



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL INTEGRATION MEETING

Biographies

27-29 May, 2014

ECOSOC Chamber

27 May, 15:00 – 17:00

Interactive panel: Cities as drivers of sustainable development

H.E. Ms. Anka Mrak-Taritaš, Minister of Construction and Physical Planning, Croatia; *Keynote Speaker*



Architect by education she was appointed in November 2012 as the Minister in the Government of the Republic of Croatia. Mrs. Mrak-Taritaš has more than 30 years of experience working at the central and local government level in the fields of urbanization, construction and ecology. Prior to the present position, she served as the Deputy Minister in the same Ministry, and from 2005 to 2011 as the Head of Department in the Ministry for Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction. From 2003 to 2005 she was the Head of the Institute for Development Planning and Environmental Protection of the City of Zagreb, capital of Croatia. Besides her work in the administration, she has a distinguished academic career in the field of urban planning.

Mr. Andrew Reynolds, Chairperson of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD); Senior Advisor, Space and Advanced Technologies, U.S. Department of State; *Moderator*



Following two years in the private sector, Mr. Reynolds, a career civil servant, has worked at the U.S. Department of Energy (15 years) and State Department (25) in a range of science, technology and engineering fields and related strategic planning, technology forecasting and assessment, non-proliferation, export controls and cooperative research, among other areas of responsibility. He served as DOE Representative for Western Europe at the US Mission to OECD in Paris from 1983-1986 and as Science and Technology Counselor in the US Embassy in Rome from 1996-2000 under a limited Foreign Service appointment. Before assuming his current position, Reynolds was Deputy and Chief of Staff in the Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State from 2000-2011, where he supported four successive Advisers. He led efforts to increase S&T personnel and literacy at State and the U.S. Agency for International Development, strengthen outreach to the U.S. and global S&T community, and foster mid- to long-term strategic planning at State, USAID and across the U.S. government, including the defense and intelligence communities. Mr. Reynolds has been a strong advocate for the seminal role of science and engineering in diplomacy, development and international relations. In his current assignment, Mr. Reynolds continues to focus on these strategic areas and, inter alia, the use of information and communications technologies and space assets for development; S&T and engineering for urbanization and resilient infrastructure; natural hazards mitigation and recovery; disruptive technologies; innovation, Internet governance and cybersecurity. He also serves as Chairman of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in Geneva.

Mr. Shri Karan Bir Singh Sidhu, Joint Secretary (Housing), Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, India

[To be added]

Mr. Hans d’Orville, Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning, UNESCO



Hans d’Orville joined the United Nations Secretariat in New York and has held different positions of a prominent level in the UN, UNDP and UNESCO in a career spanning 37 years. At the United Nations he was Secretary of the Committee on Conferences; having joined the United Nations Development Programme/UNDP, he served in the Director-General’s Office, where he was also in charge of UNDP’s Governing Council comprising at that time 48 countries. Between 1984 and 1995, he was assigned from UNDP to serve as Executive Coordinator of the InterAction Council of former Heads of State and Government. Returning to executive positions in UNDP in 1995, he took charge until 2000 of its Information Technologies for Development Programme. In October 2000, he was appointed by the UNESCO Director-General as Director of UNESCO’s Bureau for Strategic Planning. In 2007 he was promoted to the rank of Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning. His main responsibilities are the development and implementation of the programme planning and budget worldwide. Manifold other roles include intercultural dialogue and the culture of peace; assistance to least developed countries; and UN reform. In addition, he served on the Executive Committee of the Africa Leadership Forum, Nigeria and as an Advisor to the Independent Commission of Population and Quality of Life, the Independent Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development, the Valencia Tercer Milenio Programme, the Guangzhou Asian Games 2010 and the Aichi and the Shanghai World Expositions. Hans d’Orville is also the author of several publications on multilateral relations and on specific issues involving Africa.

Professor Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology, Columbia University



Saskia Sassen is the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and Co-Chairs The Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University. Her recent books are Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages (Princeton University Press 2008), A Sociology of Globalization (W.W.Norton 2007), and the 4th fully updated edition of Cities in a World Economy (Sage 2011). The Global City came out in a new fully updated edition in 2001. Her books are translated into twenty-one languages. She is currently working on When Territory Exits Existing Frameworks (Under contract with Harvard University Press). She contributes regularly to www.OpenDemocracy.net and www.HuffingtonPost.com

Professor Yang Kaizhong, Peking University



Professor Yang is now the Secretary-General of Peking University with cross-appointment in the School of Government at Peking University. He has held a number of senior administrative posts including Vice President of University Council (Peking University), Director of the Office of Development and Planning (Peking University), President and Principal Founder of the Regional Science Association of China, Director of China Center for Urban and Regional Development Research (Peking University), Vice President of Beijing Experts Association, and most recently Director and Head of the Yangtze River Economics and Strategic Research Center. As a prominent Chinese economist, professor Yang is best known in academia for his outstanding work on Regional Science and Urban Economics, Economic Geography, Public Planning and Policy Analyses, Sustainable Development Theory and Policy, and Development and Reform of China. Professor Yang has written over 20 books, including scholarly works, textbooks and books for a more general audience, and has published over 200 scholarly articles in professional journals and edited volumes. He has also led and supervised numerous major projects from National Scientific Funding Commission, National Social Science Funding Commission, and the State Council. His popular work has attracted considerable positive comment and significantly inspired and guided Chinese national and provincial governments for Medium and Long-Term Development Plans.

Mr. Peter Calthorpe, Principal, Calthorpe Associates, Urban Designers, Planners and Architects



Peter Calthorpe has been named one of 25 "innovators on the cutting edge" by Newsweek Magazine for his work redefining the models of urban and suburban growth in America. He has been a pioneer of innovative approaches to urban revitalization, suburban growth, and regional planning. Mr. Calthorpe has lectured extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and South America. Over the years he has received numerous honors and awards, including appointment to the President's Council for Sustainable Development. During the Clinton presidency, Mr. Calthorpe provided direction for HUD's Empowerment Zone and Consolidated Planning Programs as well as the Hope VI program to rebuild some of the country's worst public housing projects. Since forming Calthorpe Associates in 1983, his work expanded to include major projects in urban, new town, and suburban settings within the United States and abroad. Internationally his work in Europe, Asia and the Middle East has demonstrated that community design with a focus on environmental sustainability and human scale can be adapted throughout the globe. Through design, innovation, publications, and realized projects, Peter Calthorpe's 30 year practice has helped solidify a national trend towards the key principles of New Urbanism: that successful places - whether neighborhoods, villages, or urban centers - must be diverse in use and user, human scaled, and environmentally sustainable. In recognition of this broad body of work, he was awarded ULI's prestigious "J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionaries in Urban Development" in 2006.

Discussants"

Professor Günter Meinert, Programme Manager, German Development Cooperation, Germany



Günter Meinert has extensive work experience in decentralization, local governance and urban development in developing countries. He is Programme Manager at GIZ (German Development Cooperation) headquarter, advising the German Ministry of Cooperation on its urban development policies. In 2008, he was appointed honorary professor for urban management at the Berlin Institute of Technology. He began his professional career as researcher at the University of Kaiserslautern. He later joined the Association of Municipalities of the Greater Frankfurt Area and was responsible for the land use plan of Frankfurt and adjoining cities. From 1995 to 1998 he was based in Colombia as GTZ advisor to a resource management project in the delta area of the Magdalena River. Subsequently, he moved to La Paz, Bolivia in 1998, where he advised on national poverty reduction strategies, emphasizing the strong participation of indigenous groups and of local authorities. In addition, he was responsible for several projects dealing with local governance, spatial planning, disaster prevention and cultural heritage. As head of 'Local and Regional Governance' section at GTZ headquarters near Frankfurt, beginning 2004, he gave technical support to the worldwide project portfolio of GTZ in decentralization and urban development. From 2007 until 2011 he was seconded as a Senior Urban Specialist to the Secretariat of the 'Cities Alliance – Cities without Slums', a global program hosted by the World Bank. Field missions took him to many countries in Asia, Middle East and Latin America.

Ms. Lorena Zárate, Habitat International Coalition



Lorena Zárate is currently President of Habitat International Coalition (HIC). She has been involved in the elaboration and dissemination of the World Charter on the Right to the City and the Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City. At international level, she has worked in close collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing as well as with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. In 2013, she was awarded the John Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship from the Geography and Urban Planning Program at the University of Toronto. She has published books and articles on issues related to housing rights, social production and management of habitat and the right to the city. She has participated as speaker in more than 20 countries, in particular within the framework of the World Urban Forum and the World Social Forum. She has given presentations and public lectures at universities in Argentina, Canada, Ecuador, Mexico, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.