

## UN76 Dialogue: Innovative Technologies Impact the SDGs

Friday, January 28, 2022 @1PM – 3:30PM, EST



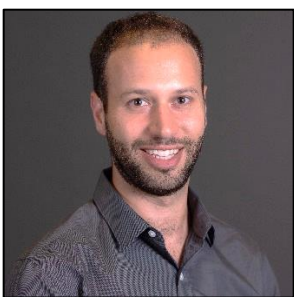
**Mr. Robert Skinner, Deputy Director and Chief of Partnerships and Global Engagement, Outreach Division, United Nations Department of Global Communications.** Prior to this, Robert was the Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Washington, DC, serving in this role from April 2021 to September 2021 and from November 2015 to July 2018. In between these periods, Robert was Senior Special Advisor in the UN's Department of Global Communications, focusing on the UN's COVID-19 Communications Response Initiative, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. Prior to joining the UN, Robert was the Executive Director in the New York Office of the United Nations Foundation. Before joining the Foundation in 2006, Robert held several positions in the United States Department of State, including as Deputy Spokesperson at the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York, and as Public Affairs Officer for the United States Embassy in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. He also held diplomatic posts in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire and San Salvador, El Salvador. Robert was an attorney in the Office of the Cook County Public Defender, Chicago, Illinois before starting his diplomatic career. Robert holds a law degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Oakland University in the United States. He is married and has two children.



**Ms. Lina Al Qaddoumi, Gender Equality Manager at the United Nations Global Compact.** Lina is an advocate for gender equality in the private sector and society more broadly. In her current role as Gender Equality Manager at the United Nations Global Compact she is committed to supporting the private sector's efforts in accelerating progress towards gender equality, as the sector has a paramount role to play in advancing the position of women in the workplace, marketplace, and community. Prior to joining UN Global Compact, she specialized in youth empowerment and gender equality in the MENA region. She has worked in the private sector, in the public policy domain, and in the civil society sector, supporting initiatives empowering Arab youth through improved access to quality education and workforce readiness programs. Lina holds a B.S. in Communications and International Relations from Florida International University and an M.A. in International Development Education from New York University.



**Ms. Maitreyi Bordia Das, Practice Manager of the World Bank in the Urban, Resilience and Land Global Practice.** Maitreyi, oversees several global programs. Previously, she was the World Bank's first Global Lead on Social Inclusion. Based in Washington DC, Maitreyi leads a talented group of professionals who work on urban development, resilience and inclusion. She has long-standing research and policy experience in human development and infrastructure related sectors. Of these, urban development, water and sanitation, demography, health, social protection and social development, stand out. She is the lead author of several publications, including *Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity*. Having started her career as a lecturer in St Stephen's College, University of Delhi, Maitreyi has also been a MacArthur Fellow at the Harvard Center of Population and Development Studies and an advisor to the United Nations Development Program. She has a PhD in Sociology (Demography) from the University of Maryland. Before joining the World Bank, Maitreyi was in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).



**Mr. Yuval Brodsky, M.Sc., CEO and Founder of Newton Tech.** An inspired innovator, Yuval's passion is creating impact through science, engineering, and business. He is CEO and Founder of Newton Tech, an impact startup dedicated to good health and wellbeing, and reducing inequalities. Newton's mission is to unlock the secrets of human movement for benefit humanity. The initial focus areas are driving personalized and preventative medicine, optimizing human performance, and revolutionizing rehabilitation. The inspiration for Newton came from an astronaut training simulator for Lunar and Martian surface missions that Yuval developed with colleagues. After having successfully tested it, he realized that the technology could have a greater impact in the field of healthcare, and particularly rehabilitation medicine. Yuval holds an M.Sc in Space Sciences from the International Space University, and worked at the European Space Agency, where he managed projects in over 10 different verticals, with the goal of helping industry use space assets and technologies to create commercial products or services that deliver impact, helping solve pressing issues affecting European society. He co-founded the African Center for eHealth Excellence, where he spent a lot of time in Africa helping governments, corporates, NGOs, and funding agencies improve healthcare through eHealth projects. Yuval has worked and volunteered in pre-hospital emergency medicine for over 15 years in many countries, including land, sea, and air-based search and rescue, urban and forest firefighting, and paramedicine. It is through this work that he realized rehabilitation's urgent needs. Yuval is a proud father and husband, and continues to volunteer as a paramedic to this day.



**Ms. Arthlene Legair Lawrence, Founder/CEO of Restore To Empower INC, & CEO of Legair Brand Luxury Boutique.** Arthlene is an NGO focusing on underprivileged/at-risk youth and abused women. She started her organization in 2015 serving her local community and then branching out into the island of Dominica. She provides uniforms, school supplies and other personal items for the students in Dominica. She is a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children, with a strong voice for those who cannot fight for themselves, she strives through her different mediums to inspire others to become the best version of themselves. Having developed her sewing curriculum which she taught at Clayton State University and many other outlets, she now seeks to take her school to the Caribbean islands, starting with her country of birth, Commonwealth of Dominica. She will

be opening the first creative arts community college for young persons to embrace skills of sewing/fashion teaching her students to repurpose used clothing to create masterpieces, Arts, Sports, Agriculture, Business Start-up and more. She's an Award-Winning INTL. Fashion Designer, Founder of ImagineMeTV Network, Mrs Lawrence has received many recognition for her work both as a humanitarian and business owner. Her designs have graced runways in Paris, England, Hollywood, NYC and numerous platforms worldwide. She is also A 4x published author, recipient of The Humanitarian of the Year, Excellence in Fashion & Innovation, Writer of the Year Inspirational Writing, Youth Empowerment Awards. Woman Owned Small Business Certification, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, Who's Who In Black Atlanta. Mrs Lawrence is dedicated to bringing change to the communities she serves and is open to new ideas that will benefit said communities.



**Mr. Christopher Spezzano, President and Founder of Transcend Carbon.** Christopher is a builder and facilitator of regenerative games, resilience platforms, and disaster response collaborations. He was born and raised on O'ahu, Hawai'i, and is working to build heart-level connections with nature at scale with VR and AR. Christopher Spezzano is a value chain management, scenario modeling, and tech futures consultant. As a philanthropist, Chris was responsible for facilitating hundreds of billions of dollars in disaster response resources during COVID-19 and prevented trillions of dollars in losses to the global economy. Christopher began his international aid work at age nineteen, helping with AIDS outreach and teaching children how to read at a Liberian refugee settlement. He then taught a variety of subjects in rural villages in developing countries, supported conservation efforts

and biological research in the Amazon Rainforest, taught in Rikers Island prison, and volunteered with a number of charities and organizations dedicated to planetary wellbeing. Chris has been to the front lines and seen a wide spectrum of humanity's problems, as well as the opaque nature of the global aid system. At the start of his international aid work, it became obvious to him that there is a great disparity between the efficacy and the accountability of the planet's aid organizations. Since graduating with a degree in political science and sociology from Columbia University in the City of New York, he has fully devoted himself to building a regenerative business ecosystem to help humanity return to a lifestyle resonating in harmony with the Earth.



**Mr. Jean-Luc Pierite, Director of the North American Indian Center of Boston.** Jean-Luc currently is the International Procurement and Logistics Manager for The Fab Foundation. He is also complementary Community Manager for fablabs.io. Outside of The Fab Foundation, Jean-Luc currently serves as President of the Board of Directors for the North American Indian Center of Boston. He also serves as a Community Linguist on the Advisory Circle for CoLang for the period 2016-20. The Institute on Collaborative Language Research or "CoLang" is designed to provide an opportunity for community language activists and linguists to receive training in community-based language documentation and revitalization. Jean-Luc also contributes to the Tunica Language Project which is a collaboration with Tulane University in New Orleans and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of

Louisiana. For Tunica-Biloxi, Jean-Luc serves on the tribal Constitution Committee. Jean-Luc has a B.A. in Humanities with a co-major in Mass Communication and Japanese from Dillard University in New Orleans. He also earned an A.S. in Video Game Design from Full Sail University in Orlando, Florida. Jean-Luc's previous positions include: Internet Marketing Specialist for Mohegan Sun, and Graphic Artist for Paragon Casino Resort. Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, Jean-Luc now resides in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.



**Mr. Andrew Weaver, Founder and CEO of BLVCK\$FUND.** Andrew had over 20 years of experience in the Entertainment Industry as a Broadcast Engineer before venturing out on his own in 2011 to start his first business. By 2016, Andrew decided to shift from being a traditional entrepreneur whose major ideology is "profit is king and people are a means to an end", to being a Social entrepreneur whose central ideology is "people are king and profit is a means to an end." Shortly thereafter, he began shutting down his business. Later that year, Andrew decided his next business had to focus on social impact and SHOPINV, an app focused on ending poverty was born. Funding this venture via Venture Capitalists who marketed themselves as Social Impact investors proved to be impossible as a Black man in America. Andrew was told, to his face, by a VC Owner that his investors would not invest

in a Black man trying to end poverty. So, Andrew went back to the drawing board and decided to strategically postpone SHOPINV. It was after George Floyd was murdered and the people took to the streets to protest for days on end that Andrew decided to build his 3rd business BLVCK\$FUND(pronounced Black Dollar Fund), which would never require funds from VC's. All his revolutionary system would need to succeed is informed Black people and allies who thoroughly understand and applaud the goal of bridging the wealth gap after 400 plus years. His ingenious plan incorporates group economics to invest in Black people and their communities. Andrew's BLVCK\$FUND strategy would take less than 10% of the Black population to participate and could yield roughly \$650M per year to be solely invested in Black people and their communities throughout the 50 States. It's time to take control of the Black narrative, expose the Brilliance that lies within and never look back!



**Mrs. Kaprece James, Founder and CEO, of Stella's Girls, Inc.** She is a Conway, SC native, a Social Entrepreneur, Women & Girls Advocate, Humanitarian, Best Selling Author, Military Spouse, and an International Leader. She is a proud graduate of Savannah State University, a Historically Black College and University, with a BS in Political Science, has a Master's in Public Administration with a specialty in Nonprofit Management & Leadership, and is a doctoral candidate with a focus on Public Policy and Administration. Mrs. James has served her community volunteering and working in the nonprofit sector for over 30 years. She is the Founder and CEO of Stella's Girls, Incorporated, a 501c3 nonprofit and recognized nongovernmental organization in Liberia and Sierra Leone that focuses on the empowerment and leadership development of girls and women in the United States, Japan,

Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Uganda. As a consultant she also trains nongovernmental Boards and help organizations develop their programs nationally and internationally. As an active-duty Marine Spouse, Mrs. James has served the military community for the last 15 years in both advisory and mentorship roles to service members, their spouses, and their families. Mrs. James was recently elected as the Board Vice Chair for FEMNET (the African Women's Development and Communication Network) representing organizations from the African Diaspora supporting Africa. She has received numerous awards for her dedication and leadership at the local, military, and international community levels.



**Ms. Tamara Archie, Communications, Community Engagement, Education & Outreach Coordinator of the Secwépemc Nation, Secwepemcúíecw (Territory)** which spans 180,000 sq km through the interior plateau of south-central British Columbia (BC), Canada. Tamara lives and works in Kamloops, BC for the Qwelminté Secwepemc (QS) a secretariate to seven Secwépemc signatory communities that are in government-to-government negotiations with the province of BC. Tamara is the Communications, Community Engagement, Education & Outreach Coordinator (CCEE).2021 was an unprecedented wildfire season for the area which disproportionately affected First Nation communities. In the province of BC, First Nation communities are on the front lines of the changing climate. Considerable wildfire damage to the territory impacts not only the

landscape but also culture, infrastructure, Secwépemc health and wellness. It is more important than ever to stand up Secwepemc Title and Rights, and to recognize the essential role of Secwepemc stewardship and the utilization of our knowledge of the land to preserve Secwepemcúíecw. The QS team has developed a capacity building #TeamSku7pecen Model that is geared to building the next generation of Indigenous leaders based on the concept of 'Walking in Two Worlds', which refers to utilizing both western and Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Currently QS offers a summer internship program to university level students. They learn from Secwépemc knowledge keepers and elders, while also being mentored in the western ways through partnerships with the provincial ministries. These partnerships on all levels promote holistic understanding as we continue down the path to Reconciliation. Together we can make positive change for the next seven generations.



**Mr. Jeffery Huffines, Senior Advisor of the Coalition for the UN We Need and Together First.** Since 2017 the civil society-led UN2020 initiative had facilitated discussions with member states, UN officials and civil society advocates on the need for a robust, well prepared 75th anniversary commemoration for the UN in 2020, one that includes a meaningful process of stocktaking, review and strengthening of the organization. In December 2020, the UN2020 campaign was renamed the Coalition for the UN We Need. Together First is a network of individuals, civil society organizations, practitioners, parliamentarians, business leaders and activists from all regions of the world committed to fair, open and inclusive solutions to improve global governance. Jeffery had previously represented CIVICUS as UN Representative (NY), where he was an organizing partner of

the UN DESA NGO Major Group (2011-2016) responsible for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs in the lead up to Rio+20 through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. He was Chair of the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference, “2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda”, UN HQ NY, 27-29 August 2014. He was also Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011), helping to organize the annual UN DPI/NGO Conferences hosted abroad in Paris (2008), Mexico City (2009), Melbourne (2010) and Bonn (2011). Jeffery was previously UN Representative (NY) for the U.S. Baha’i Community (1996-2009) where he led a number of NGO initiatives as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court (FENICC); Chair of the UN Association/USA’s New York Council of Organizations; President of the Committee of Religious NGOs; and co-founder of the Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace.



**Ms. Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY. She is Co-Founder & CSO of the SDG Impact Awards Community, Director of UN Relations for Global Family.** Margo is a Coalition Partner of the Coalition for the UN We Need and she is Chair of the Board of Advisors for Youth for a Better World/Montessori Model UN, Youth Impact! Forum and she represents the Huairou Commission at the UN. She is proud to be a Charter Board member of the Soroptimist International Metro New York - SIMNY Chapter and a Climate Reality Project Leader. She is the Convener of the NGO Major Group Urban Thematic Cluster, as well as a member of the Women’s Major Group for the UN High Level Political Forum. Margo is a Designer and Artist with a career in Film, Theatre & TV production. In addition, she is an activist dedicated

to supporting the causes related to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. She has worked within the UN Community as a Chief Developer of meetings, conferences and Special Events with over thirty years of experience at the United Nations. She collaborates with all stakeholders in developing inclusive and impactful programs and projects. The NGOCS-D-NY was proud to be a Partner of the UN Secretary General’s UN75 Anniversary Dialogues and the UN Friends of World Oceans Day/Month initiatives. Margo is mainly focused on connecting all areas of the 17 UN SDGs. She passionately champions SDG 17 on Building Partnerships and she believes in the NGOCS-D-NY motto: *“Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change.”* Margo brings entrepreneurs of all ages and the private sector into the United Nations discourse to foster investing in the SDG solutions to support the success of the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, so we “Leave No One Behind.” Recently, Margo was honored to receive the 2021 Volunteers of America Lifetime Achievement Award from United States President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

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**Our Partners:** NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, PVBLC Foundation, Baha’i International Community, Coalition for the UN We Need, The Stimson Center, SDG Relief Fund, Newton Tech, Transcend Carbon, Together First, SDG Impact Awards Community, Global Family, Soroptimist International, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Empower-a-Billion-Women(EBW), Debate for Peace, Huairou Commission, Youth for a Better World/Montessori Model UN, Youth Impact! Forum, General Assembly of Partners, Global Family for Love & Peace, ICW, GNEC, CoNGO, and UNA-USA Council of Organizations.

***“Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change”***

<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>