



DESA



Global Policy
Dialogue Series



FUTURE
OF THE
WORLD

Speakers' Biographies

The Future of Work

Session 1 of the *Future of the World*:
Global Policy Dialogues on Preparing for What's Next series

Wednesday, 15 September 2021, 8:30-10:00 a.m. EDT

Video messages



Mr. Liu Zhenmin

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Liu Zhenmin of China as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs in 2017. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Liu had been 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 ocean. Over the last several years, in various capacities, he has been consistently highlighting and advocating for sustainable development issues.



Ms. Usha Rao-Monari

Usha Rao-Monari of India was appointed Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in February 2021. She is an investment professional with almost 30 years of investment experience, particularly in the infrastructure area. She previously served as Senior Adviser to Blackstone's Infrastructure Group and Chief Executive

Officer of Global Water Development Partners, a Blackstone portfolio company. She has held several senior positions, notably as Director of the Sustainable Business Advisory Group at the International Finance Corporation, part of the World Bank Group. She currently serves on the Boards of a number of sustainable development organizations and has held a number of Board and advisory positions in the areas of water, natural capital, biodiversity and environment.

She holds a Master's degree in International Affairs and Finance, School of International and Public Affairs/School of Business, Columbia University, New York, a Master's degree in Management Studies, Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management, Mumbai, India and a B.A. Honors Economics, Delhi University, New Delhi.

Moderator



Ms. Aminda Leigh

Aminda Leigh is a British-Italian professional moderator and journalist with 30 years' experience, beginning in newsrooms at various BBC radio and TV channels in the UK. She is now based in Rome, where she runs a media services agency – AMROS Media Solutions. She specialises in environmental issues including climate change, sustainable transport, the circular economy, chemicals management and disaster risk reduction as well as research, innovation and technology.

Ms. Leigh's professional experience as a moderator and master of ceremonies spans more than a decade, working at high profile events across Europe, such as: EU Green Week, EU Bioeconomy Week, the EU Agriculture Outlook conference, the Eurocities Environment Forum, the High Level Conference on EU Chemicals Policy 2030, the Eighth Forest Europe Ministerial Conference and the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction organised by UNIDSR, to name but a few. Furthermore, she has moderated at major global gatherings like the World EXPO in Milan and the COP23 climate talks in Bonn.

In the field of journalism, Ms. Leigh has made award-winning web documentaries and videos on a variety of topics, including climate change, the gender pay gap and Europe's Common Agricultural Policy.

Panelists



Mr. Elliott Harris

Elliott Harris has served since 2018 as UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). Mr. Harris has more than 25 years of international experience in the fields of international economics and development policy analysis, coupled with knowledge of the United Nations system, multilateral and inter-agency coordination processes. He has extensive experience in the design of macroeconomic policies and its application as a central instrument for the reduction of poverty and for resilient and sustained economic development. His work in the field of economics also focuses on the macroeconomic linkages with global social and environmental policies.

From 2015 to 2018, Mr. Harris has served as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He joined UNEP's Senior Management Team in 2013 as Director of the New York Office and Secretary to the Environment Management Group. Prior to joining UNEP, Mr. Harris began his career in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1988, where he worked in the African Department and the Fiscal Affairs Department. In 2002 he became an Adviser in the Policy Development and Review Department, and was appointed in 2008 as Special Representative to the UN, in addition to serving as Assistant Director of the Strategy and Policy Review Department.



Mr. Luis Felipe López-Calva

Luis Felipe López Calva, ASG, is the UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean since September 2018. He has nearly 30 years of professional experience, advising several Mexican governments, in addition to UNDP and most recently the World Bank where he most recently served as Practice Manager of the Poverty and Equity Global Practice (Europe and Central Asia). He was the co-director and lead author of the World Development Report 2017 on "Governance and the Law." He was previously Lead Economist and Regional Poverty Advisor in the Bank's Europe and Central Asia Region, and Lead Economist at the Poverty, Equity and Gender Unit in the Latin America and Caribbean PREM Directorate, also at the World Bank. From 2007-2010, he served as Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean at UNDP-RBLAC in New York. Mr. López-Calva has been Associate Editor of the Journal of Human Development and Capabilities and he is Fellow of the Human Development and Capabilities Association. He has also been

Chair of the Network on Inequality and Poverty in the Latin America and Caribbean Economic Association.

His research interests focus on labour markets, poverty and inequality, institutions and microeconomics of development, having presented his research at top institutions including: Harvard University, Stanford University, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, San Diego; and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Centre. He holds a master's degree in economics from Boston University, as well as a master's and a doctorate in economics from Cornell University.



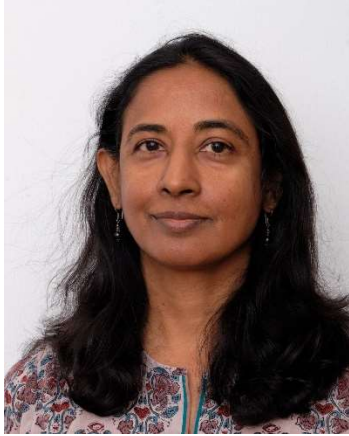
Mr. Saúl Gómez

Saúl Gómez is the founder and member of the #NiUnRepartidorMenos (Not One Delivery Worker Less) collective, which has been working to secure rights of delivery workers in Mexico City since 2016. His priority focus areas are the fight against job insecurity for delivery workers, particularly women; safe mobility for all; labour rights; and ending violence and discrimination towards delivery workers.



Ms. Akustina Morni

Akustina Morni is a Senior Adviser at the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), which hosts the secretariat of the Employers' Group to the International Labour Organization. Her portfolio of expertise includes future of work, employment, gender equality and diversity, skills development and is also regional adviser for Asia. Ms. Morni has over fifteen years of experience in international diplomacy, attained from her tenure as a diplomat in charge of labour and human rights issues at the Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in Geneva, research officer at the Brunei Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and as a junior technical officer at the ILO. Prior to joining the IOE, she was the programme focal point at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. She has a Masters Degree in Public Policy (Brunei) and a Business Degree with a double major in management and marketing (Australia).



Ms. Uma Rani

Uma Rani is Senior Economist at the Research Department of the International Labour Organisation. Since 2016 she has been working on the digital economy and has recently coordinated the major flagship report of the [ILO World Employment and Social Outlook 2021](#) on “The role of digital labour platforms in transforming the world of work.”



Ms. Lindsay Sanneman

Lindsay Sanneman is a PhD candidate in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT and a member of the Interactive Robotics Group. Her interests primarily lie in value alignment for AI and explainability for robot decision-making. She has been a member of the MIT Work of the Future Task Force since 2018 and has performed dozens of interviews of robotic manufacturers, research institutions, and manufacturing firms about the integration of new technologies in industry. She received her bachelor’s degree from MIT in June of 2014 and completed her master’s degree on multi-level optimization techniques for the supply chain in June of 2018. Her current research aims to enhance human understanding of robot objectives through explainable AI techniques in order to improve the effectiveness of human-robot collaboration.