International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy

GLOBAL BIOECONOMY SUMMIT 2026
Bioeconomy for socio-economic transformation and climate action

Global Bioeconomy Summit 2026

20-21 October 2026

IACGB Communiqué 2026

Summary

The IACGB Communique 2026 is the next in a series of Communiques by the International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy (IACGB) associated with Global Bioeconomy Summits (GBS) since 2015. On this occasion, the Summit was held on 20-21 October 2026 in Dublin, Ireland, with co-hosting by the Government of Ireland.

In the past 10 years, there has been significant growth in bioeconomy activity globally. The bioeconomy is widely accepted as a pathway for socio-economic transformation, including providing solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The bioeconomy has been advancing in ways that positively impact society and industry and contribute to the Climate Action needed for 2050 targets.

However, while the number of national, regional and local bioeconomy strategies, policies, roadmaps and action plans have increased to over 100 and significant business entities have included bioeconomy solutions in their future strategies, there is still a long way to go to achieve a fully bio-based socio-economic transformation at global scale.

Successes along the way have included:

- the number of dedicated bioeconomy strategies has increased widely – at regional, national, subregional, and local/city/state levels globally;
- technologies and applications relating to the bioeconomy have exponentially increased;
- several globally recognised bodies (pan-national) have released formal bioeconomy commentaries on future needs and challenges (eg WEF, Chatham House, G20, FAO, UNEP);
- CO_2 is used as feedstock in commercial-scale facilities where carbon from CO_2 is converted into various compounds; e.g., protein for animal feed and human nutrition;

Bioeconomy in a nutshell

The bioeconomy is the production, utilisation, conservation, and regeneration of biological resources, including related knowledge, science, technology, and innovation, to provide sustainable solutions (information, products, processes and services) within and across all economic sectors and enable a transformation to a sustainable economy. The bioeconomy is not a static notion, and its meaning is continually evolving (https://www.iacgb.net/)

About the IACGB

The International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy (IACGB) is an independent think tank composed of high-level bioeconomy leaders and experts from al I hemispheres, representing different backgrounds and expertise. While the members of the IACGB serve in their personal capacity, many of them also advise the bioeconomy landscapes and governments of the countries or regions to which they relate. The IACGB initiates, designs and organises the Global Bioeconomy Summit, a leading global conference and platform for exchange and discussion of recent developments for a sustainable and circular bioeconomy worldwide. For more information please, visit www.iacgb.net

- urban bioeconomy, design of “sustainable city ecosystems” and greening of buildings and transport are introducing bioeconomy practices into everyday life;
- timber and bio-composites as construction materials have the potential to transform cities into carbon sinks;
- new biopharmaceutical and life sciences techniques, including gene editing, are causing a revolution in medicine.

Challenges moving ahead include:

- the world is more fragmented in political and economic interests and there is a loss of unity globally with respect to political dynamics and climate action;
- biodiversity loss, including agro-biodiversity, and its impact on communities, environmental degradation, agrifood systems, and the global economy is increasing;
- adoption of bio-based solutions has slowed, and fossil-based reliance is retained;
- subsidies and benefits/penalties are distributed very unevenly between fossil and bio-based products;
- the science-based opportunities of bioeconomy for developing new materials, bio-manufacturing, bio-pharma, and construction are underinvested in;
- lack of standardised assessment of benefits of bio-based solutions and/or regulatory fragmentation is hindering market access and growth;
- social and economic inequality has grown within most countries.

The **urgency of immediate transformation** is ever more visible through reported temperature and weather extremes. Examples include all-time highs in temperature across the globe, droughts accompanied by enormous and numerous wildfires, heat-caused deaths especially in urban areas, flooding, landslides and alarmingly high temperatures of oceans, lakes and rivers.

This Global Bioeconomy Summit 2026 focused on discussing and showcasing the evolution of bioeconomy activity. These included global bioeconomy-based successes; bioeconomy solutions for a planet in crisis; scaling bio-based solutions through policy, markets and metrics; and visions for the bioeconomy in 2040.

Recommendations for the way ahead:

We recognise and stress that the bioeconomy is a key element of socio-economic change.

The IACGB recommends focusing actions on these following points to grow sustainable and net-zero economies governed by biological principles. These actions will aid creating regenerative cycles that enhance natural capital and developing circular economies while respecting planetary boundaries**.**

- **Use bio-based solutions to help solve global crises**
- **Integrate bioeconomy post-2030 into global frameworks of policy and industry strategies**
- **Promote bio-based scientific breakthroughs and innovation**
- **Build long-term collaborative partnerships and networks to deploy innovative bio-based solutions**
- **Ensure intergenerational equity, societal engagement and education**