for the planet, presented on stage by founders and entrepreneurs, as well as in the 8,000 square meter exhibition area. Exhibiting Solutions will include:

- **BetterSoil (Germany)** — Together with farmers, BetterSoil combines indigenous knowledge with scientific principles – biochar, compost, soil management and agroforestry, and makes agrobusiness value chains resilient to future changes.
- **Rainforest Connection (USA)** — Initiated in Amazonia, this solution is spreading around the world. It helps better understand and protect biodiversity by using AI and acoustics to automate and integrate meaningful biodiversity data in threatened ecosystems.
- **2Tonnes (France)** — 2Tonnes educates the public on climate change while empowering them in taking action. It aims to shift mindsets and cast a positive light on what can be done and how actions now are necessary, possible and beneficial.
- **Barton Blakeley (UK)** — This solution converts carbon emissions into valuable materials for everyday products, powering an ecological system of waste recycling and reuse. The technology makes glass and industrial powders, whilst producing heat and hydrogen gas as clean energy.

Santiago Lefebvre, Founder and CEO of ChangeNOW, said:

“ChangeNOW is the time for concrete global action. And with action comes hope and the desire to be part of the change. The World’s most innovative minds and sustainability leaders, as well as iconic personalities, such as Chief Raoni, most venerated Indigenous leader and environmentalist, will get together to accelerate change and help reconcile people with a vision of the future that doesn’t scare them. Everyone has a role to play, a way to help and engage for a better world, and ChangeNOW is here to prove it.”

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About ChangeNOW

ChangeNOW is a social enterprise that accelerates the environmental and social transition by fostering the deployment of concrete actions and solutions which respond to the biggest challenges of our century.

Each year, we organise the ChangeNOW summit, the largest event of solutions for the planet, bringing together innovators, investors, thought leaders, and policymakers in an inspiring and action-oriented format. We identify promising solutions for the planet and connect them to the resources they need to scale.

Year round, we organise thematic events such as the Impact Job fair, the recruitment fair dedicated to positive impact. Each year we publish, with Les Echos START, the ranking of the best schools to change the world, and we help the development of positive impact projects.

ChangeNOW 2023 is made possible with the support of our partners, including Kering, KPMG, Orange, Citeo, Renault, ADEME, Capgemini, Transdev, Saint-Gobain, Microsoft, IKEA, GSK, et BCG ; as well as RMN Grand Palais and our ecosystem partners: Earthshot Prize, Jane Goodall Institute, B Lab, Force of Nature, Earth4All, Doughnut Economics Action Lab, Club of Rome, Clean Tech Open, Springwise, Ashoka, We Love Green, Solar Impulse Foundation, WWF, La Croix-Rouge Française, ChangemakerXchange, Global Shapers, Presencing Institute, Extreme Tech Challenge, WhoCares Chronicles and One Young World.

For more information about ChangeNOW2023 visit:

- **Website:** www.changenow.world/join_changenow_2023/
- **Programme:** www.changenow.world/program-2023/
- **Newsroom:** www.changenow.world/newsroom
- **Media kit:** www.changenow.world/media-kit
- **Application for media accreditation:**
https://changenow2023.eventmaker.io/en/registration/6388c44758cb8c00594f4c32?utm_source=We%5B%E2%80%A6%5Dccred&utm_id=CN23&utm_term=Apply&utm_content=Eventmaker

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