

# Integrating AI & Innovation into Our Communities & CSO Voices with the UN Summit of the Future

Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024 @ 1pm – 2:30pm, EST



**H.E. Mr. Daniel del Valle Blanco, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the International Youth Organization (OIJ) to the United Nations in New York.** His professional interests include diplomacy, international relations, law, human rights, and economics. Daniel has taken courses in Economics at the University of Münster in Germany, followed a program on International Law and Climate Change, by the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), and holds a Law Degree, with a concentration in International Law, at the Real Centro Universitario El Escorial-María Cristina, affiliated with the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM). Daniel del Valle Blanco has received diplomas of recognition from prestigious institutions such as the Royal Academy of Doctors of Spain, Centralamerican Parliament, the Andean Parliament, the Government of Panama (Order of "Presidente Juan Demóstenes Arosemena"), Government of the Dominican Republic (through its Minister of Youth), Government of San Salvador (City Hall), INCCA University of Colombia, the Sustainable Development Committee of New York, Keiser University of Florida. He has also received two

Honorary Doctorates, in "Youth Empowerment and Global Alliances" from the IHERIS University in Togo, and in "Diplomacy" from the CUGS University in Mexico. He is also an Honorary Academician of the National Academy of History and Geography of Mexico and a Member of the Academic Council of the Mapfre Observatory of Sustainable Finance. Prior to this appointment, he served as Political and Youth Affairs Attaché at the Permanent Observer Mission of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations in New York. Additionally, Mr. del Valle has served as the High Representative for Youth of the International Human Rights Foundation (IHRF). Previous to this his appointment at the Sovereign Order of Malta Mission, he worked as Youth Policy Advisor at the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations in New York focusing primarily on youth policies, Latin America, and Africa. He also worked to support the implementation of the United Nations' Youth 2030 Strategy, the work of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and has actively participated in the historic official consultations and negotiations for the creation of the first United Nations Youth Office. His other commitments include having served as Secretary General of the Spanish International University Circle (CIU), as Ambassador of the "We Are All Migrants" Campaign of the Organization of American States (OAS) for Spain and the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). Mr. Daniel del Valle leads the Spanish arm of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) "Faith for Earth" campaign (as a member of the Youth Council), is the Chair of the UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board, and has worked closely with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in their "For Safe Worship" campaign. Participating in the 76th, 77th, and 78th United Nations General Assembly sessions, being part of the XXVIII Ibero-American Summit in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, contributing to the "Our Ocean Conference" in Panama City, serving as a guest lecturer at Columbia University (Teachers College), speaking at the Doha Forum, and holding a special lecturer position at the Ibero-American Congress of Diplomacy and International Relations organized by the Ibero-American Center for International Studies (CIBEI), are just a few of Mr. Daniel del Valle Blanco's accomplishments. He is an Honorary Advisor of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, Inc.



**Mr. Wook-Jin Chang is the Chief of the NGO Branch in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA)** since March 2022. Before joining DESA, Mr. Chang served as a career Diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Korea for 26 years. He has worked both inside and outside the UN and experienced both multilateral and bilateral diplomacy. In his latest post, Mr. Chang was the Director-General for International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prior to that he has served as a Minister-Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN, as the Political Coordinator and team leader for the 5th Committee and UN reform. He has also served at the Korean Embassy in Washington, D.C., Costa Rica and Saudi Arabia. Mr. Chang also served as the Special Assistant and Chief of Scheduling to the former UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon. Mr. Chang

holds a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Seoul National University, South Korea, and a Master's in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, USA.



**Amir A. Dossal is President and CEO of the Global Partnerships Forum** – is a not-for-profit knowledge platform providing changemakers with tools to build innovative partnerships for the SDGs. Amir is co-founder of the Pearl Initiative, and a founding Commissioner of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development. Amir co-founded the Blockchain Commission for Sustainable Development and serves as Executive Vice Chair. He is also co-founder of the Coalition for Better Health at Lower Cost that focuses on prevention of chronic diseases. Amir serves as a Distinguished Fellow for the Future of Health and Healthcare at the World Economic Forum. Pioneering Partnerships and Global Outreach Amir works globally across the economic and social spectrum. He is an accomplished diplomat, with a deep understanding of international affairs and extensive experience in global development and humanitarian issues, including

managing complex technical assistance projects in emerging markets. By nature, a social entrepreneur and innovator, his work is an endeavor to bond the power of the private sector, governments, and civil society, in order to better serve the greater good. These include initiatives on women's empowerment, engaging media in sustainable development, and innovative use of technology for positive social change. Amir is also a champion for the UN's Safe Ground Campaign. United Nations Service. Amir is a 25-year veteran of the United Nations and served as Executive Director of the UN Office for Partnerships until September 2010, which he established in 1998 to manage the \$1 billion gift by media mogul Ted Turner. During his tenure at the UN, Amir founded several new initiatives: the Department of Peacekeeping Operations: field finance and management, the Management Policy Office: oversee reform within the United Nations, the UN Fund for International Partnerships: interface with the UN Foundation, UN Democracy Fund: strengthen institutions and governance in new or restored democracies, UN Office for Partnerships: engage public and private sectors to support the UN's mission, Peacebuilding Support Office: help bridge development gaps in post-conflict countries. The Business Advisory Council for the Greater Tumen Region: regional cooperation among nations. Awards and Recognition: 2010 Humanitarian Award from the UN Association of New York, for his accomplishments in Partnerships to End Poverty and World Hunger, the 2010 Ambassador for Peace and Sport, Monaco, the 2015 Amir and his son, Zecki received Humanitarian Innovation Award for intergenerational partnerships, the 2016 Outstanding Achievement Award, bestowed by the ICAEW for his work in uniting public and private organizations to address the world's economic and social challenges, the 2017 Ellis Island International Medal of Honor for contributions to the global community. Personal: Amir is a UK Chartered Accountant (FCA) and has lived and worked in five continents. He is on the board of several non-profits and regularly undertakes speaking engagements and frequently serves as moderator for high-level panels, engaging Heads of State and Ministers. Amir is married to Tas, who is Senior Advisor of the Global Partnerships Forum. They have one son, Zecki, who is a Senior Director at Henry Schein.



**Satya S. Tripathi is Secretary-General of the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet.** A development economist, lawyer and changemaker with over 40 years of varied experience, Mr. Tripathi is the Chancellor of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences - the world's largest academic institution dedicated exclusively to indigenous people and cultures. He is also a Senior Distinguished Fellow on Innovative Finance at the World Agroforestry Centre. He has served with the UN for over two decades in key positions across the planet and was most recently the UN Assistant Secretary-General, Head of New York Office at UN Environment and Secretary of the UN Environment Management Group. His other strategic engagements with the UN include: Head of Human Rights Investigations for the UN in post-war Bosnia; Chair of the Committees on Laws, Treaties and Administrative matters for the UN-mediated Cyprus unification

talks in 2004; UN Recovery Coordinator for Aceh and Nias where he facilitated international cooperation and funding of US\$ 7 billion for post-tsunami recovery efforts in support of the government and affected populations; and Executive Head of UNORCID, a UN System Office established in 2011 to facilitate the implementation of a US\$ 1 Billion REDD+ partnership between Indonesia, Norway and other stakeholders. Tripathi was instrumental in establishing the Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility (TLFF) in Indonesia in 2016 and the Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF) in 2017 to leverage 'private finance for public good' at mega-scale to achieve transformative social and environmental impact for millions of people in developing countries.



**Shiran Mlamdovsky Somech, Founder of Generative AI for Good.** Shiran is an entrepreneur specializing in the integration and embedding of generative AI within the realms of social impact, along with cross-sector collaborations with tech companies, corporations, NGOs and international organizations. She demonstrates the transformative power of Generative AI through strategic cross-sector partnerships, for example with Meta, Microsoft, and UN Women. Her initiatives, marked by innovation and humanity, range from the 'Listen to My Voice' campaign, aimed at resurrecting the voices of domestic violence victims, to 'Sophia Chat,' which offers support to survivors. The 'Missing People' initiative leverages AI to find missing children, while 'Travel Log' enhances education on Holocaust and tolerance narratives. Some of these projects have even won international awards and have been presented at esteemed institutions like the UN and NATO. These efforts underscore the ethical application of technology for social good, highlighting Generative AI's potential to drive positive global change and

deliver significant societal benefits. In the era where artificial intelligence is reshaping society, Shiran is committed to harnessing the power of technology to effect positive social change. She holds an EMBA from the esteemed Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



**Stan Chen, CEO of RecycleGO Inc., and President of United Metal Recycling.** As the CEO of RecycleCO, Stan is a leader of the recycling industry, serving as both a recycling technology and service provider, and United Metal Recycling, is a full-service, Class-A permitted recycling facility that handles all grades of ferrous and non-ferrous material, source-separated plastics, and fibers using state-of-the-art processing equipment - is a leader of the recycling industry, serving as both. An eco-entrepreneur, Stan's passion for sustainability along with 20+ years of experience in the recycling industry has provided the knowledge needed to design and develop ever-innovative solutions for the recycling industry, the economy, and the environment. He is a leader of the recycling industry, serving as both. Stan is also a speaker and panelist in the recycling, blockchain and sustainability spaces. Most recently he has spoken at Circular City Week NYC, the Ultramarine Ocean Summit, and the United Nations General Assembly Global Foundations/ Global Blockchain Business Council's Blockchain

Central. Pre-Covid, Stan was selected to be a delegate of a US Department of Commerce sponsored trade mission to Malaysia and Indonesia to promote recycling between our countries, and was scheduled to speak at both ISRI and SWANA national conventions. Recently, he served as a mentor to Blockchain for Social Impact Coalition's annual Hackathon. During the height of the NYC Covid outbreak, Stan leveraged his supply chain expertise to help launch Maskforce, a nonprofit initiative sourcing PPEs to healthcare providers in critical need. Stan is an active member in the following organizations: ISRI - Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries; SWANA - Solid Waste Association of North America; MRAI - Materials Recycling Association of India; GBBC - Global Blockchain Business Council; BCC - Blockchain Chamber of Commerce; UNGC - United Nations Global Compact; BSIC - Blockchain for Social Impact Coalition; ISSP - International Society of Sustainability Professionals; GPML - Global Partnerships on Marine Plastics.



**Kirsten Midura, Director of Operations, Howell Conservation Fund.** Kirsten is a change agent with more than 13 years of experience in cleantech, international development, community building, and impact entrepreneurship. As the Director of Operations for Howell Conservation Fund (HCF), Kirsten leads the organization's venture philanthropy and grant programs, investing catalytic funds into early-stage and established organizations that apply innovative approaches to today's most pressing environmental issues. She works hand-in-hand with HCF's grantees and partners in the design, execution, evaluation, and reporting for these programs as necessary, drawing on her career in international environmental program development and impact entrepreneurship. Kirsten also runs her own nonprofit, Engines for Change (E4C), which leverages motorcycles as international development tools to address environmental, social, and public health issues around the world. In 2016, Kirsten began riding motorcycles while running a rural community development program in Nicaragua. She

quickly recognized motorcycles as undervalued, overlooked tools for mobility, accessibility, economic and women's empowerment, conservation, and peacebuilding. Seeing an institutional gap at a global level, she started the nonprofit E4C to call attention to this technology and to support motorcyclists around the world who use their bikes for good. Kirsten is on the Board or Advisory Board for a number of nonprofits focused on cleantech and international development - including Twende Solar, GlobalPDX, Rally for Rangers, and Women Riders Now - and is a multi-year judge panelist for the Toronto Motorcycle Film Festival and the Portland Motorcycle Film Festival. She is a public speaker, filmmaker, and contributing journalist for a range of publications, and is open to collaborations and thought leadership opportunities.



**Saffin Mathew, Programs Director, One Million for One Billion Foundation (1M1B)** As the Programs Director at 1M1B, Saffin oversees the conceptualization and management of programs bringing youth together to achieve the SDGs using new age tools and technologies like AI. He works closely with global leaders and organizations to mobilize and engage youth for global impact. He is a futurist who believes in the positive impact technology can play towards making our planet sustainable. His passion to propel youth from intent to action has resulted in coaching and mentoring of over 500,000 students as part of the 1M1B programs with the help of his team. He manages annual 1M1B Summit at the UN and the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Summit was hosted in November 2023. Saffin just completed his stint as the Co-chair of the Youth Representatives Steering Committee of the United Nations Department of Global

Communication. His areas of interest include AI, future tech, digital safety and green skills Saffin is also a TEDx curator and believes in the power of storytelling to evoke empathy, drive advocacy and achieve positive change.



**Michael J Polacek, Founder of the Nurse Policy Entrepreneur Café in the Republic of Panama.** He is a retired nurse living in Boquete Panama and has presented in the USA and abroad. He has also published a number of scholarly articles on the subjects of suicide prevention, trauma informed science, workplace violence prevention, and the nurse as a healthcare policy maker and thought leader. He has worked in mental health and correctional facilities from 1979 to 2014 when he worked as a professional development specialist in the educational department of a Pacific Northwest hospital system. While in the Peace Corps, he worked with the Belizean Ministry of Education and lived with the Maya for two years in one of most remote areas of Central America. This was an instrumental experience and has since inspired Polacek to seek out opportunities to help indigenous populations. Dr. Polacek retired to Boquete,

Republic of Panamá in 2021 and has been working with the Boquete Health & Hospice a local NGO. In addition to teaching CPR, suicide prevention and trauma informed science, he initiated an interdisciplinary mental health team to support community members and their families. In August of 2022, he established the Nurse Policy Entrepreneur Cafe as a means to support all nurses to become effective healthcare policy makers. He has traveled to over 20 different countries including Japan when he initiated a cultural exchange between the prefecture of Toyama and the Oregon Arts Commission and State Library. Michael writes songs to help bring light to his dark spots.



**Clay Garner is an Innovation Ambassador for SmartCitiesWorld.** Clay advises public-private partnerships focused on improving infrastructure and economic opportunity. He is sitting on the Knowledge Community for NEOM, Saudi Arabia and the Global Cybersecurity Forum Institute. Previously, Clay was Chief Innovation Officer to Mayor Sam Liccardo of San Jose, where he drove efforts to bridge the digital divide, invest in the future of mobility, pass the city's first digital privacy policy, and recruit tech talent from Silicon Valley. Prior to entering city service, Clay worked at Google and was a Schwarzman Scholar at Tsinghua University. He is a graduate of Stanford University. Before he got into civic tech, Garner enjoyed a brief stint as a teenage music phenom in China,

when his covers of Mandarin pop songs went viral on Chinese social media platforms. He is a graduate of Stanford University and is fluent in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese.



**Jeffery Huffines, Senior Advisor of the Coalition for the UN We Need.** 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.



**Julia Sora Wykoff, a Freshman at Indiana University Kelley School of Business, the Founder of Zeal Cares, an NGOCS-D-NY Youth Representative to the UN Dept. of Global Communications and a Co-Chair of the NGOCS-D-NY Youth Leadership Council.** Through Julia's leadership Zeal Cares produces and sells all-natural lip balms and for every lip balm that is purchased, another lip balm is gifted to a child or young adult with cancer to help alleviate their dry skin during chemotherapy treatment. Zeal Cares, currently partners with more than 30 hospitals and organizations in 18 states. Julia is passionate about supporting and improving the lives of the pediatric and AYA (adolescent and young adult) oncology community. As a Freshman at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, she is double majoring in Entrepreneurship and Corporate Innovation and Business Analytics. Julia is proud to be an NGOCS-D-NY Honorary Adviser since she was 12yo and she has brought Zeal Cares to NGOCS-D-NY panel discussions with UN

Ambassadors, UN officials and experts on the SDGs. Now Julia is a NGOCS-D-NY Youth Representative to the UN Department of Global Communications and Co-Chair of the NGOCS-D-NY Youth Leadership Council with her focus on the building intergenerational partnerships supporting youth engagement at the UN and the UN Summit of the Future.



**Austin Sanborn, a Junior at San Diego State University, an NGOCS-D-NY Honorary Adviser and Co-Chair of the NGOCS-D-NY Youth Leadership Council.** Austin is majoring in international security and conflict resolution. He spent most of his childhood traveling around the world with his family working and volunteering at Orphanages and schools in countries like Tanzania, Rwanda and Guatemala. After hurricane Dorian Austin, and a friend spent two weeks on the island of Grand Bahama helping foundations like Israid and the World Central Kitchen provide food and necessities to the people there. In addition, they were able to become an integral part of a collaboration effort that a collective of non-profits around the world had formed to share aide and the responsibilities of disseminating it to as many people as possible. During Covid Austin led a group of high school students who provided shareable, digital, culturally sensitive Covid safety information to non-profits in developing countries around the world. These digital assets were provided to assure the local population was made aware of the best

ways to protect themselves during the pandemic. While in college Austin is exploring different career paths within the international relations environment. He is currently applying to schools for within the junior year abroad program as well as exploring the opportunities that joining the peace core after graduation may afford him.



**Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, Director of UN Relations for Global Family and Convener of NGO Major Group Urban Cluster for the UN High Level Political Forum.**

Margo is a Sustainable Development Strategic Consultant connecting stakeholders from all sectors and regions with the SDGs. In addition, she is an Advisor for Youth for a Better World-MMUN, a Climate Reality Project Leader and a Member of the Coalition for the UN We Need. Margo and the rest of the NGOCSD-NY Executive Board are proud that NGOCSD-NY has Special Consultative Status with the UN Dept. of Economic & Social Affairs and Association with the UN Dept. of Global Communications. She has represented the Huairou Commission and Mayors for Peace at the UN. Margo is a member of the NGO Major Group and the Women's Major Group for the UN High Level

Political Forum. She passionately champions all of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals especially SDG 11 on the Urban Agenda and SDG 17 on Building Partnerships. 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, to "Leave No One Behind". She supports the UN Secretary General's Our Common Agenda and preparations for the UN Summit of the Future along with the Global Futures Forum with C4UNWN and our partners. Margo was honored to receive the 2021 Volunteers of America Lifetime Achievement Award from U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

**Our Team: NGOCSD-NY, PVBLIC Foundation, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet, Global Partnerships Forum, Baha'i International Community, SDG Relief Fund, Coalition for the UN We Need, The Stimson Center, Blue Planet Alliance, RecycleGO, United Cities & Local Governments, IBTK Foundation, NGO/MG Urban Cluster, Global Family, Education Leadership Development Council, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Global Urban Development, Huairou Commission, General Assembly of Partners, Global Family for Love & Peace, Debate for Peace, ICW, GNEC, CoNGO, and UNA-USA COO.**

***"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"***

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