



Mr. Liu Zhenmin
Under-Secretary-General

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Mr. LIU Zhenmin of China as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs effective 26 July 2017. Prior to his appointment, Mr. LIU was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China since 2013. Among his various diplomatic assignments, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (2011-2013).

Mr. LIU brings to the position more than 30 years of experience in the diplomatic service, with a strong focus on the promotion of bilateral, regional and global issues. He was deeply involved for 10 years in climate change negotiations including the conclusion of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. He also widely participated in the international activities on the protection of our planet including Antarctica and the oceans. Over the last several years, in various capacities, he has been consistently highlighting and advocating for sustainable development issues.

As Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. LIU guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. He also oversees the substantive services to many intergovernmental processes, including the annual meetings of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including its Development Cooperation Forum, and the work of the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC.

In addition to intergovernmental processes, Mr. LIU oversees DESA's policy analysis and capacity development work. He also serves as the Convenor of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, and advises the United Nations Secretary-General on all development-related issues, including climate change, internet governance, and financing for development.



Mr. Jamil Ahmad

Mr. Jamil Ahmad is the Deputy Director of the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) New York Office. Earlier, he was the Secretary for the Governing Bodies of UNEP based in Nairobi, Kenya (2008-14). He directed, managed and coordinated the work of the Secretariat, led the organization of the sessions of the Governing Bodies and was the focal point of UNEP's external relations.

As Deputy Director of the New York Office of UNEP, Mr. Jamil Ahmad, among other matters, focuses on liaising with the Permanent Missions to the UN in support of UNEP's policies and programme.

A career diplomat, Mr. Jamil Ahmad joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1986 and has worked in a number of different duty stations with rich experience of bilateral and multilateral affairs, including Acting Permanent Representative to the UN agencies in Rome and Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP in Nairobi. He participated in numerous important UN and other intergovernmental meetings, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, sessions of the UNGA, the Commission of Sustainable Development (CSD) and the Governing Councils of UNEP, UN-HABITAT and FAO. He was lead negotiator of the Group of 77 & China for Climate Change under Pakistan's chairmanship in 2007 culminating at COP13 to UNFCCC in Bali in 2007.



Dr. Isabella Alloisio

Dr. Isabella Alloisio is senior associate in the Climate research team of the Florence School of Regulation at the European University Institute. Her research interests lie in the field of Sustainable Development, Climate Change Mitigation, Energy and Environmental Economics, Climate and Energy Finance, Energy Regulation and Climate Governance. She was senior researcher at Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) and policy analyst at ICCG where she contributed to several research projects on Sustainable Development with a focus on Energy Access, Development Infrastructure Finance and Climate Finance. She led the FEEM Sustainable Development research area and she managed the Italian hub of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). Already scientist at the Euro-Mediterranean Center for Climate Change (CMCC) and manager of the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators at the Italian Authority for Energy. She was visiting scholar at the University of California at Berkeley and researcher at the Centre for Research on Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy (IEFE) of Bocconi University. Dr. Alloisio holds a PhD in International Law and Economics from Bocconi University and a MPhil in International Relations from the Geneva Graduate Institute for International Studies.



Ms. Katia Araujo

Ms. Araujo holds a MA in International Affairs with concentration on Governance and Human Rights, from The New School, NYC. As Director of Advocacy for Landesa, she brings fourteen years of experience in advocacy, policy analysis, and program design and implementation in the intersection of human rights, women's rights and democratic governance for economic and social justice through gender justice approaches. Katia has lead program development and project management in over 32 countries in the Global South with particular focus on women's land and property rights and community resilience in impoverished rural/urban settings. At Landesa, she manages internal and external partnerships, identifies and pursues strategic opportunities to advance Landesa-specific policy and advocacy work using milestones from the global and regional processes. She is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the SLoCaT Foundation (Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport) and Crossing Point Arts (Bringing the Arts to Survivors of Human Trafficking). Katia has worked with and consulted for various organizations, including the Huairou Commission, International Rescue Committee, African Services Committee, the Women's Right Division of Human Rights Watch and NYC Alliance against Sexual Assault. She was a Ford Foundation's Public Voice Fellow 2014-2015 at The Op-Ed Project.



Mr. Charles Arden-Clarke

Charles Arden-Clarke trained as a zoologist and ecologist and worked for six years in the Political Ecology Research Group in the UK, primarily on the environmental impacts of nuclear power and of conventional and organic farming systems. Between 1990 and 1999 he developed and led WWF International's Trade and Investment programme. This work focused mainly on the environmental impacts of WTO rules and negotiations, related ISO standards and the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment. He has worked for UN Environment since January 2000, initially with the Economics and Trade Branch on the effects of trade liberalisation on the environment and the relationship between WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements. Since 2004 he has worked at the Economy Division in Paris, and from 2007 onwards on sustainable consumption and production (SCP). He headed the secretariat of the Marrakech Process and is currently Head of the Secretariat of the Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (the "10YFP").



Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, a macro-economist and public policy analyst, is a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) – a globally reputed think-tank in Bangladesh. He is the Chair of Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals - a network of 48 think tanks from South Asia, Africa, and Latin America that has identified a unique space and scope for itself to contribute to this post-MDG dialogue. He also chairs LDC IV Monitor – a partnership of development organisation which seeks to provide an independent assessment of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) adapted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).



Ms. Eleanor Blomstrom

Eleanor is Co-Director and Head of Office at the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) where she manages relationships and partnerships and works closely with program staff in strategic development, implementation and monitoring of WEDO programs and projects. Her research, capacity building, and advocacy focuses on sustainable development, climate change, disaster risk reduction and urbanization, with a women's human rights and justice lens. She represents WEDO as organizing partner of the Women's Major Group, facilitating space for women's rights action and collaboration around the SDGs and DRR. She holds a master's degree in international affairs.



Ms. Lesha Boleslaw M. Witmer

Lesha is a founding- and Steering Committee member of Women for Water Partnership (WfWP), charged with the advocacy portfolio; serves as steering committee member of the Butterfly Effect NGO coalition and the #ClimateIsWater campaign and the European Pact for Water; and chairs the Social Impacts, etc. Chamber of the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol.

She is a permanent representative to the UN (UNECE - Geneva and HLPF SD) of/ for both IFBPW and WfWP. She is a delegate to UN Water and World Water Council. In addition, she is the former Chair of the standing committee on environment, Sustainable Development & water of Business & Professional Women International. She also chairs the Women and labor market Foundation (VAM). She was inter alia a member of the Dutch government delegation to the Commission on Sustainable Development (preceding the High Level Political Forum) of the UN numerous times.

Since 1991 Lesha works as independent senior advisor and facilitator on sustainable development (SD) with a focus on water-related issues and stakeholder involvement. She works inter alia as special advisor for WWF on issues related to (International) Water governance and Law, water stewardship and the SDGs; supports Dutch ministries on the intergovernmental architecture for water and is senior consultant to UNESCO-WWAP on the women-gender-water nexus. She was instrumental in getting the UN Water Courses convention into force (and for that got the “WWF international leaders for a living planet award”).



Ms. Susan Bragdon

Susan has a Bachelors Degree from Williams College, a Masters of Science in Resource Ecology from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment, a Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School and is a member of the US Patent Bar. Susan has used her experience in science and law to work on critical global issues such as the conservation, use and management of biological diversity; creating compatibility with environment and agriculture; and promoting food security. She was the lawyer for the Secretariat for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity and when the treaty was concluded Susan joined the treaty Secretariat as its first Legal Advisor. From 1997-2005 Susan worked with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute as a Senior Scientist, Law & Policy, where she worked on legal and policy issues related to plant genetic resources and in particular managed projects on intellectual property rights, Farmers' Rights, biotechnology and biological diversity, and on developing decision-making tools for the development of policy and law to manage plant genetic resources in the interest of food security. Most recently, Susan was the Executive Director of Seeds for All, a US licensed strategic consulting practice focusing on global policy having an impact on the critical activities of the world's small-scale farmers. She has published widely in international legal and scientific journals. Susan splits her time between Portland, Oregon and Geneva.



Ms. Maruxa Cardama

Passionate about social, political, economic and environmental justice for human development, Maruxa is specialist in integrated sustainable urban and territorial development and serves as Urban Adviser in the Cities Alliance Secretariat. Prolific public speaker and analyst, she is also member of the Future Earth Engagement Committee and Urban Knowledge Action Network; member of the University Colleague London UCL-Nature Sustainability Expert Panel on the urban science-policy interface and Global Agendas Adviser to the Conference of European Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe CPMR. In 2013-2016, Maruxa coordinated Communitas, an international, philanthropy-funded, multi-stakeholder coalition which she founded to pioneer knowledge-based advocacy for the Sustainable Development Goal on Cities & Human Settlements. In 2010-2012, Maruxa co-facilitated the engagement of subnational governments in the UN Rio +20 Conference, while she was Secretary General of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development nrg4SD.



Ms. Joan Carling

Joan Carling is an indigenous activist from the Cordillera, Philippines. She has been working on indigenous issues at the grassroots to international levels for more than 20 years. Her field of expertise includes human rights, sustainable development, environment, and climate change, as well as on the principles and application of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

She was the Secretary General of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)-- a coalition of 50 indigenous organizations across Asia, from 2008 to 2016. Ms. Carling was appointed by the UN ECOSOC as an expert- member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFii) for 2014-16. She is currently the co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group (IPMG) for Sustainable Development and works directly with indigenous organizations and networks across the globe.



Mr. Pedro Conceição

Since October 2014, Pedro Conceição is Director, Strategic Policy, at the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. Before that, he was Chief-Economist and Head of the Strategic Advisory Unit at the Regional Bureau for Africa (from 1 December 2009). Prior to this, he was Director of the Office of Development Studies (ODS) from March 2007 to November 2009, and Deputy Director of ODS, from October 2001 to February 2007. His work on financing for development and on global public goods was published by Oxford University Press in books he co-edited (The New Public Finance: Responding to Global Challenges, 2006; Providing Global Public Goods: Managing Globalization, 2003).

He has published on inequality, the economics of innovation and technological change, and development in, amongst others journals, the African Development Review, Review of Development Economics, Eastern Economic Journal, Ecological Economics, Environmental Economics and Policy Studies, and Technological Forecasting and Social Change. He co-edited several books including: Innovation, Competence Building, and Social Cohesion in Europe- Towards a Learning Society (Edward Elgar, 2002) and Knowledge for Inclusive Development (Quorum Books, 2001). Prior to coming to UNDP, he was an Assistant Professor at the Instituto Superior Técnico, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, teaching and researching on science, technology and innovation policy. He has degrees in Physics from Instituto Superior Técnico and in Economics from the Technical University of Lisbon and a Ph. D. in Public Policy from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied with a Fulbright scholarship.



Ms. Romy Chevallier

Romy Chevallier is a senior researcher on the Governance of Africa's Resources programme at the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). Ms Chevallier holds a BA Honours in Political Science from the University of Stellenbosch and a Master's degree in International Relations (cum laude) from the University of Witwatersrand. During her time at SAIIA she has worked on various policy topics related to the EU's strategic engagement with Africa and South Africa; the role of emerging powers in a changing geo-political landscape; climate change, natural resource governance and environmental sustainability. She has published extensively on topics related to the sustainable management of coastal ecosystems in Mozambique, Tanzania and South Africa, global UN climate change negotiations, and on the opportunities of reconciling growth and development with ecological integrity in Africa.



Mr. Filiep Decorte

Filiep Decorte is currently the acting Director and Officer-in-Charge of UN-Habitat's New York Liaison Office. Previously, he was Deputy Director and the focal point for UN-Habitat's crisis-related work in New York. He played a key role in developing an urban track towards the World Humanitarian Summit and the creation of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises.

During his career, Filiep has predominantly focused on urban initiatives in conflict- and crisis-affected countries, specializing in urban planning, land, and housing issues. He has worked for UN-Habitat for more than fifteen years in different capacities, including long-term assignments in Haiti, the occupied Palestinian territory, Somalia, and Morocco. He also acted as coordinator for UN-Habitat's Global Disaster Management Program. He was trained as a civil engineer, architect, and urban and regional planner with advanced master's degrees from the Universities of Ghent and Leuven in Belgium.



Ms. Mildred Crawford

Mildred Crawford is a Farmer, and an Ambassador for rural women in agriculture at the global level with the Huairou Commission. She currently serves at national, regional, as Vice President for Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers; and is the co-chair of the Farmers Constituency of UN Habitat Stakeholders Group; the General Assembly of Partners (GAP)

Prior to this she has served as Civil Society Advisor to UN Women (Latin America and Caribbean) specifically on matters relating to rural and grassroots women's issues.

She has done extensive work on the ground in community development, empowering women, promoting cohesion and strengthening the voices of the poor and marginalized. She comes with experience which includes organizing roundtables at UN Habitat III, which entails linking farmers/agriculture to cities and other UN organizations; participation in 2017 High Level Political Forum Expert Group Meetings and intervention for drafting HLPF Ministerial Declaration; presentations and participation in the crosscutting Expert Group Meeting on the follow-up of the New Urban Agenda which focuses on integrated urban and rural food systems.



Mr. Felix Dodds

Felix Dodds is an author and activist on sustainable development issues. He has edited or written 16 books including a 2016 edited volume on the Nexus. He also does occasional articles for Inter Press Service and blogs on sustainable development and coffee. He is co-director of the 2018 Nexus Conference on Water-Food-Energy-Climate through an Urban Lens and the 2014 Conference. He is a Senior Fellow at the Global Research Institute and a Senior Affiliate at the Water Institute at the University of North Carolina. He is also an Associate Fellow at the Tellus Institute and was from 1992-2012 Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum. He is an International Ambassador for the City of Bonn.



Dr. Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue

Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue (Cameroon) is Professor and Department Chair of Development Sociology, Cornell University. His research in the realm of global development covers questions about the demography of inequality, the sociology of education, and the links between global population change and socioeconomic development. Within these areas, he has worked on substantive questions on demographic dividends, youth bulges, intergenerational exchanges, and the demographic reproduction of inequality. In linking population and development, he is testing new frameworks and methods that can link micro processes and aggregate outcomes of interest in global development policy. Much of this work has a strong policy orientation. Some of it seeks to advance understanding of the policy prospects and policies for harnessing a demographic dividend in sub-Saharan Africa, and he has coordinated a network of African researchers working on this question. He is serving or has served on the Board of Directors several professional organizations, including the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), the Population Association of America (PAA), the US Population Reference Bureau (PRB), and the Guttmacher Institute.



Ms. Karin Fernando

Karin Fernando is a Senior Research Professional at the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA). She has over 15 years' experience in the development sector in project management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and research. At CEPA she leads the thematic on environment and poverty that aims to provide better integration of environmental factors into decision making, planning and programming at all levels to promote sustainable development. Since 2012 she has been managing an initiative called "Making Sustainability the next metric: the post 2015 Development Agenda" that generates knowledge, creates dialogue and discussion to promote development based on the principles of sustainability. Karin has a MA in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University, USA.



Mr. Rafael Flor

As Director, Mr. Flor oversees the Foundation's YieldWise Initiative, which aims at promoting market-based solutions and innovations to increase efficiency of priority value chains to reduce post-harvest losses by half.

Mr. Flor has two decades of progressive work experience in international and development institutions, academia, and the private sector. He has worked in sub-Saharan Africa, North America and Latin America.

Before joining the Rockefeller Foundation, Mr. Flor was a Senior Program Advisor in the Office of the Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. Mr. Flor has held positions with Armajaro Trading, the MDG Centre West and Central Africa, the United Nations Development Programme, Columbia University, and Escuela Agricola Panamericana, Zamorano.

Mr. Flor has served as a member of the World Food Programme's Working Group on Productive Safety Nets, World Food Programme's Latin America and the Caribbean Knowledge Sharing Steering Committee to Support Hunger Eradication, Peer Reviewer of the 2006 Environmental Performance Index, and member of the United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger. Mr. Flor has several academic publications.



Mr. Thomas Forster

Thomas Forster has worked for over 30 years with civil society and government organizations on policy to strengthen urban and rural linkages in food systems, especially in relation to sustainable agriculture, urban food and nutrition security, and institutional procurement. He is a senior fellow for city region landscapes at EcoAgriculture Partners in Washington D.C focused on integrated landscape management (ILM) as a pathway to integrate SDGs. Mr. Forster has been an invited expert on urban rural linkages and food security in multiple campaigns and initiatives. In 2014 he was part of a team facilitating creation of a new international knowledge and policy platform as part of an effort to raise the profile of "city region food systems" hosted by FAO. He led a technical team in 2015 that drafted Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and coordinates the Milan Pact Awards for food policy practices in cities and territories around the world. In 2017 Mr. Forster joined the FAO Liaison Office in New York (LON) to prepare for the review of SDG 2. In 2018 he is leading a UN Habitat convened team to develop Guiding Principles for Urban Rural Linkages related to both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda. Thomas teaches food systems policy and governance in the Food Studies Program of the New School for Public Engagement in New York where he lives with his family.



Ms. Loraine Gatlabayan

Ms. Gatlabayan has worked for 15 years in international and national projects in Asia focusing on key issues on environment and sustainable development, particularly on resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production (specifically on sustainable tourism, fundamentals of SCP and sustainable lifestyles), climate change adaptation, and the implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

She is currently Secretary-General of the Board of Trustees of the Asia-Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP).

She provided technical support to the SWITCH – Asia Policy Support Component on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) at the UN Environment Regional Office in Asia and Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand from 2013-2016 as focal point on sustainable tourism working with the 10 Year Framework of Program on Sustainable Tourism Secretariat, as Secretariat to the established Regional Network on SCP in the ASEAN and South Asia, and as one of the trainers on Sustainable Tourism for the UN Winter School on Sustainable Consumption and Production.



Ms. Rana Ghoneim

Rana Ghoneim leads the global industrial energy efficiency accelerator as part of the SEforALL's global accelerator platform. She also leads the development of programmes promoting sustainable energy use in industry in the MENA and Africa regions at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

She has over 15 years of international experience on the development and implementation of programmes responding to a number of multilateral environmental agreements such as Montreal protocol, Stockholm convention and the UNFCCC. She holds a Master of Science in environmental economics from Imperial College London.



Dr. Anne Guerry

Anne Guerry leads the Natural Capital Project's marine work. She oversees the ongoing improvement and expansion of the marine InVEST tool and coordinates its application in diverse contexts worldwide. As part of the Leadership Team, Anne helps ensure that we are effectively achieving our strategic goals. Beyond nature's benefits, Anne's primary research interests are in community ecology, rocky intertidal systems, and ecosystem-based management. She received her PhD in Zoology from Oregon State University, her MS in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Maine, and her BA in Environmental Studies and English from Yale University. She has a lifelong love of the sea and believes that making explicit connections between human activities and their impacts on the full suite of nature's benefits can inform management decisions and yield better outcomes for the environment and for society.



Mr. Donovan Guttieres

Donovan Guttieres is a Technology Policy student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), conducting research on global access to biologic therapeutics in the Center for Biomedical Innovation within the Institute for Data, Systems, and Society. He holds a B.S in Biomedical Engineering from Boston University. He is actively engaged with many groups on campus, such as the Science Policy Initiative at MIT, Engineers Without Borders, and Global Poverty Initiative at MIT.

He is Focal Point for the Science-Policy Interface Platform within the UN Major Group for Children & Youth (UN MGCY). The platform provides an open space for youth to assess existing knowledge, generate new knowledge, identify priorities and emerging issues, and effectively use and disseminate knowledge to inform policy processes. This provides an evidence-base to inform policy discussions, as well as draw on interlinkages (content, process, data, etc.) across topics discussed in sustainable development and intergovernmental frameworks (e.g. 2030 Agenda, Sendai Framework on DRR, New Urban Agenda, Paris Climate Accords, and more). The SPI platform also strives to capture context-appropriate solutions, especially related to science, technology and innovation.



Mr. John Hardy

John Hardy has many years experience in Economics, Finance, Consulting and Treasury, in both developed and developing regions of the world. Since 2001, John has worked as a Development Finance Advisor on projects offered by international development agencies (World Bank, EU, and USAID etc.). These assignments typically involve advising corporates, SMEs, banks, governments and other institutions on financial and business development issues.

John has held several management positions, including Managing Director at Intercap Investments Inc., Department Head in the International Treasury Division of Chemical Bank (now JP Morgan Chase) and member of the bank's Treasury Executive Committee, Managing Consultant in the Economics Group at PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC), and Managing Director of the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

John's experience spans most regions of the world, including Africa, Europe, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.



Dr. Barry Hughes

Dr. Barry B. Hughes is John Evans Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver. His principal interests are in (1) global change, (2) computer simulation models for demographic, economic, energy, food, environmental, and socio-political forecasting, and (3) policy analysis. He developed *International Futures (IFs)*, the widely-used computer simulation for study of long-term national, regional, and global issues (see Pardee.du.edu). He supported three U.S. National Intelligence Council's reports to the President, provided long-term global forecasting for the United Nations Environment Programme's *Global Environment Outlook 4*, and provided background research papers and forecasting content used in the *United Nations Human Development Reports* (2011 and 2013). He has written or co-authored 12 books as well as articles in publications including *World Politics*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Futures*, *L'Express*, *Energy Policy*, *Policy Studies Review*, *International Political Science Review*, *Simulation and Gaming*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, *Sustainability*, *Climatic Change*, *World Development*, and *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*.



Dr. Allan Lavell

Allan Lavell, British, Ph.D in Geography from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Currently Coordinator of the Programme for the Social Study of Disaster Risk and Climate Change Adaptation at the Secretariat General's Office of the Latin American Social Science Faculty-FLACSO- in San Jose, Costa Rica. Founding member of the Latin American Network for the Social Study of Disaster Prevention-LA RED. He has given more than 150 international conferences in 42 countries, written and published over 90 specialized items on disaster risk management and undertaken more than 90 consultancy missions in 22 different countries, for over 15 international agencies. He was awarded the 2015 UN Sasakawa prize for contributions to disaster risk management under the theme "Forging the Future". His present work involves support on risk reduction in public investment, local level training for climate action and sustainable development, urban resettlement for risk reduction, legal and policy reform in Africa and resilience in Mozambique.



Prof. Dr. Peter Messerli

Peter Messerli is Professor for Sustainable Development and Director of the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) at the University of Bern, Switzerland. As a land system scientist and geographer his research interests lie in the sustainable development of social-ecological systems in Africa and Asia. He focuses on increasingly globalized and competing claims on land, rural transformation processes, and spatial manifestations of their outcomes in the Global South. He has lived and worked more than 10 years in Madagascar and Laos, directing large-scale research projects focusing on inter- and transdisciplinarity. Committed to an engaged and transformative sustainability science, he has acquired an extensive experience in science-policy interactions from the local to the global level. He is also the co-chair of Future Earth's Global Land Programme (GLP) and occupies many functions in advising and guiding governmental, scientific, and civil-society organisations related to sustainable development.



Dr. Vijay Modi

Vijay Modi is a Professor and past-Chair of Mechanical Engineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Science and a faculty member at the Earth Institute, Columbia University. Between October 2011 and 2012, he was a member of the U.N. Secretary General's high-level task force on "Sustainable Energy for All" and he currently leads the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network working group on Energy Access for All.

Prof. Modi received his B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Bombay in 1978. He then received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1984 and worked as a post doc at MIT from 1984 to 1986 before joining the faculty at Columbia University. Prof. Modi's areas of expertise are energy resources and energy conversion technologies. His laboratory, the Sustainable Engineering Lab (sel.columbia.edu), has been responsible for technologies such as "SharedSolar" and widely used tools such as "Network Planner" and a free open-source app called FormHub, used over a million times.

While his early work was on computational fluid dynamics and micro-electro-mechanical systems, his recent work has been on energy infrastructure design & planning; solar energy; energy efficiency in agriculture, and data analytics spanning from urban settings to remote rural settings. He is currently working closely with city and national agencies/utilities to understand how energy services can be more accessible, more efficient and cleaner. His recent project on mini grids is providing a unique understanding of consumer behavior, demand for energy, and business models for deploying energy solutions and energy efficiency.



Dr. Jordan Naidoo

Jordan Naidoo is currently the Director, Division of Education 2030 Support and Coordination (based in Paris) leading UNESCO's global coordination of the SDG4-Education 2030 Agenda. Prior to this he was a Senior Education Advisor at UNICEF in New York responsible for strategy and research on equity and innovation in education. Having worked directly on programmes in Indonesia, Nepal, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Bolivia and Haiti, South Africa, and the US among others, he has extensive experience and expertise in policy analysis, evaluation and monitoring, decentralization, governance and democratization in education, peacebuilding and education in fragile contexts and education reform.

Dr. Naidoo received his M. Ed. from the University of Natal, South Africa and Doctor of Education (D. Ed.) from Harvard University. Among other publications he was the editor of the Springer publication, *Community Schools in Africa - Reaching the Unreached*.



Ms. Susan Nicolai

Susan Nicolai is a Senior Research Fellow in the Overseas Development Institute's Growth, Poverty and Inequality Programme. She works on global development policy as linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and it's imperative to 'leave no one behind'. She is particularly focused on the political economy of basic services such as education and health in marginalized communities and fragile states. Susan was the head of ODI's Development Progress project, which produced some 50 case studies of 'what works' in development, and has previously worked with the UN SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict, Save the Children, UNICEF and UNESCO.



Dr. Måns Nilsson

Måns Nilsson is the Acting Executive Director for SEI. He is also part time Professor of the Practice of Environmental Strategies and Policy Analysis at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH). Måns joined SEI in 1995.

Key areas of interest are in low carbon energy and transport policies, development studies and the 2030 agenda, innovation and transitions, and institutions and governance. Måns combines academic achievement with extensive management experience.

As Research Director he oversees SEI's global research leadership and has fostered the development of its strategic initiatives and its academic cooperation agreements. In recent years he helped establish the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate and has been closely involved as an advisor to the UN, OECD and the European Commission on the Sustainable Development Goals. He is a member of the Scientific Council for Sustainable Development to the Government of Sweden.

Måns has slipped more than 40 papers past unsuspecting editors of academic journals and has edited two books. He received his MSc in International Economics from University of Lund, Sweden, and his PhD degree in Policy Analysis from Delft University of Technology, Netherlands.



Ms. Yera Ortiz de Urbina

Yera Ortiz de Urbina joined the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in 2014 as representative of the Agency to the United Nations. At IRENA, her main duties entail engaging in relevant intergovernmental processes in the areas of sustainable development and climate change. She also supports IRENA's global outreach strategy and its mission to support countries in advancing their sustainable energy agendas. Prior to joining IRENA, Yera was posted at the Spanish and then the European Union Missions to the UN, where she was responsible for the sustainable development portfolio. A career diplomat, she has also served as Chargée d'Affaires in Baghdad (Iraq), as well as in Amman (Jordan) and at the European Commission in Brussels. She brings to IRENA over 15 years of international experience with a focus on multilateral affairs and development.



Ms. Rebecca Pearl-Martinez

Rebecca Pearl-Martinez is a researcher and policy strategist working on climate change, energy, gender, and sustainable development with a variety of UN agencies, donor agencies, and international organizations. She is currently leading an SDG-related research project for Sustainable Energy for All, a global climate change effort for Oxfam, and recently concluded a Research Fellowship at the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University. Rebecca has served as data specialist for a major UNEP report, led a global consultation process for USAID, and developed an environmental index nominated for a Katerva Award. She was the 2016 recipient of the C3E Advocacy Award on clean energy from the US Department of Energy, MIT, and Stanford University. Rebecca started her career at the UN office in Ecuador and with community development initiatives in Nicaragua. She holds an MA in Sustainable International Development from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.



Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli

Priscoli is a lecturer at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C. He served for many years as a senior advisor at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at its Institute for Water Resources. For 40 years he has designed and run social assessment, public participation, and conflict resolution research and training programs along with a variety of national and international studies.

Priscoli is a member of the Board of Governors of the World Water Council, an organisation he helped to found, in addition to GWP. He has been a water policy advisor to many organisations including UN water-related agencies, International Finance Institutions, and to many water ministers around the world.

Priscoli is Editor-in-Chief of *Water Policy*. Priscoli holds degrees in economics and political science and post-doctoral studies from Tufts and Georgetown Universities.



Ms. Janet Ranganathan

Janet Ranganathan is the Vice President for Science and Research at the World Resources Institute, an action-oriented global research organization that works in more than 50 countries. She plays a lead role in ensuring that research is robust and actionable across WRI's six programs: Food, Forest, Water, Climate, Energy, and Cities. Janet also leads WRI's Information into Action strategy, combining open data platforms, technology, transparency, and human networks to drive more sustainable management of the planet's resources. During her tenure, Janet has held diverse positions across WRI's programs, rolling out numerous initiatives to address the root causes of poverty and environmental degradation. These include: Sustainable Food Future, Ecosystem Services and Forest Landscapes. She also founded and directed the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Initiative, an international multi-stakeholder partnership convened by WRI and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The Greenhouse Gas Protocol is now the international accounting and reporting standard for business.



Dr. Isha Ray

Isha Ray joined the faculty of the Energy and Resources Group in 2002. She has a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Somerville College, Oxford University, and a PhD in Applied Economics from the Food Research Institute at Stanford University. She is the Co-Director of the Berkeley Water Center and a Faculty member of the Institute for South Asia Studies.

Professor Ray's research interests are water, sanitation and development; water and gender; technology and development; and common property resources. Her research projects focus on access to water and sanitation for the rural and urban poor, and on the role of technology in improving livelihoods. She teaches courses on research methods in the social sciences, water and development, technology and development, and community-driven development. In addition to research and teaching, she has extensive past and ongoing experience in the non-profit sector on sustainable development, water, and gender equality.



Mr. Eric W. Sanderson

Eric W. Sanderson is a Senior Conservation Ecologist at the Wildlife Conservation Society and adjunct faculty at New York and Columbia Universities. He is the author of the bestseller about the historical ecology of New York, Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City (2009), and also Terra Nova: The New World After Oil, Cars, and Suburbs (2013), and editor of three other books, including the recently published, Prospects for Resilience: Insights from New York City's Jamaica Bay (2016), about climate resilience along an urban coastline. Sanderson is co-inventor of Visionmaker, an on-line ecological planning forum for New York City. He has published more than 60 peer-reviewed articles or book chapters in ecology, remote sensing, and conservation biology. He led the team that mapped the human footprint on Earth at 1 km scale for the first time and recently contributed to an effort to update the map 15 years later. In addition, he has contributed to planning efforts for many wildlife species, including jaguars, tigers, American crocodiles, North American bison, snow leopards, tapirs and peccaries; and developed a wildlife based conservation planning framework at the landscape scale (Landscape Species Approach). He currently serves on the board of the Natural Areas Conservancy, a non-profit focused on the conservation of the green and blue natural areas of New York City and the Executive Council of the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay, also in New York. Sanderson earned a Ph.D. in Ecology (1998) and a B.A.S. in English and Biochemistry (1989) at the University of California, Davis.



Dr. Youba Sokona

Dr. Sokona is currently Special Advisor for Sustainable Development at the South Centre. With over 35 years of experience addressing energy, environment and sustainable development in Africa. Reflecting his status, Dr. Sokona was elected Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2015. Prior to this, Dr. Sokona was Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group III on the mitigation of climate change for the Fifth Assessment Report after serving as a Lead Author since 1990. In addition to these achievements, Dr. Sokona has a proven track record of organisational leadership and management, for example, leading the conception, development and initiating the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, as the first Coordinator of the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) and as Executive Secretary of the Sahara and the Sahel Observatory (OSS). Dr. Sokona's advice is highly sought after, and as such, he is affiliated with numerous boards and organisations, including the Board for the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Honorary Professor at the University College London (UCL), Member of Science Advisory Committee of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), and as a Special Advisor to the African Energy Leaders Group. In short, Dr. Sokona is a global figure, with deep technical knowledge, extensive policy experience and an unreserved personal commitment to African led development.



Ms. Laura Stachel

Laura E. Stachel, M.D., M.P.H., Executive Director, the co-founder of WE CARE Solar, is an obstetrician-gynecologist with fourteen years of clinical experience. She holds an M.D. from University of California, San Francisco and an M.P.H. in Maternal and Child Health from University of California, Berkeley. Laura was the Associate Director of Emergency Obstetric Research in West Africa for the Bixby Center for Population Health and Sustainability. She was the P.I. on a MacArthur Foundation project on We Care Solar Suitcase usage in Nigeria and Uganda, and was co-investigator for a collaborative Population Council study that assessed the standard of maternity care in Nigerian state hospitals. Laura was a staff researcher at the Blum Center for Developing Economies at U.C. Berkeley. She serves on the Editorial Board for the Berkeley Wellness Letter and co-chairs a international working group on Energy and Health for the UN Foundation. Laura has won numerous awards including the 2015 UN DESA “Powering the Future We Want” Award, the UCSF Alumni Award, the C3E Leadership in Developing Countries Award, and the Top-Ten 2013 CNN Heroes award.



Mr. Zhou Taidong

Mr. Zhou Taidong currently serves as Director of Global Development Division for China Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD), responsible for studying global development governance as well as global and regional development agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Belt and Road Initiative. Previously, Mr. Zhou has worked at the Development Research Center of the State Council from August 2015 to August 2017, the Asia Foundation's China office from July 2011 to July 2015, and China's Ministry of Commerce from July 2002-June 2010. Mr. Zhou has led the drafting process of the 2017 *China's Progress Report on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and has written extensively in both Chinese and English focusing largely on China and international development cooperation.



Mr. Jose Viera

Mr. Viera has more than 15 years of experience working nationally and internationally in the field of human rights. As a person with a disability, Mr. Viera has a personal commitment to improving the lives of persons with disabilities and advocating for their human rights.

Currently, Mr. Viera is the Human Rights Policy Advisor and Coordinator for the World Blind Union. Additionally, Mr Viera will become from march 2017 the World Blind Union CEO. The World Blind Union, a global organization, has broad international membership with 235 organizations at the sub-national and regional levels and in over 190 countries. In addition, Mr. Viera is a professor in the department of International Relations at Silo 21 University in Argentina as well as the President of the Federation of the Blind of Argentina.

Previously, Mr. Viera was director of the Latin American Regional Center for Disability Rights Promotion International, which is a global monitoring rights system. Recently, Mr. Viera completed his term as employment secretary of the Latin American Blind Union.

Mr. Viera holds a bachelor's degree in International Studies and a master's degree in Management of Development. Mr. Viera has contributed to various publications and research projects on disability and development with a special focus on the Global South. Moreover, Mr. Viera has supported many national and international organizations of persons with disabilities in their advocacy work.



Ms. Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers

Dr. Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers is Associate Professor at the Department of Environmental Science and Policy of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Her research program revolves around global environmental governance, with a specialization in international biodiversity governance. Her research is theoretically embedded in the political and policy sciences, while concentrating on “Integrative Governance”, defined as the theories and practices focused on the relationships between governance instruments and/or systems. Empirically, current research themes include partnerships, the forest-food-agriculture nexus, tourism & biodiversity conservation, global biodiversity policy, the role of forests in climate change mitigation (REDD+), climate change adaptation, and animal welfare and rights. Dr. Visseren currently serves as Coordinating Lead Author of chapter 6 of the global assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).



Mr. Jes Weigelt

Jes Weigelt is Head of Programmes at ThinkTank for Sustainability (TMG). He focuses on the design and implementation of inclusive learning processes for sustainable development, in particular on sustainable agriculture and responsible natural resource management. Jes obtained his PhD in Agricultural Economics from the Humboldt Universität Berlin working on agrarian reform in the Brazilian Amazon. Prior to his current position, he was co-lead of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies' sustainability governance programme. He has worked for the International Fund for Agricultural Development and held management and research positions at the Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität Berlin.



Mr. Easton Williams

Mr. Easton Williams is the Director, Social Policy Planning and Research Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica. The Planning Institute of Jamaica is a statutory organization with responsibility for coordinating the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of Jamaica's national development policies, plans and programmes. He has worked in the PIOJ for over 30 years and have wide experience in policy development and social research. He has headed Jamaica's technical delegations to the United Nations and other international organizations in the areas of population, international migration, sustainable development and related areas. He oversees the Agenda 2030 focal point in the PIOJ.



Professor Tony Wong

Professor Tony Wong is Chief Executive of the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, with research hubs in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Singapore. Wong has pioneered a unique socio-technical approach for concurrently addressing the social, environmental and economic challenges of traditional urban water management. The development of this Water Sensitive Cities approach has encompassed a sequence of his achievements in research and development, technology, urban design and policy. His early work on Water Sensitive Urban Design has diffused globally, and the subsequent transformation into the more holistic approach has been mainstreamed across Australia, and increasingly amongst developing nations. He has led a large number of award-winning projects and received the prestigious Sir John Holland Award as Australia's Civil Engineer of the Year in 2010, cited as having defined "a new paradigm for design of urban environments that blends creativity with technical and scientific rigour".