

UN76 Dialogue in observance for World Cities Day

Better City, Better Life: Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience

Thursday, October 29, 2021



H.E. Ambassador Ms. Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations since September 2021. Prior to this appointment and since 2019, Ambassador Leendertse served as the State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office. She also served as the Political Director in the Federal Foreign Office Berlin (2018-2019) and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Office of the United Nations and to the other International Organizations in Geneva (2017-2018). Before these appointments she served, inter alia, as the Head of the Task Force for the 2016 OSCE Chairmanship, as Federal Government Commissioner for Disarmament and Arms Control, as Director for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central

Asia as well as Head of Division for the Western Balkans. She received a Master's degree in medieval and modern history, Romance languages, economics and philosophy from the University of Cologne in 1989. Ambassador Leendertse is married with one daughter.



H.E. Ambassador Dr. Michal Mlynar, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations. Dr. Mlynár, presented his credentials to UN Secretary-General António Guterres on August 17, 2017. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Mlynár was Slovakia's Director-General for International Organizations, Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid between 2015 and 2017. From 2012 to 2015, he was Ambassador to Kenya and to the United Nations agencies in Nairobi. Dr. Mlynár held several positions from 2010 until 2011, including Head of the Project Team for Security Sector Reform, Deputy Chef de Cabinet in the Office of the Minister, and Head of the Unit for Coordination of Candidatures and Cross-Cutting United Nations activities. Between 2004 and 2009, Dr. Mlynár was Deputy

Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, and his delegation's political coordinator on the Security Council from 2006 to 2007. He was also Deputy Chef de Cabinet and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister between 2002 and 2004. Dr. Mlynár holds a master's degree in teaching and a Ph.D in the theory of teaching foreign languages from Coenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. (UN Photo: Mr. Evan Schneider.)



Mr. Christopher W. Williams, Ph.D. is the Director of the UN-Habitat New York Liaison Office. Mr. Williams is a development practitioner with over twenty-five years of experience in international organizations in Africa, Asia and the Americas and with training in economics and sociology. Prior to UN-Habitat, Mr. Williams served as Executive Director of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) in Geneva for five years. He also held senior posts in global fund management, advocacy, fund raising and policy research, and worked on programmes to upgrade water, sanitation and shelter in settlements. He worked in Africa and the United States promoting community economic development. His work with homeless shelters, community organizations, financial intermediaries, and community

lending institutions gave him exposure to private, civil and public sectors. He has studied economics, public policy and sociology, and holds a Ph.D. from the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research



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 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).



Hon. Ms. Henriette Reker, Mayor of the City of Cologne, Germany. In her function as Mayor, Ms. Reker is a member of numerous organizations, associations and clubs. She is Chairwoman of the Supervisory Board of Koelnmesse GmbH and is part of the Supervisory Boards of Stadtwerke Köln GmbH and RheinEnergie AG, as well as the Advisory Body for NRW.Bank and the board of Städtetag NW. Mayor Reker started school at the Protestant Primary School in Cologne-Bickendorf. She graduated from the Liebfrauenschule in Cologne-Lindenthal with *Abitur* (general university entrance qualification) in 1975 and then went on to study law between 1976 and 1986. From 1990 until 1992 she did a Legal Clerkship at the District Court in Münster and worked for the Professional Association of Wood and Metal Trades (BGHM) in Bielefeld. She then worked as a Legal counsel for the State Association of Guild Health Insurance Funds, Münster until the year 2000. In 1996 she also gained admission as a lawyer to the District Court in Münster. From 2000 until 2010 she was Deputy Mayor for Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection in the city of Gelsenkirchen before returning to her hometown in 2010, where she also became Deputy Mayor for Social Affairs, Integration and Environment in the city of Cologne. In 2015 Henriette Reker was elected to be the first female Mayor of the City of Cologne. She was re-elected in 2020. In her limited spare time, Ms. Reker likes to cook. She also enjoys taking part in Cologne's myriad cultural offerings, in particular attending classical music performances and viewing art exhibitions at Cologne's many galleries. Many of Cologne's cultural events are a fixed part of her calendar, also the annual Rose Monday Parade and the many seasonal Karneval gatherings. Mayor Reker was born in 1956 in Cologne and she is married.



Mr. Tudor George Andriu, Chief Architect of the County Council of Suceava County, Romania, "Smart Cities Project." A dynamic Urban Architect with eleven years of experience in the leadership role of Suceava County, Mr. Andriu brings his extensive technical experience to positively impact his decisions for a better city as part of the 'Smart Cities' project. Mr. Andriu's collaborations with local councils in urban areas, analysis and presentations of the administrative territory of Suceava County, in addition to his problem solving-skills and community service exceeds official duties as evidenced by the achievements accomplished with his team. His award winning track record of local and national team building efforts, long term involvement with various ministries such as Development, Public Administration, Ministry of Culture, and institutions such as Architects' Associations of Romania, shape his management skills at all levels. Mr. Andriu's international experience extends beyond regular attendance at World Heritage conferences, where he represented Romania in his role as coordinator of UNESCO site "Churches of Moldavia" (eight outstanding churches with exterior paintings from 16th century, located in Suceava County). Amongst the 'Smart City' projects Mr. Andriu and his team implemented in Suceava is the 'Urban mobility project' for integrated ecological public transport system, which was awarded "Best Public Transport Project" in 2019 by the 'Romanian Association for Smart Cities.'



Ms. Aissata M.B. Camara, Deputy Commissioner for Operations and Strategic Partnerships in the New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs. In this capacity Aissata helps to identify opportunities for engagement between City agencies and the international community, including the United Nations, and develop and guide substantive partnerships. Prior to becoming Deputy Commissioner, Aissata served as the Strategic Relationships Manager and Program Director for NYC Junior Ambassadors. Before joining the Mayor's Office, she co-founded There Is No Limit Foundation and worked as the organization's Vice President of Programs and Partnerships, developing and managing programs focused on empowering poor and ultra-poor people through entrepreneurship, education, water, sanitation, hygiene, and the eradication of gender-based violence. Aissata previously worked at The Rockefeller Foundation and Grameen America. She graduated from Bernard M. Baruch College (CUNY) with a B.A. in International Relations and Social Policy and went on to earn an MPA in International Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy at the New York University Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She is originally from the Republic of Guinea and grew up in Queens, New York. A proud New Yorker, Aissata currently resides in Manhattan and enjoys volunteering and discovering new sites across the City.



Dr. Eugénie L. Birch, FAICP, RTPi (Hon), Co-Director of Penn Institute for Urban Research and President of the General Assembly of Partners. Dr. Birch holds the Nussdorf Chair for Urban Research, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania where she chairs the Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning. Founding co-director, Penn Institute for Urban Research, she is also co-editor of Penn Press's *The City in the 21st Century* series and co-editor of the SSRN Urban ejournal. Dr. Birch's most recent publications include *Slums: How the Informal Real Estate Markets Work* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016) and "A Midterm Report: Will Habitat III Make a Difference to the World's Urban Development?" *Journal of the American Planning Association* (82:4 2016 398-411) In New York City, Dr. Birch has served as a member of the New York City Planning Commission, and on the jury to select the designers for the World Trade Center site. She has also served as a member of the US delegation to Habitat III. Dr. Birch, who lives in New York City, holds a PhD and Master degree in Urban Planning from Columbia University.



Mr. Sergio Fernando de Cordova is the Chairman of PVBLC Foundation, as well as an active investor in many ventures. As Chairman of PVBLC he leads the foundations engagement with Governments from the White House to the United Nations and multinationals; public & private. In all of his work, he leads the global development and policy work behind structuring Public Private Partnerships (PPP) that embrace social change. Over the last ten years Sergio has helped launch or played an instrumental role in developing platform and initiatives to advance impact across the globe. From his work at the United Nations helping develop the Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) of the SDG Fund at UN, Post-2015 Unit/Strategy Hub, SDG Media Zone, UN Family Office for Sustainable Development, Blockchain Commission, SDG Data Hub & Alliance, Alianza de Impacto Latino, to the White House's "It's On Us" & "Drink Up" initiatives to the Vatican supporting Pope Francis' Scholas

Foundation via Transforming Education Donor Fund as well as many other notable global movements with associated Donor Advised Fund structures to support the investment of development of the various initiatives. Sergio has been celebrated locally & internationally for his work over the last 15 years. He was most recently honored with America's most distinguished award, the 2019 Ellis Island Medal of Honor given to American Immigrants whose life work exemplifies the American Dream. Sergio is a graduate of Rutgers University with a Bachelor's in Sociology, Sergio also completed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Birthing of Giants® executive program and the UNITAR executive diploma in International Law in the 21st Century Diplomacy 4.0.



Mr. Isaac Reshad, Managing Director of Global Access Partner, LLC, Co-Founder and President of SDG Relief Fund. Global Access Partner specializes in Public Private Partnerships, foreign direct investment, impact investing and global business development. Mr. Reshad also co-founded SDG Relief Fund with a focus to provide long-term rehabilitation and relief to regions that have been impacted by disasters and are facing economic instability, social and environmental vulnerability. SDG Relief Fund is also working with a broad array of groups including Family Offices, local and national authorities to support United Nations programs such as the 17 SDGs for the UN 2030 Agenda. Along with serving on the boards of several professional and charitable organizations, Mr. Reshad has supported several global projects and he is regularly invited to speak at the UN. Prior to founding Global Access Partner, he worked as a business consultant, specializing in strategic business development including capital

raising for SMEs and start-ups, working with Private Equity and Venture Capital partners. Many of his successful concepts were concentrated in emerging markets, infrastructure, real estate, sustainable and fashion related industries.



Ms. Lirone Glikman, Founder and CEO of The Human Factor. Ms. Glikman leads her global business development consultancy firm and she is a regarded international keynote speaker based in Israel. Ms. Glikman specializes in supporting cutting-edge startups from Israel and abroad to enter global markets. She is working with various sectors such as smart cities, sustainability, and impact among others, and has been leading deals with some of the world's global corporations and governments. She is recognized as an international speaker in business development; she has spoken on different international panels, corporations and notable universities. Among her clients are Google, Microsoft, eBay, Cornell University, Tel Aviv University and more. In 2021, she initiated a European-Israeli joint conference to discuss cities' resilience around climate change, bringing on ministers, mayors and professors along with presenting innovative startups in the smart cities space. Ms. Glikman is an honorary adviser at the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and a Founding Board

Member at the non-profit SDG Relief Fund. Ms. Glikman shared her values as a contributor for award-winning media outlets, including "The Huffington Post", "The Times of Israel" and "Calcalist" publications. www.lironeglikman.com



Mr. Daniel del Valle Blanco, Policy Advisor for Youth in the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovakia to the United Nations. Daniel is a Spanish individual who has fought for the empowerment of young people in the political-diplomatic world. He is also the Secretary General of the International University Circle of Spain (CIU), which coordinates the external activities of the most prestigious universities in the country. He carries out the work of ambassador in Spanish territory of some outstanding campaigns of the OAS (Organization of American States) and the PADF (Pan American Development Foundation). The most recent is based on the defense of the fundamental rights of migrants who travel to Spain, and rejects any racist and xenophobic attack. This has the name of "All are migrants" (#TodosSomosMigrantes). He is also involved in some United Nations campaigns, the latest with UNAOC (United Nations Alliance Of Civilizations), called "For Safe Worship", in order to

safeguard religious sites. He also leads the UNEP (United Nations Environment Program) campaign "Faith For Earth" in Spain. He is also part of the Board of Advisors, with different leaders from around the world (Presidents, former presidents, ministers ...) of the "Peaceful Mind Foundation", a global organization registered with the United Nations, which has the purpose of making psychology a household term, peace, and well-being and Culture. Daniel del Valle has advised several companies from different sectors, including security, international events, and political analysis. Daniel has studied Economics (from the University of Münster, Germany), specializing in the knowledge-based economy, and in the study of innovation districts. Likewise, Daniel has studies in Law (at the Real Centro Universitario Maria Cristina, a center attached to the Complutense University, Madrid). He works very closely with some embassies. His work in the Haitian embassy in Spain is remarkable. He has also worked with the Government of Haiti for the realization of Sports Olympics at the national level. Mr. Daniel del Valle carries out a very important humanitarian work, sending medicines to Venezuela due to the critical situation. He is an Honorary Advisor of the NGOCS-D-NY.



Ms. Oneika Pryce is the Strategic Relationships Associate for Global Vision - Urban Action in the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs. In this role, she is responsible for supporting the strategic planning and implementation of the Office's GV|UA program, an initiative that highlights NYC's innovations in sustainability with cities and countries around the world. Oneika also plays a critical role in delivering on the Office's core operational and protocol obligations, including facilitating the visits of delegations from governments around the world. Oneika has served as a Strategic Relationships Intern at the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs where she worked in the Global Vision|Urban Action, NYC Junior Ambassadors, and Economic Development portfolios. Previously, she served as a Robina Franklin Williams Intern at the Council on Foreign Relations and helped to develop World 101, a curriculum geared towards teaching the fundamentals of foreign policy. A graduate from The City College of New York (CCNY), Oneika holds a B.A. in International Studies and a minor in French. In 2019, she was awarded the U.S. State Department's Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship to study abroad in Bambey Serere, Senegal where she explored Senegal's methods of sustainable development. While studying abroad, she also taught English in high school classrooms and volunteered at the local health clinic. Oneika grew up in Queens, New York and is a proud daughter of Jamaican parents. In her spare time, she indulges in photography, creative writing, and exploring the various art communities across the City.



Ms. Amrita Gautam, Civil Engineer; Doctoral Researcher at TH Koeln, Germany, President of SI Koeln Kolumba, Germany and Founder of drinkPani, Nepal. Amrita is an RiSWP Global Ambassador and a Civil Engineer, pursuing her doctoral research in Technical University of Cologne (TH Koeln), Germany, with special focus in Hydro-Informatics: Water Supply Engineering and Management, having work experiences from various 'United Nations (UN) Organizations and Research Projects' in Nepal, Germany, Mozambique, Brazil, Canada & USA. As a Young Water Professional, Amrita has been involved in World Youth Parliament for Water; International Water Association; Soroptimist International; Youth for the Rhine; and Girls in Tech – Nepal. She was awarded with 'Women with Vision 2018', received Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE) Scholarship Award in 2019 and got selected as an Ambassador of Rising Smart Water Professionals (RiSWP/SWAN) in 2021. Her ongoing doctoral research is about "Water Supply and Quality Monitoring via Emerging Technologies", and the case study area is Pokhara Metropolitan City (PMC), Nepal. She has founded a research initiative - drinkPani (www.drinkpani.net), which refers to 'Drinking Water Information Kit' and believes in "Shaping Digital Water Future."



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. Margo is a Coalition Partner of the Coalition for the UN We Need and the Director of UN Relations for Global Family, and 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 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 NGOCSD-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 NGOCSD-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."