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HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONVENED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18-19 September 2023
United Nations Headquarters - New York

Speakers Bios

Setting the Stage – Fireside Chat on “SDG implementation at the halftime – What will it take to keep the SDG promise?”

Panelists:



**H.E. Ms. Mia Amor Mottley, SC, MP,
Prime Minister of Barbados,
Co-Chair of the Sustainable
Development Goals Advocates group**

H.E. Ms. Mia Amor Mottley is the 8th Prime Minister of Barbados and Co-Chair of the Sustainable Development Goals Advocates group. She became the first woman to occupy the office of the Prime Minister, following General Elections on 24 May 2018, in which she led the Barbados Labour Party to an emphatic victory, winning all 30 seats in the House of Assembly by the largest margin ever seen in the electoral history of the country.

An Attorney-at-Law and Queen’s Counsel, Prime Minister Mottley has been active in the political life of Barbados for almost three decades. First elected in 1994 she is presently serving her sixth term as Member of Parliament for the constituency of St. Michael North East.

Between 1994 and 2008 Miss Mottley served in the Cabinet of three successive Administrations, first as Minister of Education and Culture; then as Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs; and then as Minister of Economic Affairs. In 2003 she was appointed Deputy Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Mottley currently also holds the portfolios of Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment. Since becoming Prime Minister, Miss Mottley has served as the Chair of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) between January 1st and June 30th, 2020. Notwithstanding that, Miss Mottley, as Prime Minister of Barbados, serves as the Lead Head of



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Government within CARICOM, bearing responsibility for the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Prime Minister Mottley also serves as Co-Chair of the Americas Cruise Tourism Task Force for the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America markets. Prime Minister Mottley was also Co-Chair of the Development Committee (DC) of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (November 2020 to October 2021). Prime Minister Mottley is also Co-Chair of the World Health Organization's Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.



MR. Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank Group

Mr. Ajay Banga is the 14th President of the World Bank Group. Mr. Banga began his five-year term as World Bank Group President on June 2, 2023.

Mr. Ajay Banga most recently served as Vice Chairman at General Atlantic. Previously, he was President and CEO of Mastercard, a global organization with nearly 24,000 employees. Under his leadership, MasterCard launched the Center for Inclusive Growth, which advances equitable and sustainable economic growth and financial inclusion around the world. He was Honorary Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce, serving as Chairman from 2020-2022. He became an advisor to General Atlantic's climate-focused fund, BeyondNetZero, at its inception in 2021. Banga served as Co-Chair of the Partnership for Central America, a coalition of private organizations that works to advance economic opportunity across underserved populations in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. He was previously on the Boards of the American Red Cross, Kraft Foods, and Dow Inc.

Mr. Ajay Banga is a co-founder of The Cyber Readiness Institute and was Vice Chair of the Economic Club of New York. He was awarded the Foreign Policy Association Medal in 2012, the Padma Shri Award by the President of India in 2016, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Business Council for International Understanding's Global Leadership Award in 2019, and the Distinguished Friends of Singapore Public Service Star in 2021.



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Ms. Carolina Cosse, Mayor of Montevideo, Uruguay

Ms. Carolina Cosse was elected Mayor of Montevideo in 2020 and is currently President of United Cities and Local Governments.

Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining from 2015 to 2019, she oriented her administration towards a strong implementation of policies to boost national industrial production, contribute to the diversification of the energy matrix, promote the development of the mining sector, telecommunications and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly innovative industries such as audiovisual, design, electronics, robotics and artificial intelligence.

As President of UCLG, she focuses on women's leadership, and the need for all communities to receive from local public policies the necessary tools to achieve equality of opportunities and emphasized the importance of multilateralism in achieving more rights and consolidating better democracies.

Moderator

Ms. Gillian Tett, the Financial Times



Ms. Gillian Tett is the chair of the editorial board and editor-at-large, US of the Financial Times. She writes weekly columns, covering a range of economic, financial, political and social issues and co-founded Moral Money, the FT sustainability newsletter.

She has been named Columnist of the Year (2014), Journalist of the Year (2009) and Business Journalist of the Year (2008) in the British Press Awards and received three awards from America's Society of Business and Economic Writers Awards. She is a best-selling author and received the Royal Anthropological Institute Marsh Award and the American Anthropological Association President Medal for her work in social science.

Tett's past roles at the Financial Times have included US managing editor, assistant editor, capital markets editor, deputy editor of the Lex column, Tokyo bureau chief, and a reporter in Russia and Brussels.



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Youth representative



Ms. Ayakha Melithafa, Presidential Climate Commission, South Africa

Ms. Ayakha Melithafa is the founder of the Ayakha Melithafa Foundation. Ms. Melithafa is the youngest commissioner on the Presidential Climate Commission in South Africa and Public representative of the African Climate Alliance, a youth-led climate advocacy group that organised the #climatestrike protests in Cape Town in collaboration with more than a million youths around the

world. She is also a graduate of Project 90 by 2030's YouLead Initiative.

Ms. Melithafa is a recipient of the Charlotte Mannya Maxeke Institute's Women of Firsts Award, was also nominated as one of South Africa's Most Powerful Women by the Mail and Guardian in 2020 and one of 5 winners of the Matrics In Antarctica programme.

Her activism has seen her represent youth voices from the global south on various national and international platforms including the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and COP26 in Scotland as part of the South African delegation representing South African youth.

Her mission is to help address the greatest ecological crisis of our time and enable leaders to deepen their understanding of complex issues, shape new models and standards and drive scalable, collaborative action for systemic change. Ms. Melithafa has called for an immediate moratorium on the extraction of coal, oil and gas in South Africa and she recently made headlines when she joined Greta Thunberg and other teens from across the world in petitioning the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child to hold five of the world's leading economic powers accountable for inaction on the climate crisis.

Closing Segment - Keynote speaker



H.E. Mr. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, Co-Chair of the Sustainable Development Goals Advocates group

Mr. Justin Trudeau (born December 25, 1971) is Canada's 23rd Prime Minister. Mr. Trudeau's vision of Canada is a country where everyone has a real and fair chance to succeed. His experiences as a teacher, father, leader, and advocate for youth have shaped his dedication to Canadians – and his



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commitment to make Canada a place where everyone has the opportunities they need to thrive.

Mr. Trudeau grew up with the profound influence of his father, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and his mother, Margaret Trudeau. He was raised speaking both French and English and has family roots in both Eastern and Western Canada. Mr. Trudeau studied literature at McGill University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in 1994. He went on to complete the University of British Columbia's education program, and spent several years teaching French, math, and other subjects in Vancouver.

Before entering politics, Mr. Trudeau served as the Chair of Katimavik, on the board for the Canadian Avalanche Foundation, and as an advocate for young people and the environment. As a speaker at events and conferences around the country, he encouraged young people to engage with the issues important to them and participate as active citizens. These experiences made it increasingly clear to him that the issues young Canadians care about – education, the environment, and their generation's economic prospects – needed a stronger voice.

In 2007, he built a community-based, grassroots campaign to win the Liberal Party nomination in the Montréal riding of Papineau. He was elected in 2008, and re-elected in 2011, 2015, and 2019. Mr. Trudeau was elected Leader of the Liberal Party in April 2013. On October 19, 2015, Mr. Trudeau led his party to victory, winning a majority government with seats in every province and territory across the country. He was sworn in on November 4, 2015. On October 21, 2019, Mr. Trudeau led the Liberal Party to re-election, earning a second mandate from Canadians.
