



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL INTEGRATION SEGMENT

Biographies

27-29 May, 2014

ECOSOC Chamber

27 May, 11:00 – 13:00

Interactive panel discussion: How can urbanization policies promote integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development?

H.E. Mr. Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul (Turkey) and President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)



Dr. Kadir Topbaş is the Mayor of Istanbul and President of UCLG. Dr. Topbaş worked as an architect for many years and worked as an adviser for Recep Tayyip Erdogan between 1994 and 1998, when Erdogan was the Mayor of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. Dr. Kadir Topbaş was elected as the Mayor of Beyoğlu (a district of Istanbul) in 1999. In March 2004 he has been elected as Mayor of Istanbul, and re-elected in 2009 and 2014. He served as President of MEWA and Vice-President of UCLG between 2004 and 2007, and was Co-President of UCLG from 2007 to 2010. He is President of UCLG since 2010, and President of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey.

Professor Eugenie Birch, Urban Research and Education, the University of Pennsylvania School of Design



Eugénie Birch, FAICP, is Lawrence C. Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research, Chair, Graduate Group of City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania School of Design; Co-Director, Penn Institute for Urban Research; and Co-Editor, City in the 21st Century series, University of Pennsylvania Press. Her current research projects include developing the EEB Research Digest for the U.S. Department of Energy-sponsored Energy Efficient Buildings Hub, Philadelphia; the Energy Smart Communities Initiative Knowledge-Sharing Platform (ESCI-KSP) for the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation's (APEC) Energy Working Group; and a Ford-funded Sustainable Development Indicator Catalog for the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, the alliance between the U.S.

Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and of Transportation (DOT) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Mr. Josep Roig, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)



Josep Roig is the Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments since September 2011. He is a founding member of Metropolis, the metropolitan section of UCLG, in 1985, becoming Secretary General of the organization in 1999. Previously, Josep Roig had worked in the Barcelona Metropolitan Corporation (1983-1990, 1996-2000, 2009-2011), in different positions. Josep Roig has held the posts of lecturer in Urban and Regional Planning at the Department of Economics of the University of Barcelona (1977-1985) and Director General of the University of Barcelona (1990-1994).



Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP



Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw took office in August 2013 as the Deputy Executive Director for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Prior to his appointment as Deputy Executive Director Mr. Thiaw served as the Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI). Before joining UNEP in 2007, Mr. Thiaw worked as the IUCN Regional Director for West Africa and later as the Acting Director-General of IUCN. With more than 30 years of experience in the field of natural resource management at the national, regional and international levels, Mr. Thiaw's specific contributions have been in the successful development and implementation of large scale environmental programmes and projects. Mr. Thiaw started his career with the Ministry of Rural Development of Mauritania and holds an advanced degree in Forestry and Forest product techniques.

Ms. Skye Dobson, Executive Director, AStogether Uganda, Slum Dwellers International



Skye Dobson is founder and director of The Wembly Fund, a non-profit that supports grassroots child-welfare initiatives in Africa. She also serves on the board of African Children's Haven, where she is heavily involved in the organization's East Africa programs. Skye is in the final semester of a Master's degree in International Affairs at the New School and serves as president of the school's Project Africa organization. In 2010, Skye began working with ACTogether Uganda, the support-NGO for the Uganda Slum Dwellers Federation and is presently writing her thesis on the Slum Dwellers International movement in Africa. Skye holds a Bachelor's degree in African Studies and speaks Kiswahili.

Mr. David Post, Executive Manager, Global Smarter Cities, IBM



Dr. David Post is an Executive Manager on IBM's Global Smarter Cities team, with responsibility for helping define IBM's strategy, selecting investment priorities, and collaborating with public and private sector leaders around the globe to develop innovative solutions to business and public policy challenges. Before joining the Smarter Cities team, David served as IBM's Global Offering Lead for Sustainability Strategy and Deputy Lead for IBM's Economic Development Strategy Practice in North America. In the context of these roles, David worked with leaders from the public sector and a variety of industries--including social media, travel and transportation, telecommunications, and healthcare--on engagements focused on economic competitiveness, sustainability, innovation, and strategic performance improvement. A recognized subject matter expert, David frequently speaks about these topics at high level conferences around the world. Prior to joining IBM, Dr. Post provided advisory services to a variety of World Bank business units on topics ranging from climate change to economic development, anti-corruption approaches, corporate social responsibility, and post-conflict reconstruction. David also worked for Lehman Brother's Business Intelligence Group, where he assessed the impact of geo-political threats on financial markets. Possessing deep international expertise, David has experience in over 60 countries on six continents. David holds a PhD in International Relations and an MA in Economics and Security from Georgetown University.