

Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the sustainable development impacts of conflicts, climate change, disasters, and population displacement

20-21 February 2019

Conference Room 1523, UN Secretariat Building, New York, NY 10017

Biographical Information on the Participants of the EGM

Jamil Ahmad



Director of the Intergovernmental Affairs United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) New York Office. He also leads work on sustainable development and the environment in support of the organization's policies and programme. As an advocate of sustainability, he regularly engages with think tanks, universities, and research institutes, speaks to civil society groups, official delegations, students and other stakeholders about environment, climate change and sustainable development. He directed, managed and coordinated the Secretariat, led the organization of the sessions of the Governing Bodies and served as the focal point of UN Environment's external relations. A senior career diplomat, he entered the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1986 and has worked in several duty stations in Asia, Europe and Africa with rich experience of bilateral and multilateral affairs. He participated in numerous important UN and other intergovernmental meetings, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, the Commission of Sustainable Development (CSD) and the Governing Councils of UNEP, UN-HABITAT and Food and Agriculture Organization (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. He holds a Master's Degree in Political Science.

Valeria Bello



Associate Professor in Sociology at the Blanquerna Faculty of Communications and International Relations, University Ramón Llull, Barcelona, Spain. Previously she has been Senior Research Fellow at the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM) and is the founding scientific coordinator of the UNU Migration Network, which she has coordinated from February 2014 until January 2016. She is a Political Sociologist who has taught and published in the fields of Sociology, International Relations and Political Science. She mainly works at themes such as prejudice, racism, extremism and the securitization of migration. Her research interests concern the role of non-state actors in the area of migration and interethnic relations and in the fields of international relations and international and human security. She is also an expert of migration and climate change and its impact on socio-political and cultural conflicts. Before joining UNU-GCM in December 2012, she was "Marie Curie" Intra-European Research Fellow at the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (Spain). She has also worked as assistant coordinator of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence of the University of Trento (2003-2009) and assistant professor at the

University of Trento (Italy) from 2005 to 2009. She is author of the book "International Migration and International Security. Why Prejudice is a Global Security Threat" (Routledge, 2017). Since September 2017, Valeria Bello is Member of the Governing Council of the European International Studies Association.

Lars-Erik Cederman



Professor of International Conflict Research at ETH Zurich. He was the director of the Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS) and a co-founder of the ETH Risk Center and the Competence Center for “Coping with Crises in Socio-Economic Systems.” He also led the European Network of Conflict Research (ENCoRe), a Horizon 2020 program that brought together researchers and policy makers for the purpose of analysing and predicting the outbreak and trajectories of conflict processes around the world. He held academic positions at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Oxford, UCLA, and Harvard. He is editor of *Constructing Europe's Identity: The External Dimension* (Lynne Rienner, 2001) and the author of *Emergent Actors in World Politics: How States and Nations Develop and Dissolve* (Princeton University Press, 1997), which received the 1998 Edgar S. Furniss Book Award. He is also the author and co-author of articles in scholarly journals such as the *American Political Science Review*, *European Journal of International Relations*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. His main research interests include computational modeling, International Relations theory, nationalism, integration and disintegration processes, and historical sociology. He received an M.Sc. in Engineering Physics from the University of Uppsala in 1988 and an M.A. in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva in 1990 before obtaining his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Michigan in 1994.

Filiep Decorte



Deputy Director of UN-Habitat’s New York Liaison Office and the focal point for UN-Habitat’s crisis-related work in New York. He was acting Director from December 2016 to February 2018. He played a key role in developing an urban track towards the World Humanitarian Summit and the emerging Global Alliance for Urban Crises. During his career, he has predominantly focused on urban initiatives in conflict- and crisis-affected countries, specializing in urban planning, land, and housing issues. He globally focuses on migration, displacement, land and conflict and the humanitarian-development nexus. 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.

Debarati Guha-Sapir



Director of Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disaster (CRED) and a Professor at University of Louvain School of Public Health, in Brussels, Belgium. She holds an Adjunct Professorship at Tulane University Medical Centre (New Orleans) for Health and Humanitarian Aid. Trained in Calcutta University, Johns Hopkins University and University of Louvain, she has a PhD in epidemiology. Since 1984, she has been involved in field research and training in emergency and humanitarian aid issues, working closely with the World Health Organisation, UNHCR, UNDP and European Commission in various regions of the world, including China, Sudan, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Great Lakes, Somalia and Central America. She is particularly interested in health systems research, epidemiology in unstable situations and international policy related to relief and post conflict transition.

Solomon Hsiang



Chancellor's Associate Professor of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). He combines data with mathematical models to understand how society and the environment influence one another. In particular, he focuses on how policy can encourage economic development while managing the global climate. His research has been published in *Nature*, *Science*, and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. He earned a BS in Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Science and a BS in Urban Studies and Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and he received a PhD in Sustainable Development from Columbia University. He was a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Applied Econometrics at the NBER and a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy at Princeton University.

Leiwen Jiang



Senior associate on the Population Council's Poverty, Gender, and Youth program. He is also a professor and founding director of the Asian Demographic Research Institute (ADRI) at Shanghai University. His research focuses on integrated assessment of population, environment, and climate change. He explores the socio-demographic determinants of energy transition in the developing world, the urbanization processes and its effects on energy consumption, land use, carbon emissions, and wildfire risks. He brings expertise and experience in quantitative research on demographic dynamics and climate change risks, vulnerability, resilience, and mitigation. Prior to joining the Council, he served as a Project Scientist III with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Climate and Global Dynamics Laboratory where he developed the Community Demographic Models (CDM) for the broader environmental and climate change research communities. He has been involved in the Leadership for Ecozoic (L4E) network – a global partnership for mutually enhanced human-earth relations – training new generations of PhD students to better understand population issues.

He holds Bachelor and Master of Law degrees from Peking University, a PhD in environmental sciences (demography) from the University of Amsterdam, and completed his postdoctoral fellowship with the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research.

Bryan Jones



Assistant Professor at Marxe School of Public and International Affaris at Baruch College. A geographer with expertise in human-environment interactions, urban environments, and spatial modelling, he explores the relationship between human population dynamics and climate change in driving human vulnerability to climate-related hazards, focusing particularly on urban sustainability and climate-resilient policy. Prior to joining Baruch, he was a NSF Science, Engineering, and Education (SEES) Fellow at the CUNY Institute for Demographic Research. He has also worked as a postgraduate scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research and as a consultant for the World Bank. He received his PhD in Geography from the University of Colorado-Boulder, and his Masters in Geography and BA in Economics from the University of Connecticut.

Vally Koubi



Professor and Senior Scientist at the Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS) at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), and a professor at the Institute of Economics at the University of Bern. She studied Public Law and Political Science at the Law School of the University of Athens, Greece (B.A. in 1983). She received an M.S. in Public Policy (1985), an M.A. (1988) and a Ph.D. in Political Science (1991), all from the University of Rochester, USA. Her research and teaching interests are in International Relations, Political Economy and Environmental Politics. Her work has been published in journals such as the American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science, European Journal of Political Economy, European Political Science Review, International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, Global Environmental Politics, Journal of Peace Research, and Public Choice.

Marc Lavergne



A geographer and political scientist specialized in socio-economic development in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. He served first as a socio-economic adviser at the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (1981), then as the Head of the French-Sudanese Scientific and Technical Cooperation Dept at the University of Khartoum (1982-1988), as the Head of the Center for Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies in Beirut and Amman (1988-1990) and as the Head of the Center for Economic, Social and Juridical Studies and Documentation Center in Cairo and Khartoum (2008-2011). He has since 1991 been a Fellow (now Senior) member of the French National Scientific Research Center, presently

attached to the CITERES laboratory (Cities, Territories and Environmental Studies) at the University of Tours (France). Besides, he has been serving as the Juridical and Political Adviser to the Joint Military Mission implementing a Cease-Fire in the Nuba Mountains (Sudan) in 2002, and as the Humanitarian Expert and Coordinator of the Security Council Panel of Experts for Sudan (UNSC Res. 1591 2005) in 2006. He was elected to the Board of Humanitarian INGO's such as Doctors without Borders (2005) and Action against Hunger (2015) and conducted numerous Field Assessment Missions in War or Drought affected zones in the Middle East and Africa. He holds a PhD in Geography with a thesis on "The consequences of the Aswan High Dam on Egyptian Agriculture" (Paris, 1980), the diploma of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and a BA in Modern Arabic.

Robert McLeman



Associate Professor at Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Wilfrid University. He specializes in research on the human dimensions of environmental change, with particular attention to the relationship between environment and human migration; community adaptation to climatic variability and change; and, fostering citizen participation in environmental science. As a former Canadian foreign service officer, he worked at Canadian diplomatic missions in Belgrade, Hong Kong, New Delhi, Seattle and Vienna. In recent years he has advised UN agencies, the World Bank, and governments in Canada, the US, and Europe on issues related to climate change, migration, and security. As an award-winning teacher, he uses a range of media, methods and real-world examples to introduce students to the systematic study of human-environment relations, and engages the wider public through the popular citizen science projects RinkWatch and NatureWatch. He holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Guelph (2005), a Master of Science in Environmental Management from the University of Hong Kong (1995), and a Bachelor of Arts in Geography from the University of Western Ontario (1989).

John Mutter



Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences and of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. His research focuses on the role of natural disasters in constraining development opportunities for poor and emerging societies. Meteorological extremes are expected to increase as a result of human-induced climate change, and his work attempts to assess who are most vulnerable to disasters such as the 2010 Haiti earthquake and Hurricane Katrina. He leads the Earth Institute's partnership with the UNEP's Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, researching environmental degradation as both an outcome and driver of disasters and conflicts. His work in the natural sciences focuses on the use of marine seismology technologies to study processes in the formation of the earth's crust and mantle at mid-ocean ridge and continental rift settings. In 2008, he served as chief scientist aboard Columbia University research vessel *Marcus G. Langseth*, conducting the first 3-D seismic imaging experiment of seafloor spreading at the East Pacific Rise. This study will reveal how magma rises from deep in the Earth's interior to create new crust and controls the distribution of biological communities at hydrothermal vent systems. He received a B.Sc in Physics and Pure

Mathematics from the University of Melbourne, Australia, an M.Sc in Geophysics from the University of Sydney, Australia, and a Ph.D. in Marine Geophysics from Columbia University.

Emeka E. Obioha



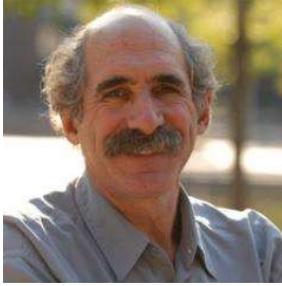
Full Professor of Sociology in the Department of Social Sciences and Research Chair, Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Law at Walter Sisulu University, South Africa. He had previously worked as a Social Development Researcher/Expert at Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER) and professor/lecturer at various universities in Lesotho, Nigeria and South Africa. He is a Research Laureate of Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) - 1998, 2004 and 2008; an African Senior Researcher Awardee of Volkswagen Stiftung Germany, on Resources, Livelihood Management, Reforms and Processes of Structural Change (2008 – 2013). He had consulted for World Bank; USAID; Department for International Development (Dfid) United Kingdom; Family Health International; World Health Organisation (WHO); UNICEF; SOS Southern Africa; Government of Federal Republic of Nigeria and Government of Kingdom of Lesotho among others, on social and economic policy research projects. He was appointed to the Research Board of Advisors of the American Biographical Institute (ABI) in 2005 and elected to serve in the Council of Criminological Society of Africa (CRIMSA) from 2018 – 2020. A Fellow of Chartered Institute of Public Management (CIPM) and Professional Member of Nigerian Institute of Management. He is trained as an anthropologist/sociologist and criminologist at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria where he obtained his BA (Hons), MSc and PhD degree qualifications.

Anthony Oliver-Smith



Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Florida. He is also affiliated with the Center for Latin American Studies and the School of Natural Resources and Environment at that institution. He has held the Greenleaf Chair of Latin American Studies at the Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University (2008) and the Munich Re Foundation Chair on Social Vulnerability at the United Nations University Institute on Environment and Human Security in Bonn, Germany(2007). He has been awarded the Bronislaw Malinowski Award of the Society for Applied Anthropology for 2013 for his lifetime achievement and work in disaster studies and resettlement research. He has done anthropological research and consultation on issues relating to disasters and involuntary resettlement in Peru, Honduras, India, Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico, Japan, and the United States. He has served on the executive boards of the National Association of Practicing Anthropologists and the Society for Applied Anthropology and on the Social Sciences Committee of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. He is also a member of La Red de Estudios Sociales en Prevención de Desastres en America Latina and is on the editorial boards of Environmental Disasters, the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction and Desastres y Sociedad. He is currently a member of the scientific committee on Integrated Research on Disaster Risk of the International Council for Science and the Climate Change Task Force of the American Anthropological Association.

Michael Oppenheimer



Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs in the Woodrow Wilson School, the Department of Geosciences, and the Princeton Environmental Institute at Princeton University. He is the Director of the Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment (C-PREE) at the Woodrow Wilson School and Faculty Associate of the Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences Program, the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies. He is a long-time participant in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), serving currently as a Coordinating Lead Author on IPCC's Special Report on Oceans, Cryosphere, and Climate Change and as a Review Editor on the Sixth Assessment Report. He joined the Princeton faculty after more than two decades with The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), where he served as chief scientist and manager of the Climate and Air Program. He continues to serve as a science advisor to EDF. Prior to his position at EDF, he served as Atomic and Molecular Astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and Lecturer on Astronomy at Harvard University. In the late 1980's, he and a handful of other scientists organized two workshops under the auspices of the United Nations that helped precipitate the negotiations that resulted in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (signed at the 1992 Earth Summit) and the Kyoto Protocol. During that period, he co-founded the Climate Action Network. His research and advocacy work on acid rain also contributed to the passage of the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act. His interests include science and policy of the atmosphere, particularly climate change, the risks and impacts climate change entails, and adaptation and other human responses. He received an S.B. in chemistry from M.I.T., a Ph.D. in chemical physics from the University of Chicago, and pursued post-doctoral research at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Clionadh Raleigh



Executive Director of The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED). She is also Senior Professor of Political Geography in the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex and an external senior researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). She holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Colorado. Her primary research interests are the dynamics of conflict and violence, focusing in particular on the role of formal and informal political structures. Her work is based on African quantitative and qualitative case studies. Additional interests include Africa, political geography, social/political consequences of climate change, and GIS/spatial econometrics. She has conducted policy work with the OECD, World Bank, DfID, United Nations, etc. She is based in Brighton, United Kingdom.

Alex de Sherbinin



Head of the Science Applications Division and deputy manager of the NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC), co-coordinator of the Population-Environment Research Network (PERN), chair of the CODATA Global Roads Data Development Task Group, and co-author of the bi-annual Environmental Performance Index (EPI). He is an associate member of the Hugo Observatory on Environment and Migration at the University of Liège in Belgium, and a member of the editorial board of the Geographical Journal (GJ). A visiting professor at Hohai University (Nanjing, China), he is a Fellow of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (Cambridge, UK). A geographer whose research interests focus on the human aspects of environmental change at local, national and global scales, he has written on a range of topics, including population dynamics and the environment; climate vulnerability mapping; urban climate vulnerability and sustainability; climate change and migration; environmental indicators; and remote sensing applications for environmental treaties. He holds a PhD in geo-information science and Earth observation from ITC at the University of Twente (Netherlands), and MA and BA degrees in geography from Syracuse University and Dartmouth College, respectively. Prior to joining CIESIN, he served as a USAID-funded Population-Environment Fellow with the Social Policy Program of International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN, Gland, Switzerland), and a Population Geographer at the Population Reference Bureau (PRB, Washington, DC).

Ashok Swain



Professor of Peace and Conflict Research, UNESCO Chair of International Water Cooperation, and the Director of Research School of International Water Cooperation at Uppsala University, Sweden. He received his PhD from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi in 1991, and since then he has been teaching at the Uppsala University. He has been a Mac Arthur Fellow at the University of Chicago, visiting fellow at UN Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva; and visiting professor at University Witwatersrand, University of Science, Malaysia, University of British Columbia, University of Maryland, Stanford University, McGill University, Tufts University and University of Natural Sciences and Life Sciences, Vienna. He has written extensively on new security challenges, water sharing issues, environment, conflict and peace, and democratic development issues. He has worked as a consultant on environment and development issues for various UN agencies, OSCE, NATO, EU, IISS, Arab League, Governments of Sweden, Netherlands, UK and Singapore.

Richard Towle



Deputy Director of UNHCR New York Office. He has previously served as the UNHCR Representative in Malaysia. He is a New Zealander who joined UNHCR in Hong Kong in the early 1990s, working in a variety of capacities dealing with the Vietnamese boat people, then moved to the London office of UNHCR. He has since held various senior legal roles in the Department of International Protection at UNHCR headquarters in Geneva and has been involved in the UNHCR development of policies and operations relating to human rights, internally displaced persons, and asylum-migration issues. His other UN experience includes a role as Chief of Mission for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, from 2001 to 2003. Towle was also a Member of the New Zealand Refugee Status Appeal Authority during a temporary absence from UNHCR from 2005 - 2006. Prior to joining the UN, he was a Deputy Chair of the Hong Kong Refugee Status Review Board, after working as a lawyer in New Zealand specializing in refugee and human rights issues. He also served as the UNHCR Regional Representative for Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific, a post he held from 2007 till 2013.

Mariam Traore Chazalnoel



Associate Expert in the Migration, Environment and Climate Change program of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In this capacity, she has coordinated IOM's global inputs to the UNFCCC process for COP20 and COP21 and led trainings, side events, press conferences and exhibitions related to migration in a changing climate. She is the editor of the IOM Outlook on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (2014) and author of "Law Review: Environmental Migration – Human Rights and Legal Issues", Insights on Law and Society, American Bar Association, Chicago, (2014) and "Organizational Perspectives on Environmental Migration", Routledge, London, (Forthcoming 2015). Since 2011, she has worked at IOM in policy, research, operational support, program development, planning, liaison and management level from New York, Geneva and Mali. She holds a graduate degree in development and international relations from Aalborg Universitet, Aalborg, Denmark.

Colin Walch



Assistant Professor at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, focusing on issues of resilience in conflict and post-conflict countries, climate change and armed conflict, disaster and conflict prevention, and environmental and humanitarian negotiations. He has conducted extensive field work in conflict zones and post-disaster crises in Mali, the Philippines, Myanmar, India, Liberia, Colombia, Sri Lanka and Guatemala. He has worked, interviewed and negotiated with a range of stakeholders, including humanitarian and development specialists, government officials, military staff, local communities and rebel group combatants. He also lectures at Department of Political Science at University of California, Berkeley and the University of the Philippines on

International Humanitarian Law, International Negotiations, Disaster Risk Reduction and Conflict Analysis. He is also an associated researcher at Centre for Natural Hazards and Disaster Science in Uppsala, Sweden.

Michael Werz



Senior fellow at American Progress, where his work as member of the National Security Team focuses on the nexus of climate change, migration, and security and emerging democracies, especially Turkey, Mexico, and Brazil. He has been a senior transatlantic fellow at the German Marshall Fund where his work focused on transatlantic foreign policy and the European Union. He has held appointments as a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and as a John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellow at Harvard's Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies. He has published numerous articles and several books dealing with a wide range of scholarly and policy issues including race and ethnicity in the 20th century; Western social and intellectual history; minorities in Europe and the United States; ethnic conflicts, politics in Europe, and anti-Americanism. He is a graduate of Frankfurt University's Institute for Philosophy and was professor at Hannover University in Germany. He is currently an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's BMW Center for German and European Studies.