



DESA



Global Policy Dialogue Series

Speakers' Biographies

Financing Global Climate Action and Promoting Digital Solutions

Building a Global Coalition for Sustainability after COVID-19
Session 4 of the UN DESA Global Policy Dialogues for Climate Action

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

Opening remarks



Mr. Selwin Hart

Selwin Hart is Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Assistant Secretary-General for the Climate Action Team. The Special Adviser ensures delivery of the Secretary-General's priorities on climate change, from enhanced nationally determined contributions, fossil fuel and coal phase-out, ensuring public and private finance shifts and the transitions

necessary to shift the world's energy, transportation, land and natural systems in alignment with the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Before his appointment, Selwin Hart served as the Executive Director for the Caribbean region at the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). He was previously the Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States for Barbados and Director of the Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team, leading the team's delivery of the 2014 Climate Summit and the Secretary-General's engagement in the process leading to the signing of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Throughout his career, Mr. Hart has served in several climate action leadership positions, including as a Climate Adviser for the Caribbean Development Bank, Chief Climate Change Negotiator for Barbados, as well as the Coordinator and Lead Negotiator on Finance for the

Alliance of Small Island Developing States, a coalition of 43 islands and low-lying coastal States in the Caribbean, Pacific, Africa, Indian Ocean and South China Sea. He was a member of the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund Board from 2009 to 2010 and was elected by the United Nations General Assembly to serve as Vice-Chair of the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (Economic and Financial) during its sixtieth Session.

Moderator



Mr. Anthony Langat

Anthony Langat is a Kenyan freelance journalist whose work focuses on climate change, human rights, refugees, migration, security, health, and environment. His MA in Communication Studies from the University of Nairobi interrogated the media coverage of environmental sustainability in Kenya.

In 2014, he was part of ICIJ's investigation on World Bank's financing of conservation projects that led to the eviction of indigenous people across the world where he contributed to the World Bank's involvement in the Sengwer people's case in Kenya. He was a Galloway Reporting Fellow in 2014 where he contributed to stories on LGBT extortion in Kenya and in 2018, he was part of What Went Wrong, an initiative that investigated failed in Kenya.

His work has been published in Devex, Mongabay, Al Jazeera, The Guardian, US News & World Report, Equal Times, Thomson Reuters Foundation, The New Humanitarian, News Deeply among others.

Discussion 1: Financing Climate Action During a Global Pandemic



Mr. Virender K. Duggal

Virender K. Duggal manages the Asian Development Bank's Future Carbon Fund. He has extensive experience in climate change, carbon finance and trust fund management as well as international trade cooperation. Mr. Duggal has worked in multilateral, public and private sector institutions in the areas of project development, portfolio management, advisory services, technology transfer and strategic collaborations across Asia, Europe and Africa.



Ms. Shehnaaz Moosa

Shehnaaz Moosa is a Director at the not-for-profit SouthSouthNorth based in Cape Town, South Africa. She is the Director of the Southern Africa Climate Finance Partnership and the Climate and Development Network. She has extensive experience in the climate change space and has actively engaged with a range of issues that relate to climate and capacity development as her career started off lecturing in

Chemical Engineering at the University of Cape Town. As the first woman of color to obtain a PhD in Chemical Engineering in South Africa, she has firsthand knowledge of the challenges that marginalized groups face and is committed to making a positive impact on the African continent.



Ms. Shari Spiegel

Shari Spiegel is Chief of the Policy Analysis and Development Branch in the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of UN DESA. She leads the work on the Financing for Sustainable Development Report of the Inter-agency Task Force. Prior to joining the UN, she worked as Executive Director of IPD at Columbia University, a Principal at New Holland Capital, Director of FI emerging markets at Lazard Asset Management, and CEO of Budapest Alapkezelő, which launched the first domestic investment funds in Hungary in the early 1990s.



Mr. Daniele Violetti

Daniele Violetti is the Director of the Means of Implementation division of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The division provides critical assistance to Parties for enhancing access to and mobilizing and scaling up support for the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement by supporting the climate finance architecture, international cooperation on climate technology development and transfer, and the implementation of capacity-building arrangements and processes. The division

supports the work of the Standing Committee on Finance and the Technology Executive Committee and facilitates knowledge sharing on capacity-building needs and actions through the Paris Committee on Capacity Building. Prior to his current position he served as Coordinator for the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing (AGF) at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Keynote remarks



Ms. Olga Algayerova

On 13 April 2017, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Olga Algayerova of Slovakia as the next Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). Her term of office started on 1 June 2017.

Ms. Algayerova brings to the position a combination of leadership and diplomatic skills, as well as deep knowledge of the region's challenges and opportunities and a strong focus on building and nurturing partnerships among key stakeholders with the United Nations. Currently Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the International Organizations in Vienna, Austria, since 2012, she was previously President of the Slovak Millennium Development Goals (2010-2012); State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2006-2010); and Corporate Export Manager at Zentiva International, a.s. (2004-2006).

Born in 1959, she holds a master's degree in contemporary diplomacy from Malta University, a Master of Business Administration degree from the Open University Business School in the United Kingdom, and an Engineer of Economy diploma from the Bratislava Business School at Slovakia's University of Economics.

Discussion 2: Scaling Up Digital Solutions for Mitigating Climate Change



Mr. Kwame Ababio

Kwame Ababio is a Climate Change, Environment Policy and Governance specialist with wide ranging experience at different levels including leading the implementation of many development initiatives in Africa especially on climate change within the African Union system. As Senior Programme Officer of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) he oversees Advisory Services and is responsible for the Agency's Environmental Governance and Climate Change initiatives. Ababio coordinates AUDA-NEPAD's support to African countries in the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions and has represented the Agency in many international fora. He has authored many publications relating to Environmental Governance and Climate Change.



Ms. Susanne Baker

Susanne Baker is the Associate Director, Climate, Environment and Sustainability at techUK, where she is responsible for techUK's Environment & Compliance Programme.

The programme, which spans issues such as eco-design, chemicals policy and producer responsibility legislation to conflict materials, circular economy and climate change policy, helps techUK members to get to grips with the latest compliance issues, policy developments and environmental trends, and in turn works with government to ensure that regulation in this area is targeted and effective.

Before joining techUK, Susanne worked in the policy and representation team at EEF, the manufacturers' organization. For several years she was a senior writer for The ENDS Report, an environmental policy and business journal, and worked in several Whitehall press offices. She holds a BSc in Environmental Science from Kings College London and is a fellow of the RSA.



Mr. Josiah Hester

Josiah Hester is the Breed Chair of Design, Segal Faculty Fellow, and Assistant Professor of Computer Engineering at Northwestern University. He designs and deploys tiny computers that last for decades, supporting applications in healthcare and sustainability.

He is also the director of Ka Moamoa, a research lab exploring energy efficient computing in the context of global scale applications. His team explores and develops new hardware designs, systems, interaction techniques, tools, and programming abstractions so that developers can easily design, debug, and deploy tiny energy harvesting computers that work despite frequent power failures, constrained resources, and unpredictable conditions.

He works towards a sustainable future for computing informed by his Native Hawaiian (Kanakanaka maoli) heritage. He applies his work in the field of intermittent computing to health wearables, interactive devices, and large-scale sensing for sustainability and conservation. His work is supported by multiple grants from the NSF, NIH, DARPA, and 3M.



Mr. Faisal Kazim

Faisal Kazim is a Senior Project Manager at Dubai Future Research, which is the research arm of Dubai Future Foundation. His research has been focused on energy and climate change-related topics, including hydrogen and carbon capture. Prior to working at the Dubai Future Foundation, he worked in investment management at Mubadala, which is a sovereign investor based in Abu Dhabi managing a diverse portfolio of assets in the UAE and abroad. Faisal has an MBA from the University of Miami, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the American University of Sharjah.

Closing remarks



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.